

Regions (Continental)| A1 Sample answer

Agriculture in Brazil

Brazil has a tropical climate with temperatures of more than 26 degrees. Brazil receives between 1000 to 2000 millimetres of rain each year. Most of this rainfall occurs between October and March. The Amazon Basin has an equatorial climate which is not suitable for agriculture this area is covered by tropical red soils which are heavily leached and infertile. Approximately 2000 to 3000 millimetres of rain falls each year causing soil erosion. The South East is covered by Terra Rossa soils this is dark in colour and rich in minerals. It is well drained and fertile. Coffee trees are grown in this area along the River Valleys. Alluvial soils are also present due to annual flooding. Because of the tropical climate Brazil has high temperatures and a year round growing season. Farmers can grow a variety of crops including coffee and soya. Cattle ranching, occurs inland. This is extensive farming.

Extensive farming is farming that takes place over a large area of land. The rainforest is being cleared to make room for cattle ranching. This has a negative environmental impact. Brazil is the 3rd largest supplier of beef in the world. Intensive plantation agriculture of coffee sugarcane and oranges occurs in the south east. Brazil is the number 1 producer of orange juice sugar and coffee in the world. Coffee grows on the escarpment on the south east coast. Coffee grows best on sloping grounds.

Coffee was once 60% of Brazil's exports but is now only 2%. Sugarcane was planted in large plantations along Brazil's east Coast. It is widely grown and used for biofuel. Over half the vehicles in Brazil run on biofuel benefiting the economy. Brazil has a market of 204 million and a market in South America. This market is poor. Brazil also exports to the USA and Europe. Brazil has a well-developed road network in the South East and the major cities are connected by motorway.

Eastern Brazil has a rail network which transports coffee beans sugar and Soya. The Amazon drains most of northern Brazil. Traffic on this river is light because of the low population density. Coastal shipping is important along the coast. Because of this the ports are been upgraded to cope with the increase in Brazil's trade.