



ANSWER KEY

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Answer the essay question below.

1. Compare and contrast the annual precipitation of the American Falls area with that of the panhandle area. Explain your answer in terms of area topography and its probable influence on the amount of precipitation. Do you think differences in climate have led to differences in geographic development? (consider tourism, local economy, resources, etc.)

The panhandle gets a much higher level of precipitation when compared to American Falls. The reason for this is the topography. The panhandle is located near mountains, as air rises to get over these mountains it cools. This cooling raises the relative humidity and clouds form and rain falls. American Falls is located in the Snake River Plain. When air comes over the mountains it has already lost moisture. When that same air flows into the lower elevations it gets warmer, which lowers the relative humidity. Because of this reason, American Falls gets much less precipitation. The difference in precipitation probably has had an influence on the geographic development because the climate is different. Plants and agricultural goods are more easily grown where there is more precipitation, which probably helps the economy, some people might choose to live in a particular climate as well.