

Examine the development of one urban area in a European region (not Ireland) that you have studied.

(30 marks)

### **Answer**

The European urban area I have chosen is Paris. This city, based in the Paris Basin, has developed since pre-Roman times. The city developed from the Ile de la Cite in the center of the Seine as a bridging point on the Seine. This focal point for transport allowed it to grow and develop as a market town. Paris is also 172km from the sea and is a thriving port. Paris can connect with the river Rhine and the sea by a series of canals.

Paris was a walled city up to the mid 1800s, but with population growth occurring in the mid 1900s, the city started to grow very quickly particularly after WW2. Many people from rural France migrated to Paris as did many from ex-colonies of the French empire. Following World War 2 the French Government needed to rebuild their city so extended an open invitation to their former colonies, for people to help revitalize the city. This has led to the multi-cultural city that Paris is today. There was a huge demand for jobs and places to live and as a result many apartments were constructed. Some say that this led to a 'ghettoisation' of the migrant community in Paris, and rioting for better facilities in the early 2000's in Paris city was the consequences.

The Schema Directeur was established to deal with this. Many buildings were renewed or redeveloped in response to the rioting which had occurred. Growth centres were located in the city to deal with congestion and 5 new satellite towns were located outside Paris, for example Marne-La-Valee, to deal with future population growth. Many new transport links were established and old ones were upgraded. The CBD of Paris has stretched westward e.g. La Defense. This area is entirely pedestrianized. There are many office complexes and high rise buildings are limited to 10 stories, which helps to limit urban sprawl.