

# Migration – the salvation of the nation?

One effect of the ageing population in the UK is that there are fewer younger people to join the workforce. Britain badly needs the new input of younger skilled workers. If job vacancies cannot be filled by young Britons entering the job market, then bringing in skilled people from abroad may be the answer. The addition of qualified workers from abroad means that although the UK birth rate is falling, the total population has risen to around 60 million.



**A** The health service depends upon the expertise of many immigrants and descendants of immigrants

### Selected shortage occupations

- Teachers
- GPs and consultants
- Nurses and midwives
- Software engineers
- Railway, road and bridge engineers
- Veterinary surgeons
- Accountants

**B** Migrant occupations welcomed by the UK government



**D** Without immigration we would lose...



**Navpreet Singh** – Not speaking the language was very hard at first and the weather was much colder and wetter than in Uganda. In 1973 our children were young but just of school age. I had to work in the clothing factory to make ends meet.

**Diljeet Singh** – I used to help my mum out with the phone calls and shopping until she got a bit more up to speed! In 1985 I went to university to study medicine. I began work as a GP in 1991. One of my children started playing for the Warwickshire County Cricket Youth team in 2002. The other wants to be a vet.



**C** The Singh family – starting again

**Parminder Singh** – I found school difficult to get used to and was really pleased to get a chance in my uncle's business in 1983. It was a real eye-opener in terms of hard work. I realised that working in the shop wasn't what I wanted, so I went to evening classes in accounting from 1988 onwards. It took me ages to get all my qualifications part-time, but I finally became a chartered accountant in 1997. I moved to London in 2003 to work in a major firm. There is a chance of working in the USA – I hope!

**Sharanpal Singh** – We arrived in England in 1971 after being forced to leave Uganda, like many East African Asians. I was a successful businessman in Kampala but got a job here in Coventry cleaning in the local car factory. It was nine years before I moved onto the production line.

OVER TO YOU

- 1** a Choose two of the photos in **A** and **D**, which show some of the contributions made to life in the UK by immigrant families in the UK.  
b Explain why each might be important to you.
- 2** The UK government welcomes immigration from some groups of skilled workers. Figure **B** lists some examples.  
a Select two of the occupations shown in figure **B**.  
b How might your life be different if there were not enough migrants to do these jobs?
- 3** a Draw a large timeline like figure **E**.
- 4** a Read the story in figure **C** again and identify how the Singh family have helped the community in Coventry and the UK.  
b Mark each benefit to the community alongside the correct date **above** the line and shade it green.
- 5** Choose three pieces of evidence from your timeline to help you complete each of the following:  
a 'Immigrants to a new country can find life difficult because ...'  
b 'They often start to contribute quite quickly to the local economy as ...'  
c 'In time, immigrant families become more integrated into society because ...'
- 6** 'What happens next?' Annotate the right-hand side of your timeline **E** to indicate what might happen to any member of the Singh family in the future.