**Primary Activities in the Paris Basin:**

Q. Examine the factors that influence the development of one economic activity in a European region (not Ireland), that you have studied.

* Two primary economic activities: Agriculture and Viticulture.
* Paris Basin
* Physical factors, such as the soil and climate, as well as human factors, such as population and transport, have led to the development of commercial intensive agriculture in the Paris Basin.
* The soils of the region are varied and fertile, and because parts of the Paris Basin have different soils there is a wide variety of products.
* The central area of the region, the *Ile-de-France*, is covered with ‘limon’ soil which was deposited after the last Ice Age. It is stoneless and extremely fertile.
* It is easily worked and has allowed the intensive production of cereals such as wheat and maize.
* Farms are large (400 hectares) and mechanised. Yields are high and the region is called the ‘Granary of France’.
* The climate of the Paris Basin favours farming. The Continental climate is ideal for cereal farming. Summers are warm at 20°C and sunny. The annual rainfall is 700mm.
* The climate has also allowed the production of wine (viticulture). Champagne is one of France’s most famous exports.
* Green grapes are grown on south-facing slopes in the Champagne region which is the most northerly wine-producing region in Europe. The town of Reims is the centre of production.
* Human factors have also led to the development of farming in the Paris Basin. The area has a large wealthy market of 22million people. The population is highly urbanised and so there is a high demand for fresh milk, bread and vegetables.
* Horticulture and milk production occurs close to the edge of Paris city to provide for this market.
* The transport system is well developed. Farmers can transport their produce to market using the motorways and efficient rail system. This keeps transport costs low for farmers to supply the food processing industries in the cities.

2008 Q. 4B
[30 marks]