

Model behaviour

Migrants must earn the right to UK citizenship under the new proposal to attract the 'brightest and best'. But are the plans fair?

Tony Breslin
Chief executive, Citizenship Foundation

- A** We need to build the skills, knowledge and values for effective citizenship across our society, not just among newcomers. The idea that we should encourage newcomers to become proficient in the English language and to engage in community activities is inherently reasonable, as is the call for migrants to make their proper economic contribution. However, by focusing on newcomers, we are in danger of forgetting that a lack of knowledge about how our society works, a lack of engagement in community life, and low levels of participation in formal politics are issues that do not solely pertain to those who have just arrived.

Nazek Ramadan
Migrant and refugee empowerment worker, Migrants Resource Centre

- B** We are really concerned about the words used to discuss citizenship because it has a real impact on migrants. Words such as "burden" do nothing to promote integration and cohesion. The idea that migrants have to "earn" citizenship implies that they are somehow

inferior, that they have to try harder than "normal" citizens. But migrants are often forced to try harder in all aspects of their lives. There is little mention in this debate about the contribution – economic and otherwise – that migrants make to this country. The majority we deal with want to integrate into British society, but many face discrimination. Is the government going to try to force the British public not to discriminate against them?



Donna Covey
Chief executive, Refugee Council

- C** For refugees, citizenship can mean the final step on their journey to safety and security, and if the prime minister was to come to the Refugee Council, he would meet people eager to integrate and contribute from the moment they arrive in the UK. Unfortunately, the government puts barriers in place to make that more difficult. Even so, they don't

give up – asylum seekers and refugees make up 40% of our volunteers, for instance. They are, it could be said, model citizens. Now, these new rules will mean that refugees, along with other migrants, are denied full membership of this country until they have passed a number of unnecessary tests, met standards not applied to others, and waited for many years – including time on “probation”, an inappropriate term usually applied to law breakers. We don’t see how integration and community cohesion are advanced by making it harder for people to become citizens and feel they belong.

Sir Simon Milton
Chairman, Local Government Association

D Migration is an asset for the country. The evidence shows that industries such as residential care would risk collapse without migrant labour. But the money generated isn’t necessarily finding its way back down to the local level. Official statistics on how many migrants are coming and where they are going are inadequate. A proportion of the

additional revenue the exchequer gains from migrants could be put towards a contingency fund set at £250m a year for councils that are coming under particular pressure. Allowing councils to raise more money, and a more accurate way of counting local populations, would help to ensure the right money gets to the right places.

Jill Rutter
Senior research fellow,
migration, Institute for Public Policy Research

E Gordon Brown’s call for a renewal of British citizenship based not on “blood, race and territory” but on values such as a commitment to tolerance, democracy and social justice is a welcome one. In attempts to define what it means to be a new citizen we have to be careful not to set the bar too high. Requiring people to learn English is vital, but must be accompanied by the resources to help them do so.

Interviews: Mark Gould,
Alexandra Topping

The Guardian, 2008

Tekst 3 Model behaviour

Hieronder staan negen uitspraken. Bij elk van de commentaren uit de tekst "Model Behaviour" hoort één uitspraak.

Kies voor het beantwoorden van vraag 3 tot en met 7 steeds één van de onderstaande uitspraken. Let op: een uitspraak mag maar één keer gebruikt worden.

- 1 All successful migrants should make it their duty to help other migrants who are eager to integrate.
- 2 Becoming a valuable citizen is a process in which every migrant should be engaged.
- 3 Migrants who work in hospitals or residential care should be rewarded for their contribution with full citizenship.
- 4 The proposal with regard to citizenship adds to the difficulties faced by migrants who are willing to integrate.
- 5 The economic benefits of migration should be used to help solve problems that migration may cause.
- 6 The full cost of immigration will become clear when racial discrimination leads to social disintegration.
- 7 The proposal with regard to citizenship appears to be based on a view of migrants as second-rate citizens.
- 8 The state should provide for sufficient facilities for migrants to learn English.
- 9 The vitality of a society should be measured by the number of integrated migrants.

- 1p 3 Welke van de voorafgaande uitspraken is in overeenstemming met de inhoud van tekst A?
Noteer het cijfer van de juiste uitspraak.
- 1p 4 Welke van de voorafgaande uitspraken is in overeenstemming met de inhoud van tekst B?
Noteer het cijfer van de juiste uitspraak.
- 1p 5 Welke van de voorafgaande uitspraken is in overeenstemming met de inhoud van tekst C?
Noteer het cijfer van de juiste uitspraak.
- 1p 6 Welke van de voorafgaande uitspraken is in overeenstemming met de inhoud van tekst D?
Noteer het cijfer van de juiste uitspraak.
- 1p 7 Welke van de voorafgaande uitspraken is in overeenstemming met de inhoud van tekst E?
Noteer het cijfer van de juiste uitspraak.

Bronvermelding

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