

Intermediate Reading : Vocabulary & Structure

英語閱讀：字彙與結構

BRIC – Brazil

金磚四國－巴西

Adviser : Miss Joyce Tsou

指導老師：鄒治惠老師



Group Members :	Andy	陳有圭
	Avril	莊欣儀
	Carol	劉夢涵
	Charles	王琮珀
	Charlene	楊采璘
	Esther	黃于芳
	Jimmy	鄒人杰
	Vincent	張文安

Outline

I. Introduction

A. Geography:

1. The fifth largest in the world in both area and population.
2. The largest and most populous country in South America.

B. Capital and Major cities:

1. Brasilia
2. Sao Paulo
3. Rio de Janeiro

C. Climate: Tropical climate with moist temperatures averaging 27°C.

D. Resource:

1. Amazon River: The largest river in the world.
2. Rainforest: The most extensive rainforest of the world on the north side.
3. Mineral: Iron ore, gold, steel.

E. Economy: With a GDP of approximately US\$600 billion.

F. Population: 151,523,449 inhabitants.

1. Race:

- a. 55.2% of white people.
- b. 39.3% of mulattos.
- c. 4.9% of black people.
- d. 0.5% of Asian people.

2. Structure:

- a. 0~14 years old: 34.7%.
- b. 15~60 years old: 57.8%.
- c. Above 60 years old: 7.3%.

3. Life span expectancy:

- a. Males: 62.1 years old.
- b. Female: 68.9 years old.

II. Advantages

A. Exceptionally Rich in Natural Resources:

1. Mineral.
2. Crude oil and Natural gas.
3. Hydraulic Electro Generating: The largest power plant in the world – ITAIPU.
4. Coffee.
5. Soybean.
6. Corn.

B. Human Resources:

1. Demographics
2. Education: Literacy rate of 88.6%.
3. Labor Force: 55.4 million (women1/3, men2/3) with total of US\$82,590,000.

III. Weaknesses

A. High Tax:

1. Double Taxation.
2. Complicated tax.
3. Increasing Tax Rate.

B. Corruption of the Government: 70th rank in the world.

IV. Conclusion

Summary

Brazil is the most populous and the largest country in South America. Since the weather is warm and wet in this region, they have the widest rainforest in the world. In addition, they also have abundant minerals and natural resources; various agriculture products. Besides, they have a great capability of population. The structure of their population is very young, and the average age is twenty-seven years old.

However, there are some problems in the government of Brazil. First one is the policy of taxes which are too complicated, and the second one is the corruption of the government is getting more and more serious.

How will the government of Brazil solve these difficulties to provide a better environment for investor and also to reduce the poverty gap? We believe it must be the most influencing key question for not only Brazil, but also the other countries in the whole world.

BRIC – Brazil

Introduction

• Geography

Brazil, officially the Federative Republic of Brazil, is the largest and most populous country in South America, and fifth largest in the world in both area and population. Ninety-three percent of the Brazilian territory is located in the South Hemisphere and 92% in the intertropical zone. Spanning a vast area between central South America and the Atlantic Ocean, it is the easternmost country of America. Brazil borders with ten countries: the French Guyana, Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela, and Colombia at north; Uruguay and Argentina at south; and Paraguay, Bolivia, and Peru at west. Ecuador and Chile are the only two countries of South America with which Brazil makes no frontiers.

The capital of Brazil is Brasilia. Both of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are major cities there. There is jet lag between Taiwan and Brazil; Taiwan is 11 to 13 hours earlier. Brazil's winter lasts from June to August, with temperatures between 13 and 18°C, but it only gets really cold in south of Rio. Summer is from December to February, a period frequently bringing stifling humidity to the far south. Brief rain showers are common, given Brazil's tropical climate, but the dry interior has only a few months of heavy rainfall a year. Of course, the Amazon Basin is the wettest area, with damp, moist temperatures averaging 27°C.

• Resources

To the earth, Brazil is like the lungs in a person. It has the biggest river in the world - Amazon River. Brazil is like the barn of the earth, because it has the greatest and most arable land in the world. Moreover, it has nearly every kind of metals- iron ore, gold, steel, and so on.

Brazil also has the most extensive rainforest of the world on its north side. It is home to both extensive agricultural lands and rainforests. With vast natural resources and a large labor pool, Brazil is leading economic power and

regional leader in South America.

· **Economy**

With a gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately US\$ 600 billion, Brazil has the 12th largest economy in the world and represents about half of the South American Territory and economy. The country is rich in agricultural, mineral and industrial resources, and offers substantial market opportunities.

Brazilian economic growth has allowed for rapid expansion in exports, and substantial increase in the number of consumers for these products. This makes the nation become the target of foreign investors and entrepreneurs of different production industries.

In this context, the number of trade shows and exhibitions also grows in Brazil, serving as important sales tools in the globalization process of companies. There are already 160 events of the kind annually in cities such as Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and major cities in the Northeast. Alone, the Mega city of Sao Paulo hosts 75% of trade shows, receiving about 45 thousand foreign visitors and hundreds of thousands of Brazilians each year.

· **Population**

According to data published by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, the Brazilian population totals 151,523,449 inhabitants, with an average demographic density of 17.7 inhabitants per km². The urban population is equivalent to 75.4% of the whole, and the population's ethnic composition includes 55.2% of white people; 39.3% of mulattos; 4.9% of black people; and 0.5% of Asian people (most them are Japanese).

People from 0 to 14 years old constitute 34.7% of the population, while people from 15 to 60 years correspond to 57.8% of the population. People above 60 comprise 7.3% of the population. In 2003, the demographic growth increased by 12.8%. The life span expectancy is of 62.1 years for males and 68.9 years for females.

Advantages

- **Exceptionally Rich in Natural Resources**

Mineral:

Brazil was Latin America's leading producer of iron ore, manganese, aluminum, cement, ferroalloys (ranking third in the world), tin (fourth in the world), gold (sixth in the world), and steel (eighth in the world), and produced 92.4% of the world's columbium. Iron ore and manganese either provide the raw material for industry or are sold directly to earn the foreign exchange. In addition, minerals such as gold, nickel, chromium, copper, lead, tungsten, uranium, zinc, gem and marble, have been started to exploit.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas:

Besides the mineral, according to the standard of Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation (SPEC), the reserves of crude oil in Brazil was attested that estimated has 67 hundred million barrels, and the reserves of natural gas are 2,236 hundred million cubic meters.

Hydraulic Electro generating:

Brazil has one of the most widespread rivers network, it is the main hydraulic electro generating country in the whole world, and its "Itaipu" hydro-electric power station also is the present biggest power plant in the world. The hydraulic electro generating nearly can supply the needs of electric power of the nation. As of 2002, the country's per capital energy consumption was equal to all of other South and Central American countries combined. From June 2001 through March 2002, power was rationed allowing the country to avoid rolling blackouts. Brazil is one of the world's leading producers of hydropower.

- **Plenty and Various Agriculture Products**

The exportation of agriculture is the most important part in Brazil. The major agricultural products are coffee, sugar cane and citrus. And also the large harvest of soybean is the second place in the world, and corn is at the third place.

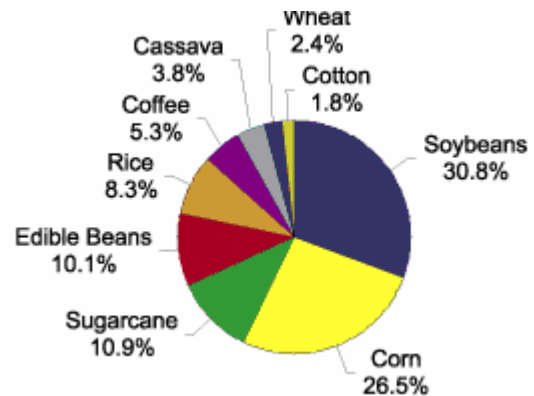
Why can they have so strong ability on the area of agriculture? It is

because they build the modern water conservancy system through the whole places where can have tillage except the northeastern; the 70% of the boundary in Brazil is the arable land. It's almost the entire boundary in Brazil. In spite of this, they still have almost 80% of the arable lands to develop.

Coffee: Production: 3,586,440,000 millions pounds. (Over 40% of the world).

Exports: 3,053,820,000
millions pounds.

Soybean: Ports south of Santos handle nearly 50 % of the country's soybean exports, 65% of soy meal exports and 100% of soy oil exports.



Corn: The exports are averaged 7.3% of U.S. corn exports. Future production and export growth of corn in Brazil will depend primarily on the development of tropical corn varieties and infrastructure developments.

• Population

Demographics and education:

At the turn of the century, Brazil's population was 17,438,434. By 1950 it had grown to 51,944,397, and in 1970 it reached 93,139,037. By 1991 Brazil was the world's sixth most populous country, with about 2.7% of the world's 5.3 billion people or 147,053,940 inhabitants. Now, the population was 186.4million, and projections indicate a total population of 211 million in 2020, and population stability at about 250 million in 2050. The population growth rate for the 1992 to 2000 period is estimated at 1.5 percent per year. In education, the population of 7-14-year-olds not attending school drops from 20% in 1992 to 5% in 2000. In 2004, literacy rate of adult total was 88.6 percent.

Labor force:

The economically active Brazilian labor force is estimated to include about 55.4 million persons; women make up about one-third of the labor force. About 26 percent of the workers are engaged in agriculture; about 51 percent are employed in services, and some 23 percent labor in manufacturing and construction. Many of the workers are members of unions belonging to one of several national confederations; the groupings include the National Confederation of Industrial Workers, the National Confederation of Agricultural Workers, and the National Confederation Communications and Advertising Workers, all located in Brasilia.

Rank	Country	Labor Force(US\$)
1.	China	778,100,000
2.	India	472,000,000
3.	United States	147,400,000
4.	Indonesia	105,700,000
5.	Brazil	82,590,000

Weaknesses

- **High Taxes**

The Brazilian tax system is among the most complex and burdensome in the world. To comply, a company in Rio de Janeiro would be double taxation. Chances are that this company would close down or operate in the informal sector. Accountants estimate it would take 2,600 hours for that firm to comply with all tax requirements—the longest in the world. Within Brazil, filing taxes is less complicated in the states of Bahia, Rondonia and Mato Grosso do Sul. It is most difficult in Mato Grosso, Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais. While Brazil deals with more than 25 different federal, state and municipal taxes, Norway collects 60% of companies' gross profit relying on only 3 taxes filed electronically.

In the 12 years, Brazil's tax rate increased gradually from around 28% of

the country's GDP to the more than 37%. In spite of this, not enough improvement was seen in the public services offered by either the federal or most of the state and municipal governments to make this increase considered fair by the population.

• **Corruption of the Government**

Despite the gains in Brazil, investors remain worried about corruption investigations that threaten to derail economic reforms. Also, Chile reported strong economic growth for the first quarter.

Brazilian shares were higher, snapping back from recent selling pressure. Concerns that a series of corruption and misconduct scandals affecting members of the government will slow economic reforms continued to hang over the market, however.

In 2001, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 91 countries posits Brazil in 46th place and right in the middle of the pack. This is not necessarily something to be complacent about, since the company included the likes of Peru, Poland, Bulgaria, Croatia and Czech Republic. As for the citizenry, Brazilians may be less sanguine since their media have never found it hard to come up several stories of corruption every day.

Conclusion

Since the independence, the development of Brazil looks like a dramatic history with the constantly fighting for the inflation and financial deficit.

With a plenty of nature resources and improvement of labors, Brazil is growing and developing in export, especially in industry. No matter the agriculture, the manufacturing industry, or the energy resources, all had an appreciable improvement.

But as the wealth accumulate gradually; the differences of earnings from each social class are getting more and more serious. And the gap between the rich and the poor may cause many problems to the community easily. Two major reasons to cause this serious problem are high taxes and the corruption of the government.

However, these issues that Brazil is facing directly are not unusual to other middle-income countries. So how will Brazil confront all of those difficulties? We believe it must be the most influencing key question for not only Brazil, but also the other countries in the whole world.

Sources

1. http://www.stdaily.com/big5/stdaily/2002-10/25/content_24971.htm
2. <http://www.specialty-coffee-advisor.com/brazil-coffee.html>
3. <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/rowcrops/eb79w.htm#soybeans>
4. http://www.brazilianconsulate.org.hk/ehtml/about_lon_people_labo.htm
5. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil>
6. http://www.cepr.net/publications/Brazil_2006_09_22.pdf
7. <http://impostos.portaleconomia.com.br/>
8. <http://www.zonalatina.com/Zldata245.htm>
9. http://www.brazzilmag.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2535&Itemid=49
10. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil>
11. <http://www.geographia.com/brazil/>