

Immigration

The number of people migrating to the United Kingdom is increasing at a rate that has taken politicians by surprise. The annual rise is 45,000 more than previously predicted. This is according to official estimates from Britain's National Statistics Office. Officials originally thought the increase in Britain's population due to immigration would be around 145,000 a year. However, it has revised that figure to 190,000 migrants a year. Population expert Sir Andrew Green said: "The result is that 86% of our population increase will now be due to immigration, which will add 7.2 million to our population between 2004 and 2031." Politicians are warning this figure is the same size as a city and will put considerable strain on Britain's infrastructure and public services.

British politicians are calling for action to slow down the volume of people relocating to the UK, before a population crisis sets in. The Conservative Party wants "an explicit annual limit" on the number of people entering the UK. Members of the government agree. Immigration Minister Liam Byrne urged "the need for swift and sweeping changes to the immigration system in the next 12 months." He added: "Migration is bringing new wealth but also new worries to Britain. That means we need to drive through radical action now to make sure our ... policy is fit for the future." Another migration expert, Danny Sriskandarajah, warned that Britain had to continue to build "cohesive communities" despite the ever-increasing numbers of people arriving at its ports.

Vocabulary: Find the words in the reading to match the definitions.

1. _____ n. an approximate judgment or calculation, as of the value, amount, time, size, or weight of something.
2. _____ v. to alter something already written or printed, in order to make corrections, improve, or update.
3. _____ n. a severe demand on or test of resources.
4. _____ adj. fully and clearly expressed or demonstrated.
5. _____ v. to push or force along.
6. _____ adj. of wide range or scope.
7. _____ adj. favoring drastic political, economic, or social reforms.
8. _____ adj. well-integrated; unified.

Activity

With your partner(s) create a 10 question test that you would give to immigrants who are seeking Polish citizenship.



Below are sample questions the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services uses to test immigrants applying for citizenship.

1. What are the colors of our flag?
2. How many stars are there in our flag?
3. What color are the stars on our flag?
4. What do the stars on the flag mean?
5. How many stripes are there in the flag?
6. What color are the stripes?
7. What do the stripes on the flag mean?
8. How many states are there in the Union?
9. What is the date of Independence Day?
10. Independence from whom?
11. Who was the first President of the United States?
12. Who is the President of the United States today?
13. Who is the vice-president of the United States today?
14. Who becomes President of the United States if the President should die?
15. How many branches are there in our government?
16. What are the three branches of our government?
17. What are the 49th and 50th states of the Union?
18. What is the America's national pastime?

What does the political cartoon say about immigration in the U.S.? Can the same be said about Poland?

