Peripheral European Region - Southern Italy (Mezzogiorno)

Key Facts

- Poorest part of Italy
- High unemployment (20% +)
- Income = 80% of EU average
- Mountainous
- Summer Drought
- Largest City - Naples
- Includes island of Sicily & Sardinia
- Corruption
Why is Southern Italy peripheral?

- Mountainous Relief (85% of land)
- Poor soils due to summer drought
- Low levels of manufacturing activity
- Poor educational levels
- High Emigration to Northern Italy (Milan, Turin) and northern Europe
- Corruption (mafia)
Geography of Southern Italy

- **Climate**
  - Mediterranean (damp winter and very dry summers)
  - High Pressure in the summer (30 degrees+)

- **Soil**
  - Poor soils due to mountainous relief
  - Fertile soils only near volcanoes (Vesuvius)

- **Relief**
  - 85% of land is mountainous
  - Low land near the coast
  - Volcanoes - Vesuvius, Mt Etna
  - Earthquakes
Agriculture in Southern Italy

● Mainly sheep, very few cattle

● Tree crops
  ○ olive trees, lemons, limes, peaches, vines (wine)

● Market gardening on the coast
  ○ near large cities
Fishing

Fishing is important because:

- Many coastal towns & villages
- Sheltered harbours
- Fertile fishing grounds in Mediterranean sea
- Overfishing is a major problem
Manufacturing Industry

- Northern Italy is the manufacturing centre of Italy (Milan, Turin, Genoa)

- Why is there much less manufacturing in the south?
  - Far from major markets (France, Germany, UK)
  - Relatively under-developed transport infrastructure
  - Lack of local investment
  - Corruption & organised crime (Mafia) - scares away foreign investment

Emigration from southern Italy took the Mafia to North America
Unemployment

![Unemployment Chart]

- Naples
- Italy
- EU

Unemployment %

- Total
- Youth (under 25)
Tourism in Southern Italy

Tourism has expanded in Southern Italy

1. Mediterranean climate gives tourists dry weather with high temps in the summer
2. Coastal tourist resorts - beaches, harbours, islands of Sicily & Sardinia
3. Roman history - Pompeii & many others
4. Italian food - pasta, pizza (Naples), fruit & wine
5. Good motorway to the North
Tourist Attractions

Beautiful beaches

Volcanoes & Historic cities
Hot Summers in Southern Italy

![Graph showing summer weather in Southern Italy]
Problems for Tourism

- Distance from major markets, e.g. UK, Germany, France
- Competition with Northern Italy (has a large tourism industry)
- Competition from Costa Del Sol in Spain for package holidays
What was the Cassa Per il Mezzogiorno?

- Italian government investment scheme
- The "Cassa Scheme"
- Investment in:
  - Farming - irrigation schemes
  - Transport - new motorway to north, new ports
  - Power stations & power lines
  - State companies opened factories (steel, oil)
- Ended in 1990s
- Cost a lot of money
Homework

1. Explain the combination of physical and human factors that make Southern Italy a peripheral European Region.

2. What are the main attractions Southern Italy can offer tourists?

3. What was the "Cassa Scheme" and how did it help to develop Southern Italy?