

Account for the development of manufacturing in a European region (not Ireland) that you have studied

(30 marks)

In this answer I will discuss the development of secondary economic activities in the Paris Basin region of France. The Paris Basin has a well-developed manufacturing sector. Food processing industries can be found across the region as a result of the fertile region providing a wide variety of agricultural produce. Heavy industries such as car manufacturing, e.g. Renault, are also located in the north east of the region as well as high-end fashion manufacturing located within the city of Paris, e.g. Chanel.

Manufacturing industries have been attracted to the Paris Basin because of its excellent transport network. Paris city is the nodal point of the transport infrastructure with a variety of transport networks radiating out from the urban region. The TGV train connects Paris to Marseille in the south and to London via the Channel Tunnel, making it attractive to industries. Paris is built on the flood plain of the river Seine. This allows the import and export of heavy products from the inland port. Combined with this are the three international airports located within the Paris Basin (eg. Charles De Galle, Orly and Paris). This brings in international investors to this European capital.

The development of this transport infrastructure has been facilitated by the low-lying relief of the Paris Basin. During the Caledonian folding period, 450 million years ago, the Paris Basin experienced folding from the South, creating a large syncline (dip) in this region. While this exposed a number of rock types which was beneficial to farming, it also helped the development of transport for industry. As a result, transport costs are low for manufacturers in this region.

As the region is a highly productive farming region, with 7 different 'Pays', each with different agricultural produce, this resulted in a variety of raw materials such as wine, wheat and milk for the food processing industry. Industries providing fertiliser and equipment have developed across the region as the farms in the region are very large and mechanised.

The size of the population has also influenced the successful development of manufacturing in the Paris Basin. The Paris Basin has a population of 22 million people. The region boasts an educated, skilled workforce making it an attractive location for industry. In addition, the young, vibrant workforce is an excellent market for manufactured goods.