

EXTENDED RESPONSE

Discuss, using examples, the impact of the food service and catering industry on society, the economy and the environment.

Societally, the food service and catering industry acts as a cornerstone in fostering social interactions and cultural exchanges. In particular, restaurants, cafes and catering events provide spaces for communal gatherings, thus, enhancing social cohesion and cultural diversity. For instance, the rising trend of ethnic restaurants promotes inclusiveness, inspires greater creativity, introduces uninformed communities to diverse culinary traditions and overall, fosters a greater appreciation for cultural heritages. Conversely, the ever-changing consumer behaviour and trends creates instability and pressure on the industry. Meaning, the consumer demand for plant-based, nutrient-rich foods has forced establishments to modify menu items, leading to increased costs and operational challenges. The interest in veganism and vegetarian diets has weakened local demand for meat products, forcing the agricultural sector to become dependent on overseas markets to sustain growth. _____



