

Brain Drain**Get involved****Exercises :****1- study the table and answer these questions**

- a. which country holds the highest population of doctors?
- b. Which country holds the highest number of immigrants?
- c. Compare the percentage of immigrants from lower-income countries and those from developed ones.
- Which countries are more affected by brain drain?
- d. What can you infer from the table?

Country	No.of doctors per 100 000 population	Total No. of immigrants	% of Immigrants in Workforce	% of Immigrants from lower- Income Countries	% of Immigrants from Developed Countries
United Kingdom	231	39,266	28,3	75	2,5
United States	293	208,733	25	60,2	6,5
Canada	220	15,71	23,1	43,4	22,3
Australia	271	14,346	26,5	4	33,5

Read and discover**2- skim the text and find the countries which receive intellectual graduates**

Perhaps the oldest question. In economics is why some countries are rich while others are poor. Economic theory has emphasised that differences in the educational levels of the population are an important part of the answer. Also, improved schooling opportunities should raise incomes in developing countries.

Yet, while there is little doubt that highly educated workers in many developing countries are rare, it is also true that many scientists, engineers, physicians, and other professionals from developing countries work in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. This phenomenon, often referred to as “brain drain”, was noticed as early as the 1960s and has been a controversial issue in the North-South debate ever since. One important implication of brain drain is that investment in education in a developing country may not lead to faster economic growth if a large number of its highly educated people leave the country.

If measures are not taken to motivate highly educated people to stay in their countries, efforts to improve educational opportunities may be largely fruitless.

Brain drain increases the scarcity of highly needed skilled labour in developing countries and consequently reduces long-run economic growth and income. In addition, if highly educated workers continue to emigrate to richer countries, public funds spent on higher education may be, to a large extent, inefficiently applied.

In order to devise policies that create motivation for the highly skilled workers to stay, a clear picture of their reason for leaving has to be developed first. Part of the explanation may be tempting salaries, improving the quality of life, educational opportunities for children and job security. Implementing the right policies to counter brain drain will be of crucial importance for the economic future of the affected countries, and one of their biggest challenges.

But how widespread is brain drain? Which countries and regions are especially affected?

Which professionals are more affected (engineers, physicians, physicists...)? Unfortunately, attempts to answer these important questions quickly come up against a big barrier; there is no uniform system of statistics on the number and characteristics of international migrants.

Also, source countries typically do not keep track of emigrants' characteristics although some receiving countries, like the United States, Canada, Australia and, Western Europe, do so, their definitions of immigration differ. Thus, it is difficult to measure precisely the flow and scope of brain drain..

3- Answer these questions from the text

- Why are some countries richer than others?
- Is brain drain a new phenomenon?
- How can we motivate highly skilled workers to stay in their countries?
- Why is it difficult to measure the scope of brain drain?

4- rearrange these ideas in the order in which they appear in the text.

Idea	Order
a. Brain drain decreases economic development	
b. Countries of origin do not keep records of highly educated professionals who emigrate to developed countries	
c. Once educated people are motivated, educational opportunities will become fruitful	

5- Fill in the chart with ideas that express cause or effect.

Cause	Effect
<i>Highly educated people leave the country</i>	
.....	<i>Income in developing countries will rise</i>
.....	<i>Highly skilled workers prefer to emigrate to richer countries</i>
<i>The definition of international immigrants differs from one country to another</i>	

6- Which of the following are opinions, facts or examples? Tick the correct option

Statements	Opinion	Fact	Example
a. Some countries are poor while others are rich			
b. Perhaps the oldest question in economics is why some countries are rich while others are poor			
c. Canada is one of the countries that receive great numbers of intellectuals from countries undergoing development			
d. Brain drain negatively affects the economic growth of the country of origin			
e. Reducing wage differential may decrease the flow of brain drain.			
f. Some receiving countries, like the United States, have their own definitions of immigration			

Have your say

7. According to you, what are the causes behind brain drain ?

How do you think we can turn brain drain into brain gain ?

8. What can you infer from this picture ?