

Regions (European) | A1 Sample answer

Population Distribution in the Mezzogiorno

Population distribution in Italy is uneven. The population density along the coast is 100 per km² and 50 per km² inland. This is due to 85% of the region being either hilly or mountainous. The land is most flat along the coast this means that most farming occurs on the coastal sites such as the plane of Campania and Mount Vesuvius which is very fertile. The challenging relief means that it is difficult for machinery to access to Inland regions. 20% of employment is in agriculture, 20% of employment is also in manufacturing. In 1957 the Cassa began to focus on manufacturing. Its aim was to develop growth poles in the Urban areas of the South such as Naples.

Motorways ports and power supplies were developed. Large state companies in the oil refining and petrochemical and steel sections were obliged by the state to invest in the south. Steel plant, oil refineries, petrochemical and power plants were built. The container port of Gioia Tauro opened in 1995. It is a container port and is the ninth largest container port in Europe. It employs 1000 people. An industrial zone is planned for the port area. As most agriculture and manufacturing takes place in coastal areas this means that population densities are higher along the coast. Tourism is also prominent along the coast.

The Coasts of Italy have many spectacular beaches such as in the Amalfi Coast. Resorts such as Sorrento also attract tourists. The bay of Naples and the Isle of Capri are also popular. This tourism brings employment to the coast again increasing population density. The mountains make it difficult to access the interior. The Autostrada del Sole runs along the coast. It is also difficult to build road and rail routes inland meaning that less people opt to live there as well as making it difficult for tourists to access the region.