MIGRATION

Discussion Review & Useful Vocabulary

How to use this guide: Review the questions and sample answers, then practise expressing the same ideas in your own words. The answers are examples—not the only correct opinions.

1. Understanding Push and Pull Factors

1. What is the difference between push factors and pull factors?

Push factors are negative conditions that make people want or need to leave a place. Pull factors are positive features that attract people to a new place. For example, unemployment can push someone away, while better job opportunities can attract them somewhere else.

2. What are some common push factors?

Common push factors include unemployment, poverty, poor economic conditions, war, political oppression, discrimination, lack of safety, and limited opportunities.

3. What are the four main categories of pull factors?

The four main categories are economic, political, cultural, and environmental factors.

4. How can natural resources attract people?

Natural resources such as oil, minerals, forests, or fertile land can create jobs and business opportunities. Workers and companies may move to an area to use these resources.

5. How can political conditions attract people?

People may move to places with a stable government, greater safety, lower crime rates, protection of human rights, and supportive public services.

6. Why do people have different preferences when choosing where to live?

People have different needs and lifestyles. Some prefer big cities because they offer more jobs and activities. Others prefer suburbs or rural areas because they may be quieter, less crowded, or have a stronger sense of community.

7. What can make migration difficult?

Mountains and other geographical barriers, strict immigration laws and policies, financial costs, and restrictions imposed by governments can make migration difficult.

8. How have communication and transportation changed migration?

Modern communication makes it easier to learn about other places and stay in touch with family. Improved transportation can make travelling longer distances faster and more accessible.

2. Critical-Thinking Discussion

1. Is money the most important reason people migrate?

It is an important reason, but not always the most important one. Some people move for safety, education, family, freedom, or a better environment. The most important factor depends on each person’s situation.

2. Does a higher salary always mean a better quality of life?

No. A higher salary may come with a higher cost of living, longer working hours, stress, or less time with family. Quality of life also includes safety, health, relationships, and personal happiness.

3. Can a place have both push and pull factors at the same time?

Yes. A city may offer good jobs and universities, which attract people, but it may also have high rents, traffic, and pollution, which push some residents away.

4. Is moving to a big city always a good choice for young people?

Not necessarily. Big cities may offer education, jobs, and cultural activities, but they can also be expensive, crowded, and stressful. It depends on someone’s goals and preferences.

5. Should governments restrict immigration?

Governments may set rules to manage immigration, but policies should also respect human rights and consider people who need safety or protection. Fair and clear policies are important.

6. Can migration create problems for the destination community?

It can create pressure on housing, transport, schools, or healthcare if services do not grow with the population. However, migration can also bring workers, skills, businesses, cultural diversity, and new ideas.

7. How much does culture influence people's decisions to migrate?

Culture can have a strong influence. People may move to be closer to family, find a community that shares their language or traditions, or experience a different lifestyle.

8. Is the environment more important than people think?

For many people, yes. Climate, air quality, access to nature, and natural disasters can affect health and everyday life. Environmental conditions may become especially important when they make an area difficult to live in.

9. Is migration always a personal choice?

No. Some people choose to move for work or education, while others are forced to leave because of war, persecution, or dangerous living conditions.

10. Can people improve their lives without migrating?

Yes. People may find opportunities through education, training, starting a business, or improving their local community. However, these options are not equally available to everyone.

11. Can migration benefit the place people leave?

Yes. People who move may send money to relatives, share new skills, invest in their hometowns, or return with experience. However, the departure of skilled workers can also create challenges.

12. What makes a place worth staying in?

A place may be worth staying in when people feel safe, have access to jobs and services, enjoy a good quality of life, and feel connected to their family and community.

3. Useful Vocabulary

A. Migration and movement

Word / Phrase	Simple meaning	Example
migration (n.)	the movement of people from one place to another to live there	Migration can happen within a country or between countries.
migrate (v.)	to move to another place or country to live	Some families migrate in search of better opportunities.
immigrant (n.)	a person who comes to live in a new country	The city has a large immigrant population.
emigrant (n.)	a person who leaves their own country to live elsewhere	The number of emigrants increased that year.
refugee (n.)	a person who has been forced to leave their country to escape danger or persecution	The country provided support for refugees.
internally displaced person (n.)	a person forced to leave home but who remains within their own country	Many internally displaced people need temporary housing.
asylum seeker (n.)	a person who has asked another country for protection and is waiting for a decision	The asylum seeker is waiting for an official decision.
immigration (n.)	the process of coming to live in a country	Immigration has changed the population of the city.

Word / Phrase	Simple meaning	Example
strict immigration laws and policies	rules that place strong limits or requirements on entering or staying in a country	Strict immigration laws and policies can make moving to a country more difficult.
barrier (n.)	something that makes it difficult to do or achieve something	The cost of moving can be a major barrier.

B. Economic factors

Word / Phrase	Simple meaning	Example
economic factor	something related to jobs, income, business, or the economy	Economic factors often influence migration.
economic opportunity	a chance to earn money, find work, or develop a career	People may move to a city for better economic opportunities.
job opportunity	a chance to get a job	The capital offers more job opportunities.
unemployment (n.)	the situation of not having a job	High unemployment can push people to leave.
salary (n.)	money a person receives regularly for their work	Some people move to earn a higher salary.
cost of living	the amount of money needed for everyday expenses	The cost of living is higher in large cities.
inflation (n.)	a general rise in prices, which reduces the buying power of money	High economic inflation makes everyday goods more expensive.
economic inflation	inflation affecting the economy; more naturally, simply say “inflation” or “high inflation”	High inflation can make it harder for families to afford basic needs.
economic sanctions	official restrictions on trade or financial activity used by one country or group of countries against another	Economic sanctions can affect businesses, jobs, and the wider economy.
natural resources	useful materials found in nature, such as oil, minerals, and forests	Natural resources can attract workers and investment.
investment (n.)	money put into a business or project to help it grow	New investment can create jobs.

C. Political, social, and cultural factors

Word / Phrase	Simple meaning	Example
political stability	a situation in which a country has a steady government and little political unrest	Political stability can make a country attractive to newcomers.
political oppression	unfair or cruel treatment by a government that limits people’s freedom	Political oppression may force people to leave their country.
human rights	basic rights and freedoms that every person should have	People may move to places where their human rights are protected.
safety / security	being protected from danger, crime, or harm	Safety is a major concern for many families.
crime rate	the number of crimes in a particular area over a period of time	Some people move to areas with a lower crime rate.
discrimination	unfair treatment of a person or group because of who they are	Discrimination can make people feel unwelcome.

Word / Phrase	Simple meaning	Example
cultural diversity	the presence of people from different cultural backgrounds	Cultural diversity can make a city more interesting.
multiculturalism	the presence and acceptance of different cultures in one society	Multiculturalism is part of life in many large cities.
community	people who live in the same area or share something in common	A welcoming community can help newcomers feel at home.
social network	the people someone knows and can get support from, such as family and friends	Family and social networks can influence where people move.
quality of life	how good or comfortable a person's life is	Safety, health, income, and free time all affect quality of life.

D. Environmental and geographical factors

Word / Phrase	Simple meaning	Example
environmental factor	something related to climate, nature, or living conditions	Environmental factors can influence where people choose to live.
climate (n.)	the usual weather conditions of a place over a long period	Some people prefer a warm, dry climate.
pollution (n.)	harmful substances in the air, water, or land	Air pollution can reduce quality of life.
natural disaster	a serious event caused by nature, such as a flood or earthquake	Natural disasters can force people to move.
rural area	an area in the countryside, away from large towns and cities	Some people prefer the quiet of a rural area.
suburb (n.)	a residential area outside the centre of a city	Families may move to the suburbs for more space.
urban area	a town or city area with many people and buildings	Urban areas often offer more job opportunities.
overcrowded (adj.)	having too many people in a space or area	Overcrowded cities may put pressure on public services.

4. Useful Phrases for Giving Opinions

Useful phrase	Example
In my opinion, ...	In my opinion, safety is the most important factor.
I believe that ...	I believe that migration can create both opportunities and challenges.
One major reason is ...	One major reason is the lack of job opportunities.
This may lead to ...	High inflation may lead to financial difficulties.
On the one hand, ... On the other hand, ...	On the one hand, cities offer more jobs. On the other hand, they can be expensive.
It depends on ...	It depends on people's needs and circumstances.
A good example of this is ...	A good example of this is a family moving for better education.
I partly agree because ...	I partly agree because money matters, but safety matters too.

Remember: Try to use the vocabulary actively. Give reasons, add examples, and respond to other people’s opinions respectfully.