“The completion of the Ilisu Dam in 2016 will have had positive impacts on Turkey and its neighbouring countries”. 8 Marks (extra 3 for SPAG) Justify how far you agree with this statement.

I mainly disagree with the statement “The completion of the Ilisu Dam in 2016 will have had positive impacts on Turkey and its neighbouring countries”.

The Ilisu dam is a dam that has been built in Turkey along the Tigris river, which is one of the main rivers in Turkey. The dam will be a barrier that holds back the water from the river Tigris so it can be drunk or generated into electricity.

Turkey want to build the Ilisu dam because they will be able to save money as energy will no long need to be imported from Russia. Also, the Turkish authorities want to build the dam so they can make money by charging people in Turkey and other countries for the electricity and water. Some positives this will bring for Turkey is that the dam will start a new tourism industry in that area. This is because the reservoir will be a massive lake which can host lots of water sports activities. This means that the country will be generating more money which is a good thing. Another positive thing about the dam is local farming will be able to produce larger quantities of crops because of the new irrigation system. This means that people will make more money as their crops have a better chance of surviving the summer. This is a good factor of the dam for Turkey. The problems it will bring to Turkey are that it with flood 52 villages and 15 small towns. This is because the reservoir will be 11 billion cubic metres and it will flood and drown lots of the towns along the river Tigris. One of these towns is Hasankeyf which is 12,000 years old and has signs of the earliest recorded human settlements. This is a negative impact of the dam because Hasankeyf generated lots of tourism. Another negative impact of the dam is that it may encourage waterborne diseases like malaria which is a very bad thing and could kill some of the population around the reservoir. This is a negative impact of the dam. I think that for Turkey the overall impact of the dam will be positive because Turkey will be getting more money, it will be able to stop importing energy, and the area around the dam will have better agriculture.

Iraq is concerned about the dam because the Tigris river flow through Iraq to get to the sea and a lot of Iraqi’s use the water from the Tigris for farming and in their jobs. If a dam is built further upstream then they are going to have less water to use in farming and other things so people will lose jobs and livelihoods. Some of the problems the dam will cause for Iraq are that the Mesopotamian marshes will disappear and leave many farmers out of space to work as they grow their crops on the marshes. This will lead to crop failure and many people going hungry and some even dying from starvation. This a problem for Iraq. Another problem Iraq will have to face is that pollution from fertilisers and pesticides in the water will increase further downstream which mean the water won’t really be drinkable and Iraq’s water supply is already depleted because of war so the river Tigris is Iraqi’s main source of water. This will lead to people getting ill from drinking the water and some people might die. In addition to this Turkey will try and sell them water collected from the dam that used to run fast and freely in Iraq which will feel like an extra hard blow. Overall, the effects on Iraq are very negative and I think that they outweigh the positives for Turkey because Turkey still has quite a few negatives and Iraq has hardly any positives.

One of the global benefits of the dam is that the Ilisu dam will reduce the carbon emissions of that area and that helps slow global warming. One of the global problems of the dam is that the town of Hasankeyf has been fully submerged so historians and archaeologists can use the towns buildings and landmarks to find out more about the early civilisations that used to live in Hasankeyf. Overall I think the global impacts of the Ilisu dam are positive than negative because if the dam helps slow and stop global warming then it means that people will be able to inhabit the world longer.

I mainly disagree with the statement “The completion of the Ilisu Dam in 2016 will have had positive impacts on Turkey and its neighbouring countries”. I think this because the dam only has a positive impact on some of the aspects of Turkey and a fully negative impact on Iraq. The dam has a minor positive impact on the world with its help to the reduction of global warming, but I think that all the negatives in Turkey, Iraq and the world outweigh the positives.

So, all this being said I don’t think that the dam should be built.