

Primary activities in Paris| sample answer

Q: Discuss the importance physical characteristics have on agriculture in a non-irish european region that you have studied.

The region i have studied is called the Paris Basin. The Basin is a distinct core economic region because of its geology, soils, agricultural productivity, thriving economy and city of Paris.

The Basin is 25% of France and is a wide, shallow saucer shaped depression. It is 500km west to east and 300km north to south. It is distinguished by steep slopes.

The soils of the region are varied and fertile and because different parts of the Basin have different soils there is a wide variety of products.

Sands and limestone and glacial drift deposits are in the centre and there is Limon soils which is wind blown soil from the last ice age (Periglaciation). It is a fine grained, rich in mineral and level.

A reason why the agricultural activity is most productive and prosperous in France because the thick layer of limon soil has weathered into an easily worked, stoneless, fertile soil. As well as being flat the basin also have a gently undulating topography. This facilitates the use of heavy machinery

The warm climate offers a long growing season with summer temperatures averaging at 20 degrees celsius. This is ideal for production of wheat, barley and maize cereal crops. For this reason the Basin is known as the granary of europe.

Close to the river Seine, alluvial soils also favour intensive commercial farming. The low lying relief allowed the development of large (over 400 hectares) mechanised and highly productive farms.

A key characteristic of the region is that different areas, known as PAYS, specialise in different forms of intensive farming.

The Ile de France is a low-lying, flat region covered with the fertile limon soil. Most farms are very large and above EU average and they produce wheat. Yields are the highest in France.

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The Beauce region is a limestone upland covered in limon soil. Farms here are large as well and mechanised. It is the main wheat- producing region. Sugar beet is also grown as a rotation crop.

The output per hectare rose dramatically after the foundation of the EU as a result of guaranteed prices. Picardy and Artois (the Normandy region). These two low-lying flat regions are also limon covered and so specialise in cereal production.

On the coast, the climate is wetter due to the sea and as a result dairy farming is common.

In Brie and Valois, clay soils occur. These are good pasture land and farmers here are dairy producers. Being so close to the urban area of Paris, they also supply fresh milk to the city.

Adjacent to the large urban centre of Paris, high-value market gardening is the dominant agricultural activity as there is a daily demand for fresh fruit and veg.

The champagne region along the escarpments has a drier climate and rocky soil. These factors are perfect for the growth of vines and therefore the region is famous for the production of wine and champagne.