**Geography work**

***“The completion of the Ilisu Dam in 2016 will have had positive impacts on Turkey and its neighbouring countries” Justify how far you agree with this statement. 8 Marks***

The Ilisu dam is one of the world's most controversial hydropower projects. It is located in Ilisu, Turkey.

Turkey wanted to construct a new dam in the southeastern Anatolia region because it would generate hydroelectric power production, flood control and water storage. When operational, the dam will support a 1,200 MW power station and will form a 10.4 billion m3 reservoir. one positive of the ilisu dam is that it will use hydroelectric power to supply power to power stations. This means that it is an overall cleaner way of generating electricity. An alternative to this would be to burn fossil fuels such as coal or oil to generate heat to spin a turbine to create electricity. This is bad for Turkey as it is detrimental to the environment because burning of fossil fuels releases carbon into the atmosphere. On the other hand, a negative to the ilisu dam is that it will displace approximately 70,000 people. This is bad for Turkey because as if 70,000 people are displaced, not all of them will be able to find accommodation. Moreover, a large amount of people will become homeless. Being homeless for long periods of time could mean that your immune system becomes weakened which means you are more susceptible to diseases. Therefore, the death rate will increase. To avoid being homeless some people may commit crime in order to go to prison to get shelter. This means that similar to the death rate the crime rate will also increase. This could also be bad for Turkeys economy because it may repel tourist from coming to visit Turkey. The Turkish economy is worth Approximately $743.708 billion, $31.5 billion comes from tourism. despite the fact that the ilisu dam has its negatives I would say on a scale of 1-10 of how beneficial it is to Turkey. it would be a 7.

The ilisu dam may be overall good for Turkey however it could be destructive to some of its neighboring countries. Iraq was particularly concerned about the construction of the ilisu dam. The Tigress river flow through Iraq and it is one of the main sources of water. We know this because, Iraq is fed by 2 major rivers, the tigress river and the Euphrates river which together contribute to 98% of Iraq’s water supply. construction of the ilisu dam would stop the flow of water completely in Iraq. This could cause flooding and damages. Not only would this be expensive repair work but, it would leave thousands of people homeless, if Iraq was to experience heavy rain it could cause severe flood which in extreme cases may cause someone to drown and die. This would of course contribute to the death rate. Overall, in Iraq is a mostly negative construction. The only positive for Iraq would be that when the dam is destroyed it will supply clean electricity. In my opinion, the negatives for Iraq outweighs the positives for turkey.

One global benefit of the Ilisu dam is that it is going to use hydroelectric power. This means it uses the heavy flow of the built-up water to spin a turbine that generates electricity. The is a global benefit because it is much better for the environment compared to the burning of fossil fuels to make electricity. However, there are a few global problems with the ilisu dam. One problem is that the built-up water could cause flooding to farmland. In 1999 18,000,000 tons of wheat, 9,000,000 tons of barley, 20,000,000 tons of sugar beets and around 3,650,000 tons of grapes were grown. If Turkey grows around that much annually, if it were to become flooded it would go to waste and it would affect the rest of the world. In Turkey, about 90% of cultivated area is devoted to cereal. This would also be a loss to turkey because loosing 90% of cultivated area to flooding would mean that Turkey would not be able to sell as much crops to other countries subsequently, damaging the economy. Overall, I believe the global benefits are mostly positive. This is because burning fossil fuels to make electricity will not be available forever. fossil fuels are known as non-renewable energy sources. This means once they are used, they cannot be brought back. However, hydroelectricity power is renewable as it runs of water and water is renewable. I believe it is important we use more renewable energy sources and less fossil fuels. This is because when you burn fossil fuels, it releases carbon into the atmosphere which contributes to global warming. If the earth becomes too hot, all life will be lost, and I believe we should preserve all life including: animal, plant and see life.

To conclude, I believe the ilisu dam, despite having its negatives, is overall a good thing. this is because I believe the positive are more significant than the negatives.