



UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DA PARAÍBA
CENTRO DE CIÊNCIAS HUMANAS, SOCIAIS E AGRÁRIAS
PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS AGRÁRIAS (AGROECOLOGIA)

ENGLISH TEXT EXAM FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
2021.1

STUDENT: _____

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TEXT

Consumption in rich nations and forest degradation in developing ones

Such losses cannot be offset by planting more trees at home

Out of sight, out of mind

"Deforestation footprint", km², '000



Forest area gain/loss, km², '000



Source: "Mapping the deforestation footprint of nations reveals growing threat to tropical forests", By N. T. Hoang and K. Kanemoto

1 FORESTS ARE crucial to the functioning of the Earth. They provide homes for plants and animals, absorb
2 rainfall, produce oxygen and suck up carbon dioxide, helping to keep global temperatures in check.
3 Environmentalists are increasingly worried about their loss. Ten thousand years ago, more than half of the
4 world's habitable land was covered in trees; since then one-third have been cut down to make way for
5 agriculture and an ever-growing number of humans. Efforts to reverse this trend, including tree-planting
6 programmes in America, Europe, China and India, among other places, have helped replenish some of what
7 is left of the world's forests.

8 But such gains do not tell the whole story. For all their tree-planting efforts at home, rich countries continue
9 to contribute, through their consumption, to the levelling of vast tracts of forests in poor ones. A study,
10 published on March 29th in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, reveals the extent and location of the world's
11 "deforestation footprint". Keiichiro Kanemoto and Nguyen Tien Hoang, of the Research Institute for
12 Humanity and Nature in Japan, combined data on global forest loss with that on international trade between
13 2001 and 2015. They calculated that rich-country demand for goods led overwhelmingly to deforestation
14 outside their own borders, and mostly in tropical countries. In G7 countries, for example, the area covered
15 by forests increased every year between 2001 and 2015. But after adjusting for trade, the authors found
16 that these countries contributed to a net loss of 20,000 square kilometres of forest in the rest of the world
17 in 2015 alone.

18 Each country has a unique deforestation footprint. Japan's hankering for cotton and sesame seeds, for
19 example, has led in particular to the destruction of trees in coastal Tanzania; Germany's appetite for cocoa
20 has contributed to the stripping of forests in Ghana and Ivory Coast; China's demand for timber and rubber
21 has helped to wipe out forests in Indochina. America, for its part, is responsible for deforestation in
22 Cambodia (timber), Liberia (rubber), Guatemala (fruit and nuts) and Brazil (soya and beef).

23 The location of such deforestation matters. The Amazon basin, which mostly sits in Brazil, is home to 40% of
24 the world's tropical forests and as much as 15% of all the biodiversity on Earth. It also stores tens of billions
25 of tonnes of carbon. The destruction of the Amazon rainforest cannot be mitigated by planting trees
26 elsewhere: Mr Kanemoto and Mr Nguyen estimate that the environmental impact of losing three Amazonian
27 trees might be more severe than the loss of 14 trees in a boreal forest in a country like Norway. Younger
28 forests also may have less carbon-sequestering ability than old ones, because they aren't as tall.

29 The authors argue that it is not enough for rich countries to stop deforestation at home—they have to make
30 sure their imports are sustainable, too. There is some evidence that this is starting to happen. Joe Biden,
31 America's president, has signalled that his diplomatic relationship with Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's president, will
32 hinge at least in part on whether the latter halts destruction of the Amazon.

33 Source: <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2021/03/29/how-rich-countries-cause-deforestation-in-poor-ones>. Last checked: 4 May 2021.

QUESTIONS

After reading the text: “XXX”, please, answer in PORTUGUESE the five proposed questions.

1 According to the text, “tree-planting programmes in America, Europe, China and India, among other places, have helped replenish some of what is left of the world’s forests” (lines 5-7). Nevertheless, these actions “do not tell the whole story” (line 8). Explain why these tree-planting programmes might not be enough to stop deforestation.

De acordo com o texto, embora Estados Unidos, China, Índia e países da Europa desenvolvam projetos de plantio de árvores, essas ações não são suficientes para parar o desmatamento. Isso ocorre porque esses mesmos países continuam contribuindo, pelas altas demandas de importação de bens de consumo, para o desmatamento fora de suas fronteiras, principalmente em países tropicais.

2 According to the text, Keiichiro Kanemoto and Nguyen Tien Hoang’s study presents data on the “deforestation footprint” worldwide. Compare the data presented about the G7 countries in the 2nd graph (on the right) with the information provided in the text.

O gráfico apresenta a variação de cobertura florestal por regiões entre 2001 e 2015. Observa-se no gráfico que a região do G7, ao longo desse período, apresentou leve ampliação da cobertura florestal. No entanto, quando se considera essa cobertura reajustada levando em conta fatores comerciais internacionais, nota-se que esses países promovem não um ganho, mas sim uma perda de floresta em todo o período, com piora considerável a partir de 2010. O texto complementa esse dado, ao acrescentar que, apenas no ano de 2015, esses países contribuíram com uma perda líquida de 20.000 km² de floresta no mundo.

3 Explain the meaning of the expression “each country has a unique deforestation footprint” (line 18). Make sure to provide at least two examples to your answer.

Conforme o texto, cada país tem uma pegada de desmatamento única, isto é, cada país contribui com o desmatamento global por demandas diferentes no comércio internacional, que impactam com maior ou menor força regiões específicas do globo. Por exemplo, o Japão tem grande demanda por algodão e gergelim, o que leva à devastação principalmente de florestas na costa da Tanzânia. O apetite da Alemanha por cacau, por sua vez, contribui para a destruição das florestas em Gana e na Costa do Marfim. A demanda chinesa por madeira e borracha impacta mormente as florestas na Indochina. E os EUA, por sua vez, atingem principalmente as florestas do Camboja (madeira), da Libéria (borracha), da Guatemala (frutas e nozes) e do Brasil (soja e carne).

4 “The environmental impact of losing three Amazonian trees might be more severe than the loss of 14 trees in a boreal forest in a country like Norway” (lines 26-27). This conclusion is based on what features of the Amazon region?

A conclusão de que o impacto ambiental causado pela perda de três árvores na Amazônia seria mais severo do que a de 14 árvores em uma região de floresta boreal baseia-se em características intrínsecas à Amazônia. Conforme o texto, a bacia amazônica abriga 40% das florestas tropicais do mundo e até 15% de toda a biodiversidade da Terra. Além disso, essa região também armazena dezenas de bilhões de toneladas de carbono. É por isso que a perda de área de floresta na Amazônia é tão grave, e é por isso que a destruição da floresta amazônica não pode ser mitigada com o plantio de árvores em outros lugares.

5 Cite the measures to halt deforestation proposed in the last paragraph and explain how these measures might impact Brazil.

A principal medida proposta no último parágrafo do texto é que os países ricos não apenas devem parar o desmatamento dentro de suas fronteiras, mas também precisam garantir que suas importações sejam sustentáveis. Esse tipo de medida pode impactar fortemente o Brasil, seja no âmbito comercial, seja no âmbito diplomático. O texto aponta que Joe Biden, presidente dos Estados Unidos, sinalizou que seu relacionamento diplomático com Jair Bolsonaro, presidente do Brasil, dependerá, pelo menos em parte, de este último parar a destruição da Amazônia.