

AS QUESTÕES DE 41 A 50 REFEREM-SE A LÍNGUA ESTRANGEIRA (INGLÊS – PÁG. 15 OU FRANCÊS – PÁG. 18)

VOCÊ DEVERÁ RESPONDER ÀS QUESTÕES RELATIVAS AO IDIOMA PELO QUAL OPTOU NO ATO DA INSCRIÇÃO

LÍNGUA INGLESA – QUESTÕES DE 41 A 50

Brazil revives bullet train

1 *Brazil's government, confronting chaos in domestic air travel, is resuming plans to have a high-speed*
2 *train line built between the country's two biggest cities, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. The project, which*
3 *should cost over US\$6 billion and take at least five years to complete, has already attracted the interest of*
4 *local and foreign firms. The train line should allow travel from one megalopolis to another in less than an*
5 *hour and a half, compared with about an hour by plane and six hours by bus. The two cities are about 430*
6 *kilometres apart.*

7 *The plan is gaining importance on the Transport Ministry's agenda at a time when air traffic*
8 *controllers' strikes are affecting air travel, including the busy Rio-to-São Paulo route. A viability study*
9 *prepared last year pointed to the need for an international concession to build and operate such a line,*
10 *which would put Brazil in line with a global trend. However, this project has to be done using private*
11 *investment, for it cannot be done at the public expense.*

12 *On Tuesday, a French bullet train set the world railway speed record of 574.8 kilometres per hour,*
13 *drawing attention to a travel sector growing in many countries and rivalling air travel. Brazil, on the other*
14 *hand, has few, mainly cargo, railroads, and transports passengers mostly by bus. It nurtured plans for its*
15 *own bullet train in the 1990s, but a string of economic crises emptied government coffers and slashed*
16 *Brazilians' travel budgets. The only passenger railway route between the two cities, the so-called Silver*
17 *Train, ended in 1998. It made its only profit in 1996, after an air crash in São Paulo killed about 100 people,*
18 *causing more passengers to travel by land.*

19 *During last week's visit by Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi to Brazil, Italian firm Impregilo signed*
20 *a letter of intent with Brazilian industrial group Odebrecht to study its participation in the project. Impregilo*
21 *has preliminary studies on the subject, and the agreement is to start joint studies. A number of international*
22 *firms from Japan, China, and South Korea have also shown interest in the project, which envisages a train*
23 *with a top speed of about 270 kilometres per hour and intervals of 15 minutes between trains. A train ticket*
24 *would cost an estimated US\$80, slightly less than an air ticket, but far beyond the reach of many in Brazil,*
25 *where the minimum wage is about US\$186 a month.*

26 *Brazil's National Economic and Social Development Bank said it expected to get requests from*
27 *private firms for funding the train project, but would not become a partner in it. Officials say it should take*
28 *another year to finish preparing the plan, after which it must be approved by the president before a*
29 *prospectus can be published.*

(Adapted from <http://www.reuters.com/article/basicindustries-SP-A/idUSN0437873920070405?pageNumber=2>. Retrieved on 14/04/07. Written by Denise Luna.)

- Answer the following questions according to the text above.

41. "The project" (line 2) refers to:

- a) the costs with airplane tickets.
- b) the building of a high-speed railway.
- c) the domestic air travel plan.
- d) the chaos in Rio de Janeiro.

42. “*Budgets*” (line 16) can be best replaced by:
- a) hand luggage.
 - b) financial costs.
 - c) economic crises.
 - d) government debts.
43. According to the text, the problem concerning air travel in Brazil is:
- a) the high cost of tickets.
 - b) bird migration.
 - c) air traffic controllers’ strikes.
 - d) overpopulated flights.
44. The expression “*on the other hand*” (lines 13-14) expresses:
- a) contrast.
 - b) condition.
 - c) consequence.
 - d) cause.
45. All of the following words function as nouns in the text, EXCEPT:
- a) “*budgets*” (line 16).
 - b) “*transports*” (line 14).
 - c) “*plans*” (line 14).
 - d) “*studies*” (line 21).
46. The pronoun “*which*” (line 22) refers to:
- a) “*speed*” (line 23).
 - b) “*participation*” (line 20).
 - c) “*interest*” (line 22).
 - d) “*project*” (line 20).
47. In the phrase “*Brazil’s government*” (line 1), the “*’s*” is:
- a) an example of the plural form.
 - b) a contracted form of the verb to be.
 - c) an example of possessive case.
 - d) a contracted form of the verb to have.
48. The referent of the pronoun “*its*” (line 17) is:
- a) “*Silver Train*” (lines 16-17).
 - b) “*people*” (line 17).
 - c) “*air crash*” (line 17).
 - d) “*land*” (line 18).

49. The expression “*less than*” (line 24) expresses:

- a) consequence.
- b) illustration.
- c) comparison.
- d) condition.

50. According to the text, compared to an air ticket, a train ticket would cost:

- a) much less.
- b) much more.
- c) a bit less.
- d) a bit more.