

# 试题原文

注：请大家先按照搜索式阅读解题法做完题目，再看下面的讲解视频。

## Passage Three

Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following passage:

Fabio Schvartsman, a well-respected businessman as yet, may now be the most detested man in Brazil. As chief executive of Vale, a giant miner and the world's largest producer of iron ore, it was Mr. Schvartsman who had to face the public after the collapse of a company tailings (矿渣) dam in the town of Brumadinho on January, 25th. 186 people are now confirmed as dead, with 122 still missing.

So it was not a shock when, on March 2nd, Vale said that Mr. Schvartsman would step down. Tailings dams contain tons of waste material from mining operations. The design used at Brumadinho was known to be the least expensive and most risky. After a flood of waste burst from the Brumadinho dam, ripping through a staff canteen and submerging a valley in mud, the company tried to respond quickly. Its board suspended benefits for executives. It has made payments of 100,000 reais (\$26,000) to 266 families.

Eduardo de Sales Bartolomeo, a Vale veteran, has been named interim(临时的) chief executive. He faces mounting problems. A crucial question is if Mr. Schvartsman or other executives knew about problems with the dam. The firm maintains that they didn't. Prosecutors (检察官) declare that Vale made a secret deal to hide the fact that the dam is in danger.

Despite all these difficulties, the firm may recover. That is partly because of Mr. Schvartsman's changes since he took over, in May 2017. He reduced Vale's debt and cut capital spending. With healthy free cash flow and low debt, Vale's balance sheet can probably withstand even heavy government fines. The fundamentals in metals markets are also helping. In the 2020s, demand is expected to rise for iron ore in emerging markets and for nickel (another of Vale's key commodities) in electric cars. That increases the odds of Vale surviving the disaster, even as victims remain missing, buried in mud.

11. What does the underlined word "detest" in Paragraph 1 mean?

- A. Ignore
- B. Adore
- C. Hate
- D. Respect

12. Why was it Fabio Schvartsman who had to face the public after the disaster?

- A. Because Vale is a giant miner.
- B. Because he was the chief executive.
- C. Because he used to be well-respected.
- D. Because the accident killed many people.

13. What is the biggest problem that Eduardo de Sales Bartolomeo faces after he has been appointed interim chief executive?

- A. The dismissal of Mr. Schvartsman.
- B. Legal charges against the executives.
- C. The suspension of benefits for executives.
- D. Payments of 100,000 reais to 266 families.

14. What may help Vale survive the disaster?

- A. Increasing Vale's debt.
- B. Heavy fines from government.
- C. Putting Mr Schvartsman in jail.
- D. Rising demand for Vale's commodities.

15. Why did the company's tailings dam in Brumadinho collapse?

- A.Because Mr. Schwartsman cut Vale's capital spending in May 2017.
- B.Because there were tons of waste material from mining operations.
- C.Because the design of the dam was the least expensive and most risky.
- D.Because the executives of the company knew the risk of a dam breach.

## 视频讲解

