

Regions (European) | A1 Sample answer

Agriculture in the Paris Basin

The Paris basin has a cool temperate oceanic climate. It is located 48 degrees north of the Equator. The west coast has an oceanic climate with moderate summers and mild winters this becomes more continental as you move inland with warmer summers and cooler winters. The region receives approximately 1000 millimetres of rain for each other which is distributed evenly giving the region a long growing season. Summer temperatures of 20 degrees are ideal for wheat growing.

The land in the Paris basin is flat as it is part of the North European plain. The main soil type is Limon soils. These are the most fertile soils as they are well drained by rivers such as the Somme and Seine. Some areas are covered by alluvial soils. Sedimentary rocks such as chalk limestone and sandstone cover most of the basin, these are permeable rocks and allows water to pass through meaning the soils are very well drained. Because of the flat land this makes it easy for road, rail, air, river and Canal transport be developed. The region has Airports such as Charles de Gaulle, Orly and Beauvais.

Le Havre is one of Europe's most important ports. The Paris basin supplies countries such as Britain and Germany which are more manufacturing countries and have a high demand for tillage crops. In the Paris Basin intensive farming takes place farmers have access to advanced machinery and fertilizers, this leads to heavy yields. The Paris basin has access to a large Market, the French market of 60 million an EU market of 500 million. France is connected to Britain by the Channel Tunnel and wheat is exported to the Middle East and Asia through the port of Le Havre.

Different regions in the Paris Basin produce different crops. Normandy has a damp climate because it is close to the Atlantic Ocean. Grass grows quickly here and dairy farming is prominent. The area also specialises in Apple production. The Beauce region is completely devoted to cereal production such as wheat and barley. The Brie region is composed of heavier soil that makes ideal grassland. This is the dairy District which supplies Paris and the surrounding towns. Much of the milk output is devoted to the

production of cheese such as Brie cheese. Champagne wine is produced in the champagne region on an escarpment called the Falaise d'île de France.