**SURFACE RELIEF**

The area of Iraq can be divided into three big physical regions, as below:-

1. **Mountains and semi mountains region.**

 This region lies in the north eastern part of the country, where the young hills and Fold Mountains arise. The altitude of these mountains is more than 1000m, which gradually decreases towards the south and south eastern portions of the country. The area of this region is about 20% of the total area. The extending of these mountains are from the north western side to the south eastern side. This region has some fertile plains and several rivers and tributaries flow through it.

1. **Sedimentary plains region.**

This region occupies about 25% of the total area of the country. It lies in the middle and south parts. This plain was formal a fore deep before the crustal waves of northern tertiary mountains, in which the rivers from the north brought huge amount of debris and deposited in the fore deep which got filled up and thus came into existence. So that the plain contains several marshes and ponds. The area is characterized by flat level plain with a maximum height of about 61 meters in the northern parts and 50 meters near al- ramady.

1. **Plateau region.**

Its area about 55% of the total country area. It’s located in the west and south west part of the country, and extending up to the Syrian border and towards the Arabian Peninsula. Its consists of strong and ancient rocks covered with a thick layer of limestone. The plateau slopes towards the east as several valleys slopes toward Euphrates River. This region contains some of resources, as minerals, pastures and oasis’s.