English: 2Bac (All Streams)

Unit 10 (Brain Drain)
Comprehension : Africa immigration

Professeur : Mme ZAARA Asmae

Summary

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I- Text

(1) The economic commission for Africa estimates that between 1960 and 1989, some 127 000 highly qualified African professionals left Africa. According to the International Organisation for Migration, Africa has been losing 20,000 professionals each year since 1990. This has raised claims that the continent is dying a slow death from brain drain, which has financial, institutional, and societal costs. African countries get little return from their investment in higher education, since too many graduates leave or fail to return home after the end of their studies. The United Nations has finally admitted that emigration of African professionals to the West is one of the greatest obstacles to Africa's development.

(2) Kofi Apraku, an African living in the US, is eager to go back home. Nearly twenty years ago, he came to America as an exchange student to finish high school. Kofi ended up staying there to get his doctorate. He achieved distinction not only in his professional career, but also in his social and personal life. Now a professor of economics at the University of North Carolina at Ashville. Kofi is preparing to go back to Ghana to work in the ministry of agriculture as director and policy counselor. "The missing link for Africa's social and economic development", he says, "is the African immigrant who has become educated and experienced abroad, but who has not been able to go back home.

(3) A number of factors have kept expatriates, such as Apraku, from getting back to their homeland. Somewhat like African refugees, African immigrants are victims of brutal governments, poverty, civil wars, poor economies, etc. According to a United Nations estimate, 100,000 trained professionals like Apraku are working in the West. Most of them can't - or won't - return. The result: a devastating brain drain that has deprived the African continent of much of its top talents.

(4) Surprisingly, some Africans are willing to return to where they belong. Despite the very low salaries, poor professional facilities and limited opportunities, they decided to make it back home. "Africa's development remains an African responsibility," says Apraku. "Some of have been lucky to get enough experience to share such a responsibility", he continues.

(5) Certainly, the trip back home can be hard. For instance, the average salary in African universities does not exceed 500 dollars a month. Many of the best-paid jobs in Africa still go to foreigners. Thousands of foreign advisors in the public sector in Sub-Saharan Africa are paid up to 4,000 dollars a month. It is true that these have expertise unfound in Africa, but this situation can be changed, if, and only if, educated Africans are willing to sacrifice and work together for a brighter tomorrow in Africa.

II- Questions

2-1/ Question 1

Answer these questions in your words.

1. Was Apraku a successful student ? Explain.

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2. In what way are African refugees and African immigrants similar ?

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3. Who is responsible for the development of Africa according to Kofi Apraku ?

II- Questions

2-2 Question 2

Are these statements true or false ? Justify.

1. Kofihas been offered a job with the ministry of Agriculture in Ghana.

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2. All African immigrants prefer to stay in their host countries.

II- Questions

2-3 Question 3

Pick out from the text expressions which show that :

1. African countries don't benefit much from the money they invest in university studies. (Paragraph 1)

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2. The return of African immigrants wouldn't be easy. (Paragraph 5)

II- Questions

2-4 Question 4

Complete the following sentences :

1. Foreign advisors are well paid in Africa because _____

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2. Africans can contribute to the development of Africa if they _____

II- Questions

2-5/ Question 5

Choose the right answer from the list given :

A- The best title for the passage is :

1. opportunities and constraints for going back home.
2. life conditions of African immigrants in the West.
3. work conditions and salaries in African universities.

B- After reading the text you can conclude that Kofi Apraku is :

1. indifferent to going back to his country.
2. hopeless about going back to his country.
3. optimistic about going back to his country.

II- Questions

2-6/ Question 6

What do the underlined words in the text refer to ?

1. continent : _____
2. them : _____
3. they : _____
4. these : _____

II- Questions

2-7/ Question 7

Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as :

1. human capital flight (paragraph 1) : _____
2. the country where a person is born (paragraph 3) : _____