**Name two poorer regions within Europe. In case of one of the named poorer regions describe two reasons why it is poor.**

Two poor regions that I have studied are the Mezzogiorno in southern Italy and the border midlands west (BMW) regions of Ireland.

I will examine the reasons behind the inequality of the BMW compared to the prosperous east of Ireland. The BMW is considered a peripheral regions as it is far away from the Dublin which is considered to be political, social and economic centre of Ireland. Physically the land in the west is mountainous, this leads to high levels of rainfall and means that the land is flooded, leached and infertile. This soil that is most common in the BMW is podzol or blanket bogs. This means that farms are often of poor quality with most farmers unable to grow crops they concentrate their effort on sheep and cattle farming. This is less profitable than wheat and barley which is grown in the east.

The low pop density of the BMW is also a reason for it being the poorest region in Ireland. As there are very poor services and infrastructure here such as few third level colleges, airports, poor road network and poor soils this region does not attract many industries. For this reason emigration rates in the BMW are high and marriage and birth rates are low. This brain drain leads to less money being invested in the regions and industries inclined to set up in the east of Ireland continuing the cycle of emigration.