

## Human Processes in Brazil - 2015 Q5C

I have studied the influence of human processes on the development of Brazil.

### Population Dynamics

Brazil has a population of 211 million people. This is more than half of the total population of South America. Brazil's population has grown exponentially in the last 100 years. Brazilian men have a life expectancy of 68, while Brazilian women have a life expectancy of 76.

Brazil's population density is 22 per km<sup>2</sup>. The population is very unevenly distributed - 80% of the population lives on the east coast of the country. When Portuguese colonists first arrived, they founded cities on the east coast of Brazil due to its preferable climate. In the 1950s, the government tried to move the population inland from the east coast due to overcrowding. Brazil's capital city of Brasilia was built in 1954, over 1200km inland to attract migrants. Brasilia is now the fourth largest city in Brazil with a population of 2.9 million people.

Migrants are also attracted to the west of Brazil due to the opportunity to exploit the natural resources. This has led to the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest which is home to many of Brazil's native tribes. The north-east of Brazil does not attract settlement because of the harsh climate. The south-east of Brazil is the most densely populated part of the country due to the climate and the high concentration of industry. The industrial triangle of São Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro attracts economic migrants who are searching for a better standard of living. This migration has placed huge pressure on services in the south-east, especially housing. This has led to the development of favelas. In São Paulo, 8 million people live in favelas.

### Urban Development

São Paulo is Brazil's largest city, with a population of 23 million people.

São Paulo was founded by Jesuits in 1554 when Portuguese colonists settled along Brazil's east coast. They were attracted to the area due to its higher altitude of 760m, which created a cooler

climate. The city soon developed as a centre for exporting raw materials such as sugar. In the eighteenth-century, gold was discovered in São Paulo. This caused the city to grow in economic importance. In 1934, São Paulo became a university city which brought a skilled and young workforce to the city. São Paulo's soil also attracted settlers as its terra rossa soil is ideal for sugar plantations. A railway was built between São Paulo and the Port of Santos for the exportation of goods such as gold and sugar.

After World War II, São Paulo became Brazil's main manufacturing city. Today, more than 50% of Brazil's industrial production takes place in São Paulo. After slavery was abolished in 1888, many former slaves moved to São Paulo to work in sugar and coffee plantations. The city's rapidly growing population has led to many families living in terrible conditions due to huge pressures on services in the city. 20% of the population of São Paulo live in favelas due to lack of space. Favelas have a lack of services such as sanitisation, water and healthcare, and have a high crime rate. The population of these favelas are always increasing due to the cheap housing there.