**What is bilateral aid? Describe how Ireland’s bilateral aid has helped a country you have studied.**

Bilateral aid is where one government gives money to another government. The money can be used for vital services such as education and healthcare and to develop the infrastructure of the country. An example of bilateral aid is Ireland giving money to Ethiopia. Ireland gives 26€ million to Ethiopia each year and this is used a number of ways.

The population of Ethiopia depends heavily on agriculture for survival. However, the climate of the country is harsh and droughts are common. If drought leads to crop failure, then millions of people face starvation. Irish Aid works with other organisations to provide a work for food programme. This allows people to exchange labour for food or wages. It is estimated that 5 or 7 million people avoid starvation because of this programme.

Irish Aid spends 16€ supporting the construction on health centres, providing vaccinations, purchasing essential drugs and school supplies as well as constructing water pipes and wells. Through Irish aid, Ireland provides support for 30,000 healthcare workers who provide education and assistance to ensure that babies are delivered safely.

**Outline one argument for and one argument against the use of aid as a means of assisting countries in the developing world**

There are a number of advantages to aid. The most obvious of these is that aid saves lives. Emergency aid in particular saves lives. An example of this would be refugees fleeing from war or famine who are fed, clothed and given shelter. When there is a natural disaster like the Indian tsunami or the Chinese earthquake emergency aid is very effective. Even development aid helps to save lives as over time the healthcare, water supply and education improve and improves the standard of living and increases life expectancy.

There are also disadvantages to aid. Many developing countries are led by corrupt politicians and officials in government. These dishonest people can lead to aid being stolen. This means that aid does not reach its target- the poorest people in the country. This is due to the poorest people living in the most isolated areas. This causes the rich to become richer and the poor poorer. An example of this is the 4€ million that was “misappropriated” by officials in the Uganda government. In the past a lot of this aid was spent on arms and weapons which can lead to war.