



1. Historical developments of housing styles in Ireland


1800- 1850

Rural:	Urban:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most common house was single storey thatched cottage - Consisted of two rooms, a kitchen and bedroom - Stone walls with small windows and door (half-door) - Open turf fire used for heating and cooking - Some cottages had a loft for children to sleep - The richer(farmers) had two-storey stone houses with slated roofs - Landlords lived in estate houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Georgian style terraced houses were popular - Roofs were slated <p><i>Type of houses reflected social standing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wealthy people lived in 3-4 story houses with a basement below - Middle class lived in small terraced houses, 2 story - Shopkeepers lived over shop - In late 1800s large Georgian houses in cities were vacated by wealthier people and divided among the poorer people. Overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. <p><i>Architecture:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stone walls covered in lime plaster - Timber used in floors and roofs - High ceilings, decorative doorways and cornices, steps leading up to front door


1850-1900

Rural:	Urban:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural housing did not see much change – thatched cottages - Two story farm houses with slate roofs increased in popularity with those who could afford them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many wealthy families moved out of inner city Georgian houses to the suburbs - These houses were divided among the poorer people. Overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. - Gothic (pointed windows and roofs) and Tudor style (Timber panels) houses increased in popularity - Improved transport meant that more building materials were used – brick began to replace stone.

1900-1950

Rural:	Urban:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural electrification scheme (1946) improved living standards in rural Ireland - Slate replaced thatch roof - Government grants allowed farmers to build two story farm houses/ build extra rooms onto cottages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People moved from the city centre to the suburbs (detached and semi-detached houses). - Housing estates were built on outskirts of towns (brick with plaster walls) - Increase in two story houses near cities because of high land prices - Better building materials were use: Steel windows instead of timber; concrete blocks instead of stone, tiles instead of slate for roofing.

1950- 2000

Rural:	Urban:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private housing styles varied greatly, classical and modern designs - Modern Bungalow common. - Spread of holiday homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Authorities built more housing estates throughout towns and cities - Housing estates popular on outskirts of towns and cities – Similar design – built quickly with poor insulation. - Increase in number of high rise apartments due to high land costs (e.g. Ballymun). These houses many people in small areas, poorly maintained, few amenities. - Housing standards improved due to building regulations - New building materials became available e.g. PVC, double glazing and fibreglass insulation. - Slate roofs, Cement plaster.

2000 – Present

Rural:

- 38% Irish people live in rural areas
- Building regulations have improved housing standards
- Private built bungalows, dormers, two story houses common
- Increase in energy efficient and passive houses



1 Supermarkets and shops are now being built in what were previously rural areas

Urban:

- 62% live in urban areas – proximity to work, education, amenities
- Land in urban areas is limited and expensive – high housing prices in urban areas
- High rise apartments common in cities
- Many housing estates built on outskirts of towns and cities to cater for demand. Small in size, many houses in small areas, few amenities.
- Many housing estates remain unfinished due to recession (ghost estates)
- Increase in number of high rise apartments due to high land costs (e.g. Ballymun). These houses many people in small areas, poorly maintained, few amenities.

**Exam Question:**

1. Discuss the historical development of housing styles in Ireland since the nineteenth century to the present day (20)