

Reading comprehension : Brain-Drain

Text :

Because they are offered well-paid jobs after they graduate, a great number of African students who go to American universities do not return to their native country. However, a few of them do not stay abroad more than a few years and one day, they decide to go back home for good.

One of them, Kofi Apaku from Ghana, came to America twenty years ago as an exchange student to finish high school. After he got his school diploma, he decided to join university for a doctorate in Economics. Now, he is a well-known professor at the University of North Carolina at Ashville.

Although he is successful, Apaku feels his place is in his country. He is now preparing to leave for Ghana to work in the ministry of agriculture. "It's there where I can be more useful", he says. "My country needs my experience much more than the USA does".

Not all African students have the same view. Unlike Apaku, they are not ready to return to their country of origin. They argue that going back home would mean putting an end to a successful and comfortable career. As Mamadu Ndaw, a computer engineer from Mali explains: "I'm not ready to give up a bright future for a handful of dollar; in many African countries, university professors get as much as 50 dollars a month!"

Indeed, returning home might be disappointing for many professionals: job opportunities are rare; salaries are very low and adequate working facilities are not always available. Moreover, in many African countries there are civil wars and social conflicts.

Despite that, a few African young people who graduated from the USA strongly believe that it's their duty to contribute to their country's progress. As Kofi Apaku: "African development is the Africans' responsibility after all, but the authorities in Africa ought to encourage these brains to return by making sure that they are offered position in accordance with their qualifications.

I- Comprehension :

A) Are the following statements true or false? Justify:

1) Kofi Apaku went to America to study at university.

Answer:

2) Mamadu Ndaw would like to go back to Mali.

Answer:

3) Working conditions are terrible in many African countries.

Answer:

B) Answer the following questions:

1) Why do many African students stay in the USA after they finish their studies?

Answer:

2) Why does Kofi Apaku want to return to his native country now?

Answer:

3) Do all the African students think like Kofi Apaky? Explain

Answer:

4) What does the written mean by “brains” (last paragraph)?

Answer:

5) What does “there” in paragraph 3 refer to?

Answer:

C) Find in the text words meaning the same as:

- 1) Famous:
- 2) Very little money:
- 3) Differently from:
- 4) Appropriate:

II- Vocabulary:

A) Match the words with their synonyms or definitions:

Words Definitions Answers

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1) Brain-drain | a) Revenue |
| 2) Remittances | b) Escape |
| 3) Skilled | c) Money sent by immigrants to their families in their homeland. |
| 4) Income | d) Put back to the way before – change the opposite direction |
| 5) Flee | e) Large-scale emigration by qualified and talented people to their countries. |
| 6) Reverse | f) Having special skill and ability or training. |
| 7) Loan | g) System of money used by a country. |
| 8) Investment | h) Native language |
| 9) Currency | i) Putting money into a project to make profit. |
| 10) Mother tongue | j) Money which is lent. |

B) Match the words in column A with those in column B to form collocations:

A	B	Answers
1) Racial	a) gain	
2) Brain	b) instability	
3) Political	c) rate	
4) Money	d) opportunities	
5) Rapid	e) education	
6) Job	f) resources	
7) Host	g) discrimination	
8) Higher	h) country	
9) Human	i) transfers	

C) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate collocations you have made above:

1) (.....) of the Moroccan community living abroad are the country's major sources of currency after tourism.

2) Brain-drain empties developing countries of their (.....).

3) (.....) are rare these days. My brother has been looking for a job for 6 months now but he hasn't found one so far.

4) Africa has been losing its highly-skilled professionals at a very (.....). Every year, thousands of these people leave their countries to other horizons. This outflow is mainly due to (.....) such as armed conflicts, civil wars, and social unrest.

5) Most of the Africans living and working in Europe suffer from (.....). They are not treated in the same way as European citizens.

6) Reversing brain-drain and turning it into (.....) could be one solution to this issue.

7) Most of the Moroccan students who go abroad to continue their (.....) do not return to their home country. They prefer to stay in the (.....) for good.

D) Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the list below:

Investment- turmoil- intellectual- better-paying - talent- debate

1- He has been worked in the private sector for six years, but his unfriendly relationship made him go and search for a (.....) career.

2- The results of the elections created a political (.....) in the country.

3- The competition between the two candidates for the presidency has been the (.....) of many TV shows.

4- Morocco's glamorous tourist sites can be a subject for a successful economic (.....)

5- The candidate is endowed with significant skill and (.....) that may enable him win the quiz.

6- Edward Said was a prominent (.....) whose masterpieces gave the birth to post-colonial literature.