**Oil and gas exploration**

1. **Explain two advantages of oil and gas exploitation for the Irish economy**
2. **Describe two problems that may arise from oil and gas exploitation.**

We have not exploited any large deposits of oil off the Irish coast. However there is a lor of exploration work occurring off our coastline. Gas exploration have been more successful to date with the Kinsale gas field used to supply gas to Dublin. A large gas field has been also discovered off the Mayo coast called the Corrib Gas Field which is steeped in controversy.

The most obvious advantage of this exploration would be the money that it would generate from the export of gas. Other advantages would be the jobs that it would create. It is estimated that as well as the hundred of jobs in the construction of the terminal and pipeline that there would also be 50 permanent jobs. This is vital in an area of Ireland that suffers from huge levels of emigration and could provide local jobs. Also with supplies in Kinsale running low it is important to find our own local source of energy rather than having to import our energy and putting this cost on the tax payer.

There are also a number of problems associated with oil and gas exploitation. This gas pipeline would have to run through bog land and with the pressure in the pipeline being the highest in Europe and 5 times higher than existing high pressure pipeline it there was an accident it was cause huge amount of damage to the local environment. The pipe runs at the bottom of the seaflood and there are a number of concerns about leaks into Irish waters like BP in the gulf of Mexico as well as local fishermen getting their nets caught on the pipes