

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

**(30 marks)**

In this answer I will discuss the development of transport in the Paris Basin region of France.

Historically, Paris city has been the nodal point of the transport infrastructure of France, with a variety of transport networks radiating out from the urban region. Paris is built on the flood plain of the river Seine which runs through the city of Paris for 13km, and with all of its tributaries, allows the city import and export heavy products from its inland port. The development of this transport infrastructure has been facilitated by the low-lying relief of the Paris Basin formed 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 and while this exposed a number of rock types which was beneficial to the primary sector, it also helped the development of this historical transport network.

With the modern growth of the Paris city region, and influx of migrants from surrounding regions, the government implemented a plan called the Schema Directeur. With an influence of migrant workers post World War 2 from former French colonies, combined with the economic pull factors for the surrounding hinterland of the Paris Basin population, 5 new towns were built under this policy to house the growing population. Naturally it was important to have an integrated infrastructure in place for this growing workforce. Therefore, a variety of transport systems were put in place or expanded, such as the Metro which today transports 4.2 million people per day into Paris city. The TGV train also connects Paris to surrounding areas, eg. Rouen. This TGV has been a huge success connecting the Paris Basin to more distant areas such as Marseille in the south and to London via the Channel Tunnel, making it attractive to industries and furthering the growth of Paris city. Alongside this well-developed train network sits the French road network, where Paris is surrounded by three excellent motorways eg. The Peripherique. Combined with this are the three international airports located within the Paris Basin (eg. Charles De Gaulle, Orly and Paris). This brings in international investors to this European capital. Finally, the introduction of the bicycle sharing scheme ('Velib') has gone some way to relieving the ever-present problem of congestion in European capitals.