

## Primary activities in Brazil | sample answer

**Q: 'Examine the development of primary activities in a continental/ sub-continental region of your choice' (2007 Q4 C.)**

Brazil a predominantly tropical country famous for its extensive Amazon lowlands, however, highlands cover most of the natural territory.

The main primary activities are agriculture, forestry and mining.

Agriculture is worth about 25% of Brazil's GDP. The EU buys roughly 42% of Brazil's agricultural export like coffee and sugar0 things Europe has no other way of getting.

Modern farming techniques are encouraged and there is extensive research investment into to developing farming. s a result effective crop rotations are put in place to keep soil fertile.

Corn, soya and sugar are Brazil's main crops;

Argentina and Brazil provide half of the world's soybeans and scientists have developed them to grow in Savanna areas of Brazil's interior.

Sugar cane production employs over 900,000 people in Brazil. 50% of it is used to produce a biofuel called ethanol which is used instead of petrol. 90% is grown in south-centre Brazil.

Brazil holds over 32% of the world market for coffee. In 2010 it was worth €96 billion for the economy.

Production is controlled by multinational companies like Nestlé.

Brazilian coffee industry thrives because it has the perfect physical features for it; tropical climate, absence of frost, deep well-drained soils, humid conditions and high altitude.

Large parts of Brazil have deep well-drained terra rosa soil and high lands provide the correct altitude for coffee.

This means that large parts of western Bahia is suitable for coffee but the clearing of fragile ecosystems for these plantations has risen environmental concerns..

Brazil is the world's largest exporter of beef with over 165m cattle in the country. Pastures occupy about 19% of the country and the clearing of rainforest for this is also controversial.

Forestry is an important economic activity in Brazil seeing as it is home to the Amazon rainforest, also known as the 'lungs of the Earth'. The main trees harvested are tropical hardwoods (teak, mahogany). A single tree could be worth €15000.

Timber production accounts for 3.5% of Brazils GDP and provides 6 million direct and indirect jobs. 80% of the wood harvested is illegal.

Brazil has a wide range of minerals (diamonds, iron ore, gold). Bahia also produces 1/4 million tons of copper concentrate.

Two large oil fields have been discovered off the coast of Rio de Janeiro. They are the Tupi field and the Sugar Loaf field. It is the 4th largest field in the world.