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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

ECONOMICS **9708/42**

Paper 4 A Level Data Response and Essays **October/November 2025**

2 hours

9981664316

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **three** questions in total:
  - Section A: answer Question 1.
  - Section B: answer **one** question.
  - Section C: answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- You may use a calculator.
- You may answer with reference to any economy you have studied where relevant to the question.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A

Answer all parts of Question 1.

1 **Resources in Brazil**

Between 2000 and 2020, Brazilian GDP, measured in US dollars ($), rose from $1.19 trillion to $1.89 trillion at constant prices (2015). In the same period GDP per head rose from $6745 to $8204 at constant prices (2015).

The strength of the Brazilian economy lies in the variety and quantity of its natural resources. For example, Brazil is one of the world's largest exporters of agricultural commodities, mainly soya and beef. There are also significant exports of minerals. Brazil is the second largest iron ore producer in the world and extracts 3.4% of the world's crude oil.

World agricultural markets are dominated by four large commodity traders that buy and sell products such as grain and soya. They have grown through both horizontal integration and vertical integration. These traders own many large farms, they process farm produce and transport it to trade on international markets. In addition to buying and selling, the traders provide seed and fertiliser to farmers and supply storage for their products. They use agricultural by-products to produce items like biofuel. These traders also provide financial services to these markets.

Commodity traders are very important to the development of complex global food markets. Food prices, access to scarce resources such as land and water, climate change and food security are all affected by the activities of traders. In Brazil, the output of 15 000 farmers is purchased by a single trader.

In Brazil the development of agriculture, mining and oil extraction all contribute to environmental degradation. Both agriculture and mining have been accompanied by deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. Access roads to mining areas also lead to deforestation. Waste water from mining activity is frequently stored in reservoirs behind dams. On two occasions in the last 10 years these dams failed to hold back the water. This led to widespread flooding, the discharge of pollutants such as mercury into rivers, and deaths.

Sources: The Guardian*, 23 August 2022*
Cereal Secrets, Oxfam Research Report, August 2012
oec.world/en/profile, August 2023

(a) Explain the significance of measuring GDP at constant prices. [3]

(b) Explain **one** possible benefit of horizontal integration and **one** possible benefit of vertical integration. [4]

(c) Describe how the market structure in which individual farmers operate is likely to differ from the market structure in which the commodity traders operate. [6]

(d) Use the article to evaluate the impact of the development of the agricultural and mining industries on the standard of living in Brazil. [7]

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Section B

Answer **one** question.

EITHER

2 Traffic congestion is a cause of allocative inefficiency.

Evaluate, with the help of diagram(s) **two** policies that a government may introduce to reduce the problem of allocative inefficiency caused by traffic congestion. [20]

OR

3 The average wage of chief executives in large companies in a country is over 100 times greater than the average wage of their employees.

Assess how economic theory can account for this variation in average wages. [20]

Section C

Answer **one** question.

EITHER

4 Evaluate the effect of a fall in the exchange rate on the achievement of the macroeconomic aims of a country. [20]

OR

5 Evaluate whether the presence of multinational companies (MNCs) in low-income countries is always beneficial. [20]

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