## Question 2: Discuss the many geographical assets of Middle America (both physical and human), and then discuss some of the problems and limitations this region also faces.

## Introduction

Commonly referred to as part of the constitutes of Latin America, the Middle American Realm extends from Baja California to Barbados in the southeastern region and southwards to Panama. Thi geographic realm is highly endowed with biodiversity and rich cultural heritage.

## The Human Geographical Assets of the Middle American realm

## Economy

Mexico city is the major economic hub of the realm as it covers a vast geographic and industrial landscape. Mexico is the third-largest import partner to the U.S.A after China and Canada. Usually, the industrial belt in Mexico is centered near its border with the USA for ease of movement of manufactured goods to the border and into the U.S.A. Mexico utilizes the cheaper raw material it imports from the U.S.A and then manufactures products which it then supplies to the USA for a profit. Largely this has been necessitated by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which is binding between the three states of Canada, the U.S.A, and Mexico.

The other island economies get most of their GDP from tourism as they are islands in nature and as such receive a lot of tourists from Europe and beyond. Barbados, the Bahamas, among other islands in the Caribbean are examples of economies in the middle American realm that are heavily reliant on tourism. Costa Rica and Panama both have higher GDPs after Mexico with their GDPs above $15,000.

### Culture

As earlier alluded to, the middle American Realm has a rich cultural heritage with an infusion of Spanish, African, and French cultures. These cultural diversities are a result of colonialism and the slave trade which characterized the region many years ago. Some countries like Jamaica were colonized by the British and other islands were colonized by France and as such are french-speaking islands. Others were colonized by Spain and as such have had a rich Hispanic cultural heritage. In Mexico for instance, The most prevalent culture is that of the indigenous mestizos, Spanish language is also common but still rests second to mestizos due to the efforts made by the Mexicans to preserve the indigenous language cultures.

### Demographics

Mexico is the most populous of all the countries in this geographic realm with a population of about 128 million as of 2020. A high concentration of this population is in urban regions with Mexico city having the highest concentration. When going towards the arid region, however, the population becomes less concentrated and it’s obvious that hot humid climate makes it difficult to live in such regions. The northern parts of Mexico city exhibit some of the least populated regions, the southern part of Mexico city also exhibits low population due to its hot and humid nature.

## Physical Geographic assets

The middle American realm is small in landmass compared to the northern American counterpart, yet the middle American realm doesn’t come short of the spectacular seashore, volcanic islands, coral reefs, and spectacular beaches characterized by sparkling blue waters in the tropic islands such as Barbados, Bahamas, and jamaica. When it comes to the biggest section of this realm which is Mexico, this region is mostly arid and semi-arid owing to the presence of the Chihuahuan Desert which covers an area from texas to new Mexico and six Mexican states. These arid regions are similar to the regions found in the North American realm of the Mojave desert in the sierra Nevada, Arizona, and Utah regions of the U.S.A.

Most f the countries in the middle American realm are located along the pacific rim of fire which is characterized by volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. And there have been frequent volcanic eruptions and earthquakes in Haiti, and other surrounding areas owing to these geographic settings in the region.

The climate in the region is tropic in nature and as such, this region enjoys warm and humid climates but is often characterized by tropical cyclones and storms which can travel from the Caribbean all the way to Mexico and the eastern part of the U.S.A such as Florida.

### Problems and Limitations

The problems faced in this realm are several and range from drug trafficking in Mexico to the economic hardships faced by the small island nations and the climate change effects usually experienced in the Caribbean islands.

Volcanic eruptions are also common in the Middle American realm especially the Caribbean islands as they sit on the pacific rim which is prone to volcanic eruptions. Tsunamis also possess problems due to faults and folds in the sea beds and ocean flows.