

# Development of San Paulo | Sample Answer

**Examine the factors that have influenced the development of one urban area in a continental/sub continental region (not in Europe) that you have studied.**

**(2018 Q6.b)**

Sao Paulo is the largest city in Brazil and one of the world's largest agglomerations. An agglomeration is where many towns grow and simply form into one large scale urbanisation.

San Paulo lacked industry up until 1880 due to the Portuguese colonisers policy of mercantilism which aimed to strip colonies of all resources. Industries were not developed locally; the resources were exported. At the time the population was 65,000.

The coffee industry in San Paulo boomed as a result of fertile soils and this became Brazil's largest export. Coffee created a large pull factor for San Paulo, bringing people from all over Brazil and also from Europe.

San Paulo flourished into a vibrant economic hub and by 1890 had a population of 240,000 people working mainly in the coffee industry which is in the primary sector.

San Paulo now accounts for a half of Brazils total industrial output which has led to further population growth and also poor distribution in the area. Although San Paulo has a strong economy, still 50% of people live in substandard housing known as favelas. These are riddled with crime and lack proper sanitation.

The uncontrolled growth of the city has led to a large growth of pollution. Traffic causes air pollution, high rise buildings cause visual pollution and people and large clubs cause noise pollution.

The south east is Brazils main economic hub yet the unemployment rate still stands high at 12% of people without work. This number is 8% above the 4% figure which is considered as no unemployment.

The devaluation of the Real currency in 1998 discouraged further investment in the region and saw many Foreign direct investors reluctant to move in. However large multinational corporations (MNC) did invest e.g. Ford and Shell Oil.

Growth in Brazil and industrialisation in the 1950s allowed for better health care and less deaths with more babies seeing a transfer to stage 3 of the population cycle.

The population of San Paulo's metropolitan area is at 21 million. This gross urban sprawl that has moved into the countryside has affected much wildlife and created a bigger agglomerate.

The Brazilian government plan to deter growth was put into place by creating a new capital in the middle of the rainforest in a city to be known as Brasilia. This city now has a population of 3 million.

Brazil's rapidly increasing population is also leading to urban development with a country population of 209 million people in 2017 and with 62% of the population under the age of 29.

San Paulo has in recent times added more commercial cores as a singular Central Business District is no longer needed. This has allowed a shift from a Monocentricity to a Polycentricity.

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