

### 3. Housing requirements

The housing requirements of the following groups of people will differ slightly:

Group	Requirement
<b>A Family</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages of family members and size of family will determine housing requirements</li> <li>• Open plan, large rooms, easy flow</li> <li>• Sufficient space and bedrooms</li> <li>• Large kitchen</li> <li>• Play room may be necessary for young children</li> <li>• Study facilities may be necessary for teenagers</li> <li>• Outdoor space e.g. enclosed garden</li> <li>• Adequate storage (hot press for clothing, toys, outdoor shed)</li> <li>• Proximity to work, schools, shops, parks and public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Single person</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need less space</li> <li>• Proximity to work or college is usually important to young single people</li> <li>• Close to urban areas – transport, work, social and leisure facilities</li> <li>• Outdoor area not a priority</li> <li>• Suitable accommodation = Apartments, Studios, House Sharing.</li> <li>• House sharing is common among young singles where the rent and all expenses are shared among the occupants; proximity to work or college is usually important to young single</li> </ul>
<b>Elderly people</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less space required – easy to clean and maintain, easy to heat</li> <li>• Need for a downstairs bathroom and bedroom</li> <li>• Good heating system</li> <li>• Small outdoor area is sufficient</li> <li>• Access to public transport</li> <li>• Not isolated – close to neighbours</li> <li>• Homes modified to cater for elderly – wide hallways and hand rails, adapted handles, taps etc., easy to reach presses, chairlifts on stairways</li> <li>• A downstairs bathroom fitted with handrails, non-slip flooring, raised toilet level and shower seat.</li> <li>• Good lighting to reduce the risk of falls</li> <li>• Proximity to local shops, libraries and church is often important to elderly people who are on their own and may not drive</li> <li>• Security is important to elderly people living on their own</li> </ul>
<b>People with a disability</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide hallways and turning space in rooms for wheelchair access</li> <li>• Limited by stairs/ steps – May need a downstairs bedroom and bathroom</li> <li>• Proximity to urban areas for access to amenities/ facilities/ services/ public transport</li> <li>• Homes may be modified in the following ways:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ramps to outside door</li> <li>○ Wide doorways, hallways and turning space for wheelchair access</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A downstairs wheelchair accessible bathroom fitted with handrails, non-slip flooring, raised toilet level and shower seat can assist elderly people</li> <li>○ Handrails on hallways</li> <li>○ Flashing lights for people with hearing disabilities – e.g. when phone rings, doorbell rings etc.</li> <li>○ Adjustable countertops/ work surfaces in the kitchen</li> <li>○ Lower light switches and sockets</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Suitable accommodation = Single story house with 1 or 2 bedrooms, ground floor apartment.</li> </ul>
<b>Homeless people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● People without temporary or permanent shelter. Live on the streets/ homeless shelters/ hostels.</li> <li>● Voluntary organisations (Simon Community, Focus Ireland, St Vincent de Paul) provide support for homeless people.</li> <li>● Suitable accommodation = homeless shelters, hostels</li> <li>● Homeless people require bathroom/ shower facilities</li> <li>● Secure storage for belongings</li> <li>● Access to laundry facilities</li> <li>● Privacy e.g. Bed of their own/ private place to change</li> <li>● Access to communal facilities e.g. shared kitchen, TV room</li> </ul>

### Exam Questions:

1. Give an account of the specific housing requirements of the following groups of people:
  - Single people
  - Families
  - Older people
  - People with disabilities
  - Homeless people
2. Identify 4 modifications that you should make when designing a house for a person who uses a wheelchair? (12)