Who will replace the EU immigrant workers after Britain leaves the EU?

Who will replace the EU immigrant workers after Britain leaves the EU? It’s an interesting question that many in the UK and Europe are now asking themselves. Who will work on the farms, factories, or hospitals, or even, in the pubs, restaurants and cafes, after Britain leaves the EU? Before you answer that, ask yourselves, who did it before the 1st June 2004? One answer is, many young people from the top five commonwealth countries did some of these jobs. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the UK, up till 2008, had a reciprocal agreement, whereby, they could live and work in each other’s countries, for up to two years.

Along came the ten Eastern EU countries, and wham, the socialist government (The Labour Party) changed the rules, in an attempt to, ironically, reduce non-EU immigration. The socialists, however, welcomed EU countries, under EU freedom of movement. The previous system had worked well for decades in the UK. Now the cry is: we need the Spanish and Portuguese nurses and Eastern European workers. Do we? Well, yes we do, and, no we don’t.

At the moment, if there are two jobs advertised in the UK, the British person and the EU candidate each get the chance of getting the job. This discriminates against the non-EU countries. In the future, once Britain has left the EU, the two jobs that are advertised, on the internet, will mean, if six people apply from Asia, Africa, South America, Europe, Australia and the UK, the best two people for the job get the jobs. This is theoretical, but fair. There is no discrimination of which country you might come, and, once the necessary visas have been issued, people will be able to work in the UK. Thus, for example, nurses from the Philippines, doctors from India, and Australian students (all speak English) can re-enter the UK jobs market. Commonwealth countries might also benefit.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three jobs EU immigrants do in the UK. Why? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING – DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING – UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article – Students should look through the article with the teacher.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

1) What does ‘immigrant’ mean?
2) Name three non-EU countries.
3) What is the Commonwealth?
4) What is discrimination?
5) Who is discriminated now?

Student B questions

1) What is the ‘freedom of movement’?
2) Name the professions.
3) What does ‘theoretical’ and ‘ironically’ and ‘necessary’ mean?
4) Name the top five commonwealth countries.
5) What had worked well for decades?

Category: Immigration / Jobs / BREXIT

Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate
Who will replace the EU immigrant workers after... – 25th February 2017

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words about ‘Immigration’. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs* – think of three advantages of immigrant workers from EU countries working in the UK. Write them below. Discuss!

1) ________________________
2) ________________________
3) ________________________

Add three disadvantages of immigrant workers from the EU countries working in the UK. Talk about them!

1) ________________________
2) ________________________
3) ________________________

**SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 4**

*In pairs* - *Student A* is student from the UK who is BREXITER. *Student B* is a student from the UK who is REMAINER. The topic is immigrant workers from EU countries in the UK. *3 mins.*

**DISCUSSION**

**Student A questions**

1) What do you think about what you’ve read?
2) Who will replace the EU immigrant workers after Britain leaves the UK?
3) Will Britain actually leave the EU?
4) Will robots replace EU workers on farms and in factories?
5) Will we see more people from commonwealth countries being allowed to work in the UK?
6) Will net immigration realistically fall to below 100,000 a year in the UK?
7) Why did the socialists (The Labour Party) let in so many immigrants to the UK when they were in power?
8) In the future, what will happen to immigration in the UK?
9) If a trade deal is done with Australia will Australian students start returning en mass to the UK?
10) Have you learnt anything today?

**Student B questions**

1) Will EU students stop studying at universities in the UK after BREXIT?
2) Will the UK see a net reduction after BREXIT of EU citizens working in the UK?
3) Will the Commonwealth emerge as the winner from Britain leaving the EU?
4) Will future immigrant workers to the UK come from emerging markets like China, Brazil and Russia?
5) What about the British workers? Where do they fit into this discussion?
6) Who will do the UK’s dirty jobs after it leaves the EU?
7) Will the UK see an increase in doctors from India and nurses from the Philippines after BREXIT?
8) How will EU citizens feel about restrictions to work in the UK?
9) Did you like this discussion?

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