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TEXT

EMIGRATION

When the British discuss migration, they usually mean foreigners coming to take their jobs and council flats. Much less notice is taken of the increasing stream of people heading the other way. That is partly because no one really knows how many Britons live abroad. Last December the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) published a report that tried to fill the statistical hole. Almost 200,000 Britons left the country last year with no plans to return, and 5.5m now make their home abroad, it said.

Most of the escapees are not sunseeking tourists; two-thirds of those that go are workers. Six of the top ten destinations are English-speaking and the rest are all in Europe. Australia, Spain and America have attracted the most. Why do people leave? Better jobs and a better life, say most of those who have already gone, and a quarter of those are still flirting with the high cost of living in Britain. Expensive housing is another reason: it enables home owners to sell up and buy a bigger place abroad, and push the young and houseless to consider a move.

Although emigration may be getting more popular, it is also becoming harder. "The technical requirements for getting into many countries are getting tougher," says Richard Gregan, boss of Overseas Emigration, a firm that helps British folk move overseas.

QUESTIONS

1. Read the text and, according to it, answer the questions. Use your own words. Your answers will be assessed from 0 to 1 each (3 as a whole).

- a) What do the British mean by "migration"?
- b) What "statistical hole" is the text referring to?
- c) Why is housing one of the main reasons for moving abroad?

2. Transform the following sentences according to the instructions. Answers will be assessed from 0 to 0.5 each (2 as a whole).

- a) Rewrite these sentences inserting the appropriate form of the verbs in brackets:
In recent years there (be) an increasing number of British tourists (look for) better weather conditions.
- b) Make these sentences into one: *Exchange programmes are encouraged by Universities. Students have the opportunity to study abroad with exchange programmes.*
- c) Complete: *If people were offered cheaper houses...*
- d) Put into the passive: *Overseas Emigration helps British folk move overseas.*

3. Find one synonym in the text for each of the words below. 0 to 0.25 each answer (1 as a whole).

- a) flow b) proprietor c) stricter d) company

4. Write about one of the following topics, between 70-100 (0-4 marks).

- a) Spain: a new multicultural society.
- b) Living abroad as a way to enlarge your experience.