## 3. Housing requirements

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

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<th>Group</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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| **A Family**      | - Ages of family members and size of family will determine housing requirements  
                   - Open plan, large rooms, easy flow  
                   - Sufficient space and bedrooms  
                   - Large kitchen  
                   - Play room may be necessary for young children  
                   - Study facilities may be necessary for teenagers  
                   - Outdoor space e.g. enclosed garden  
                   - Adequate storage (hot press for clothing, toys, outdoor shed)  
                   - Proximity to work, schools, shops, parks and public transport |
| **Single person** | - Need less space  
                   - Proximity to work or college is usually important to young single people  
                   - Close to urban areas – transport, work, social and leisure facilities  
                   - Outdoor area not a priority  
                   - Suitable accommodation = Apartments, Studios, House Sharing.  
                   - 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 |
| **Elderly people**| - Less space required – easy to clean and maintain, easy to heat  
                   - Need for a downstairs bathroom and bedroom  
                   - Good heating system  
                   - Small outdoor area is sufficient  
                   - Access to public transport  
                   - Not isolated – close to neighbours  
                   - Homes modified to cater for elderly – wide hallways and hand rails, adapted handles, taps etc., easy to reach presses, chairlifts on stairways  
                   - A downstairs bathroom fitted with handrails, non-slip flooring, raised toilet level and shower seat.  
                   - Good lighting to reduce the risk of falls  
                   - Proximity to local shops, libraries and church is often important to elderly people who are on their own and may not drive  
                   - Security is important to elderly people living on their own |
| **People with a disability** | - Wide hallways and turning space in rooms for wheelchair access  
                   - Limited by stairs/ steps – May need a downstairs bedroom and bathroom  
                   - Proximity to urban areas for access to amenities/ facilities/ services/ public transport  
                   - Homes may be modified in the following ways:  
                     - Ramps to outside door  
                     - Wide doorways, hallways and turning space for wheelchair access |
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<th>Home Economics</th>
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| o A downstairs wheelchair accessible bathroom fitted with handrails, non-slip flooring, raised toilet level and shower seat can assist elderly people  
  o Handrails on hallways  
  o Flashing lights for people with hearing disabilities – e.g. when phone rings, doorbell rings etc.  
  o Adjustable countertops/ work surfaces in the kitchen  
  o Lower light switches and sockets  
  • Suitable accommodation = Single story house with 1 or 2 bedrooms, ground floor apartment. |

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| • People without temporary or permanent shelter. Live on the streets/homeless shelters/hostels.  
  • Voluntary organisations (Simon Community, Focus Ireland, St Vincent de Paul) provide support for homeless people.  
  • Suitable accommodation = homeless shelters, hostels  
  • Homeless people require bathroom/shower facilities  
  • Secure storage for belongings  
  • Access to laundry facilities  
  • Privacy e.g. Bed of their own/private place to change  
  • Access to communal facilities e.g. shared kitchen, TV room |

**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)