

General advice about assignments

Advice 1) Please avoid pleonasms. Many people live in the cities. Cities are located in places with high density... Indeed they are :p Prefer sentences like: "we can observe very high densities on the coastal areas. Main cities are located on the coast and the main rivers. Density is low in the mountainous regions.

Advice 2) Please avoid the radical statements like "mountains are not suitable for life..." Yes they are... we can grow food in the mountain, the colder temperature and higher precipitations can even be an advantage in some places. People who come from the mountains are also smarter, stronger and more beautiful than the peoples from the plains (although I could be bias on the last statement ;-)

Advice 3) Beware of the short and simple explanations. "People live on the coast because they have more resources..." not quite... Mountains often have more mineral resources, more forests (> wood) some cultures might benefit for the slopes (e.g. Vineyard) or the cooler temperature (coffee, strawberries in Laos and Malaysia) Plains tends to be more attractive for mechanized (modern) agriculture, although arable land tend to be absorb by the growth of metropolitan areas.

Coastal plains are more attractive in the context of Globalization. They are better suited to facilitate imports and exports. (Historical perspective, it was not always the case. During the medieval age, the danger came from the sea: Vikings in the North of Europe, Muslim raiders or pirates around the Mediterranean sea. Japanese or Korean pirates on the coasts of China... Sometimes communities would stay away from the coast or build some complex systems of defense and alarms.)

Plains are not always more fertile. Some volcanic plateaux can be incredibly fertile. However, plains are best suited for mechanization and the use of fertilizer. Therefore, they normally have better yields (production per hectare)

Vocabulary: Improve the accuracy of your answers: use precise scientific vocabulary. no "flat ground" but > plains/plateaux (plateau = similar to a plain when the rivers are did in the landforms). Describe the density in the mountains or the plateaux. Use the landforms = relief = topography. (Note on the vocabulary, plateau is a French word. French words ending in -eau have their plural in x = plateaux. However, in English, you can write it with -s plateaux and plateaus are both correct. Personally I will use the original spelling with -x)