

## Secondary activities in Paris| sample answer

**Q: 'Describe and explain any two factors that influence the development of secondary economic activities in a European region (not in Ireland) that you have studied' (2010 Q6 C.)**

The core region i have studied is the Paris Basin.

The manufacturing industry in the Paris Basin is very successful. 20% of all manufacturing industry in France is located in Paris.

These industries are attracted to Paris for several reasons.

**Physical factors** such as it low-lying, undulating topography and the presence of large rivers. These have made it one of the most accessible cities in Europe.

The low land relief as well as investment in infrastructure such as road and rail make the area' transport network extremely effective, also low cost transports benefit industries.

The river Seine runs through Paris for over 13 km and the city has an inland port with access to the Atlantic Ocean through the port of Le Havre.

It provides docking facilities and warehouse space along its banks. This suits and encourages industries that need to transport heavy, bulky raw materials and finished products.

Paris is also the centre of the air transport with Only and Charles de Gaulle international airports. THis makes importing and exporting fast and efficient, it attracts manufacturers.

Rail construction is easier on flat low-lying relief. The french high-speed rail network (TGV) has its centre in Paris so businesses can reach the rest of Europe and France easily. This has attracted companies eg Lancome.

Because of the Paris Basin's ideal farming land, it has a large raw materials base. An extensive range of agricultural products provides raw materials for the food processing industry.

Food processing industries include wine, cheese and bread. These are popular locally and internationally and are exported worldwide daily; industries providing equipment for agriculture and fertilizer industries have developed across the region as well.

A **human factor** encouraging industry is the large, wealthy population of the Paris Basin. The Paris Basin has over 22m people. They provide an educated labour force and market for manufactured goods.

The Paris Basin now contains 25% (6.5m) if the French workforce, and of the 6.5m people 44% work in manufacturing.

Heavy industry such as steel and oil refining are close to the river canal of St. Denis and lighter industries are in the suburbs eg Marne-La-Vallé. Industrial estates have been built to encourage industry to locate to the suburbs.

Modern consumer products are also manufactured here. For example electronics and computers. Fashion, books and cosmetics cater for the large urban market of more than 12m people.

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Car manufacturers such as Renault and Citroen are located in the suburbs. Paris is world famous for its fashion industry. The fashion industry relies on a wealthy population with a disposable income and therefore most the industrial units are found in the city centre eg Chanel.

The Paris Basin is also a centre of cosmetic manufacturing. Research and development of cosmetics is spread across the south and west of the region. The industry employs over 47,000 people.