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To: IELTS Prep Group
Subj: IELTS Reading lesson 6-22-2016

Section One

Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.

Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to effectively read written English in a social or business environment.

8 SIGNS YOU'RE DATING SOMEONE WHO IS MANIPULATIVE



<https://www.yahoo.com/style/8-signs-dating-someone-manipulative-220255923.html>

Passage 1

When you're with someone you genuinely love, it can be really difficult to admit it if things have gone south. It's even harder to acknowledge if your S.O. is a manipulative person who is mistreating you, especially if you've been together for a long while and everything was all puppies and rainbows at first. As difficult as it may be, [recognizing manipulation in a relationship](#) as soon as possible is crucial because, if it goes unnoticed, it often leads to abuse, whether emotional or physical.

Here's how [Psychology Today defines manipulation](#): "the exercise of undue influence through mental distortion and emotional exploitation, with the intention to seize power, control, benefits, and privileges at the victim's expense." Sounds too frightening to be true, but it happens in relationships a lot more often than you think, and in ways that are subtle and thus tough to pinpoint. [Manipulative partners manage to disguise their need to control you](#) in shades of deep love and affection. It can be very confusing, but once you take a step back and have an honest look at what's happening, it's not hard to see their true colors.

I was stuck in a toxic relationship when I was 19, with a guy who was a couple years older than me. He treated me like a queen half the time, but the other half I was no better than a speck of dirt. All the jerking around and being pulled back and forth really threw my head for a spin. It was a time in my life that I still, to this day, look back with a pain in my chest. It was terrible at the time, but I truly did learn a lot about my self-worth and how a boyfriend should treat me. And I'm here to tell you: Don't ever waste your time with a partner who tries to exert power over you and your life. No matter how much you love them.

Here are eight signs you're with someone who is manipulative.

Question

What does manipulation in a relationship lead to?

How does Psychology Today define manipulation?

How old was the author of this article when she was stuck in a toxic relationship?

Passage 2

1. They always want to know what you're doing and who you're seeing.

It may be sweet at first if your partner texts you to check in to see how you're doing or what you're doing, but that can cross the line pretty easily. The second it starts to feel like they're controlling you is when you have a problem. Each person in the relationship deserves a good deal of independence, free of their partner's watching eye hovering over them. If your S.O. is too nosy, they may be trying to control everything you do, which is a shade of trying to manipulate you. In my past relationship, when I didn't answer his incessant calls and text, he would actually come looking for me. No, no, no.

2. You find yourself apologizing a lot to them for things you didn't really think you did wrong.

Say you've done something to upset your partner, yet you didn't think it was anything harmful at all, such as forgetting to call them after you got off work before you went out to meet your friends. But they get upset and you have a fight. Things get heated, you exchange a few words, and at the end of it you realize that you're the one who has apologized and asked for forgiveness — and you have no idea how it even ended up that way. They do this because they want everything to be focused on them and their feelings. That's not okay — in a relationship, feelings on BOTH sides needs to be respected.

Question

Was is the one of the major issues cited in Paragraph 1 with an unhealthy relationship?

Is it healthy to always be apologizing in a relationship?

In a relationship, feelings are NOT important for both side. True or False

Passage 3

3. You feel like they're constantly judging you.

A manipulative individual is a champion at cutting down a person's self-esteem, in whatever way they can manage. It could be with snide comments here and there about your day-to-day habits. It could be with dirty looks when you act goofy with your friends in public. No matter what it is, if you're being judged all the time by the very person who should be encouraging you to be yourself, don't put up with it.

4. They say they forgive you but they don't ever let you forget what you've done.

Every couple fights. Everyone does things to upset their partner every now and again that warrant an apology. However, it's not a healthy thing if your partner accepts your apology and then holds the situation over your head like blackmail. Manipulative folks tend to forgive people for their wrongdoings, which paints them as this very accepting, understanding figure, only to bring up the transgression over and over again in the future as a way to have power over the other person. Not cool. If you genuinely apologize for something, your partner should take it and move on.

Questions

What is a manipulative individual a champion at?

Is it healthy if your partner holds your apology over your head like blackmail? Yes, or No

If the person that should be encouraging you to be yourself is always judging you, should you put up with it? Yes, or No

Passage 4

5. You feel like you have to change parts of your personality to fit their moods.

Ah, the mood swings of a manipulative person. I know them all too well. My ex-boyfriend was so unpredictable that it drove me mad. Every time he changed his attitude I felt like I had to adapt, and it was exhausting. Manipulative people want everything done on their time. Plus, they manage to make people close to them feel like they can't be themselves. Take it as a serious red flag if your partner is sweet and affectionate to you the next, but cold the next, leaving you feeling like you have to tone down parts of your personality when they're not in high spirits.

6. They know your weaknesses and use them against you.

This is textbook manipulative S.O. behavior. They'll get close to you and claim they want to know everything about you. But when they learn both your strengths and weaknesses, they choose to use the latter against you. My ex knew how much I hated a public scene, so when he was mad at me he would talk at me really loudly in front of friends or acquaintances, which would immediately embarrass me, and make me want to leave and go home. He would then follow me and proceed to pick a fight when we were alone. It was just a ploy to get exactly what he wanted.

Questions

What made the author so mad about her ex-boyfriend

What should be a serious red flag?

What do they use against you, your strength or your weakness?

Passage 5

7. You've given up on things in your life (things that you love) because they want you to.

You and your S.O. should be each other's biggest support system, which means they should encourage you to do whatever you want to do with your life. Passive aggressive, manipulative partners rarely nurture their significant others to flourish, though. My ex used to make me feel silly for wanting to take dance classes. He thought I didn't have the right body type for the dance I wanted to do, and I eventually stopped going to classes because he convinced me over time that I just wasn't good enough. It was just another way for him to try to control what I do with my life.

8. They say you're a "good girlfriend/boyfriend" if you do a list of certain things.

Let's get something straight. You are a "good girlfriend/boyfriend" already just being who you are. There shouldn't be any requirements for you to meet in order for your partner to love you. You'll never be perfect, so if there is something you're doing that is hurting or bothering your partner, they should talk about it with you maturely, rather than make

you feel guilty for not being a certain kind of GF/BF. In fact, if you find yourself feeling guilty more often than you think is normal, take it as a serious warning sign.

Questions

What should your boyfriend or girlfriend encourage you to do?

What did the author's ex-boyfriend convince her to stop doing? And why?

Is it normal to feel guilty in a relationship? Yes, or No

FOR NEWEST US CITIZENS, AMERICA IS ABOUT HOPE, NOT FEAR



<https://www.yahoo.com/news/newest-us-citizens-america-hope-not-fear-225736430.html?nhp=1>

Passage 6

Fariatou Abdoul, “a Muslim 100 percent, born and raised,” is beaming on a famous stage in Central Park, wearing a traditional, pink-patterned headscarf and holding a small American flag. She’s been smiling so much tonight, in fact, her cheeks hurt.

A decade ago, she fled her war-torn African homeland, Ivory Coast, finding refuge in the United States with her husband and brother before settling in the Bronx. And tonight, pregnant with her first child, she’s about to say the oath to become a US citizen.

“I’m so, so happy about that, so happy to be an American citizen,” says Ms. Abdoul, just before joining 18 other former refugees and asylees from around the world to be sworn in by US Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson. “It’s been so good for me here, and I want to do everything the right way.”

The special swearing in ceremony on Monday was part of a celebration of World Refugee Day at the Delecto Theater here in Manhattan’s landmark park, an event that included a number of dramatic readings from celebrity actors and authors on the open-air stage.

The words and emotions on display here posed a sharp contrast with views on immigration that have gained publicity over the past year – notably rising concerns in the US and Europe that Islamic immigrants are a security risk, and the slogan of the Republican Party’s presumptive presidential nominee that America needs to be made “great again.”

Question

What part of Fariatou face was hurting from smiling so much?

Who swore her in at the ceremony?

What was the celebration being commemorated on Monday?

Passage 7

The optimism voiced by these migrants-turned-citizens is something the country needs right now, says Sen. Tim Kaine (D) of Virginia, discussing the political climate engulfing the country.

“There’s also some darker emotions, there’s some negative and divisive emotions out there,” Senator Kaine told the Monitor in a May interview. “The whole ‘make America great again.’ What, you don’t think this is a great nation? Let me take you to the naturalization service, let me take you there and watch all these people trade in their passport of origin to become a citizen of the United States, and at many naturalization services, [where] they have an open mike, where people explain why.”

'A BETTER OPPORTUNITY'

Indeed, Oumar Dabo was 10 years old when his family fled Conakry, Guinea, in 1999. “America is great, and I’ve been here so long now,” he says, when asked about how he feels as he’s about to become a US citizen.

“To come to America is basically for a better opportunity,” says Mr. Dabo, who is just about to receive his associate's degree from Bronx Community College. He is also working now as a direct support professional at Richmond Community Services in New York, caring for people with developmental disabilities.

“That’s the main reason we came, after so many problems,” he continues. “Over here, you can get a better education, a better job.” And he remembers, too, the corporal punishments he received as a kid in Guinea, where a wrong answer often meant a beating, he says. He’s hoping to go on to get a bachelor’s degree in business, though he may apply for a job with the New York Fire Department or transportation authority.

Question

How old was Oumar when he family fled Guinea?

What does Oumar do now as a career?

What job does he maybe want to apply for n New York?

Passage 8

This is an evening of smiles and laughter, family hugs and head-crowding selfies.

Yes, it comes as politicians, including Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, are expressing the fear that Islamic extremists or would-be terrorists will slip in.

But the event organizers emphasize the resilience of immigrants like those swearing allegiance to the US Constitution this night, most who fled violence a decade ago and persevered through a years-long process to just make it here, let alone to become some of the few to become citizens.

ROLE OF REFUGEES

“Resettling refugees is not only the right thing to do, it’s also an American success story,” says David Miliband, president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, which co-hosted the event with The Public Theater in New

York. “Those who have known the denial of freedom have a special reason to treasure it when they are able to taste it.”

“Now, more than ever, in the midst of this presidential election campaign, it’s important to explain who refugees are, why they are here, and why America has a very special vocation to provide an example of what it means to be a shining light, a shining city upon a hill,” continues Mr. Miliband, whose humanitarian relief organization, first spearheaded by Albert Einstein in the 1940s, will help the US government resettle around 12,500 refugees this year.

Question

What is an American success story?

Who is David Miliband?

What famous immigrant helped to start the International Rescue Committee?

CHART A

Approximate spread of immigrants in past 50 years (total 191 million)

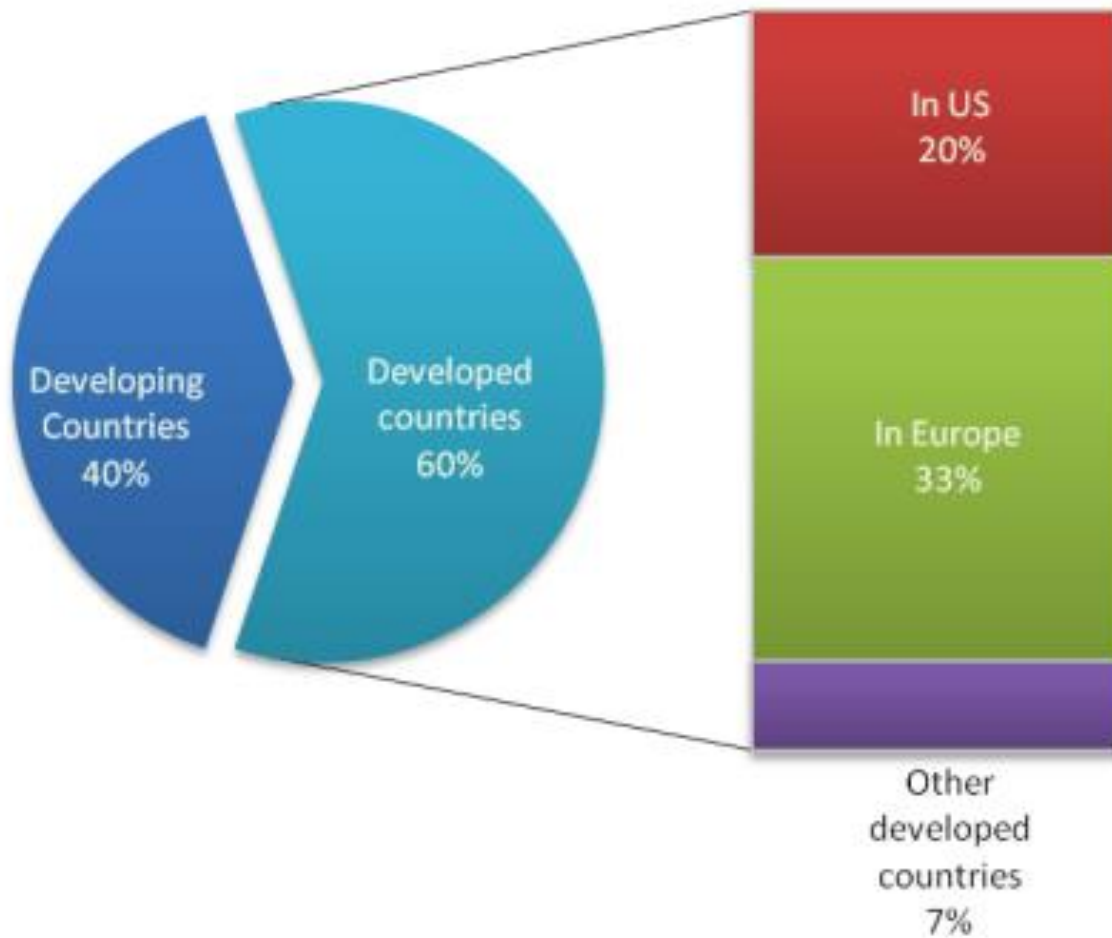
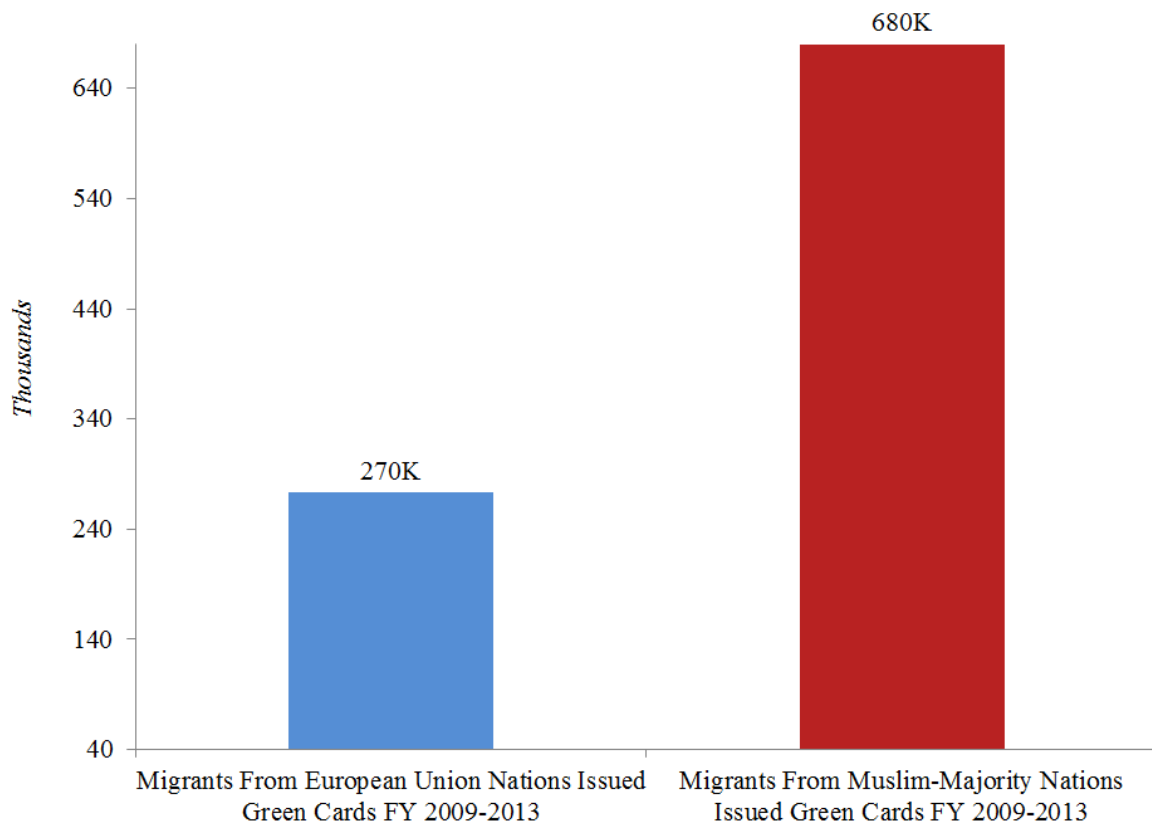


CHART B

U.S. Admits More Than Double The Number Of Immigrants From Muslim Nations Than From The European Union



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, 2013 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (Aug. 2014), Table 3. "Persons Obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident Status by Region and Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 2004 to 2013." Chart produced by the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and The National Interest, Chairman Jeff Sessions.

CHART C

Immigrants by Region During 50-Year Periods

These pie charts show, by 50-year periods, the number of legal immigrants who came to America from 1820 through 2010.

- EUROPE
- N. & S. AMERICA
- ASIA
- AFRICA
- OCEANIA
- NOT SPECIFIED

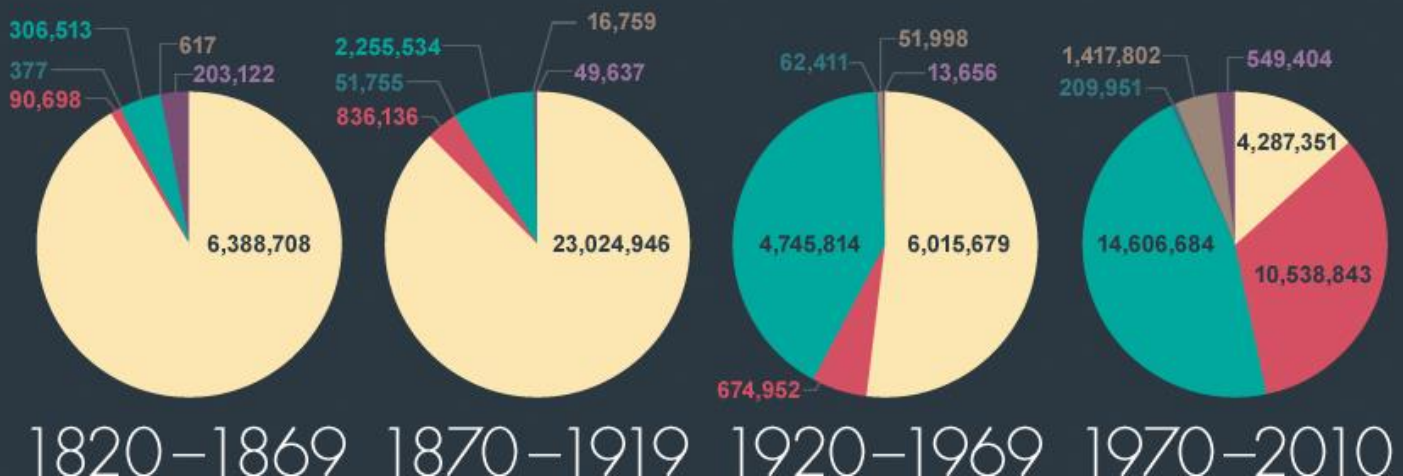
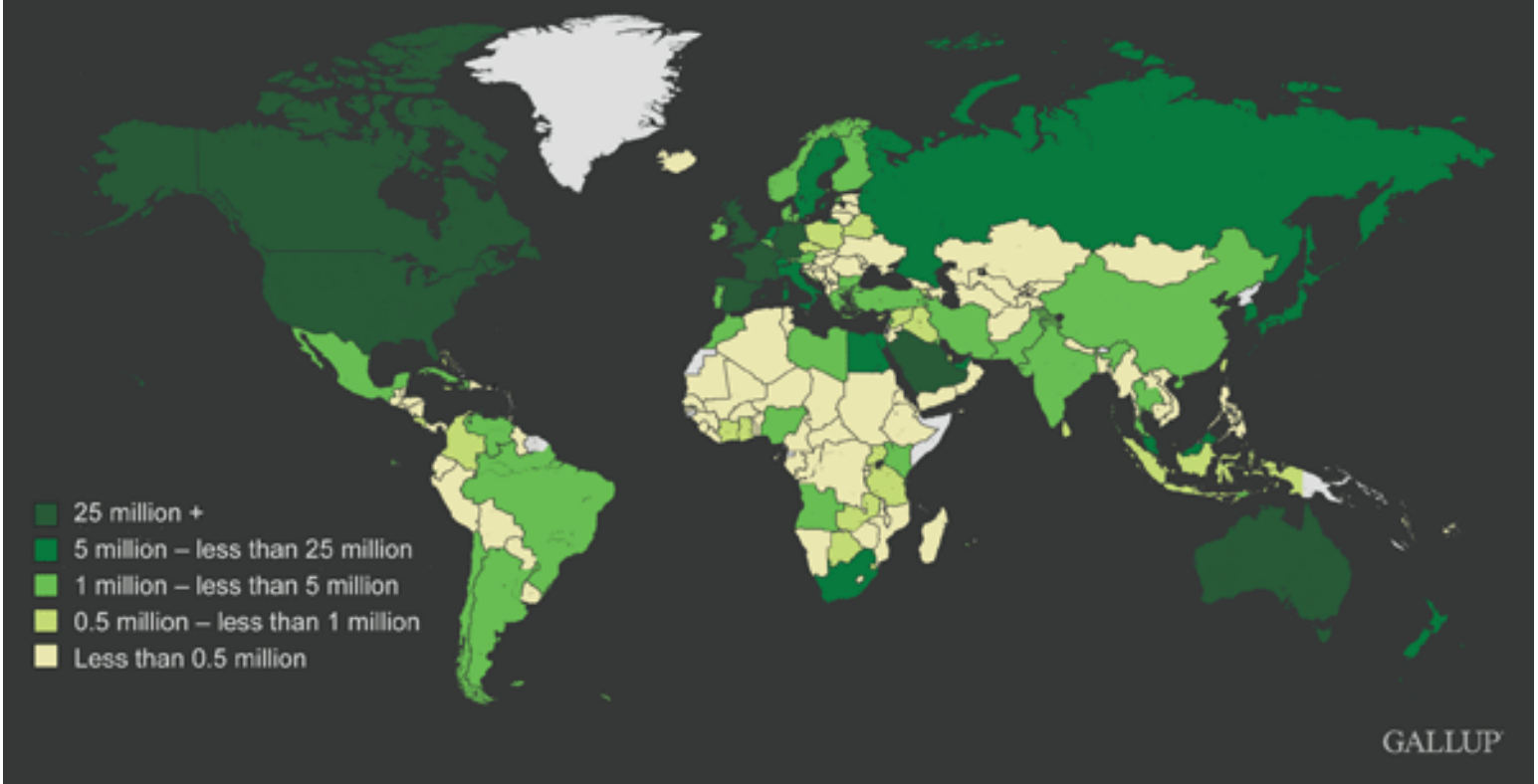


CHART D

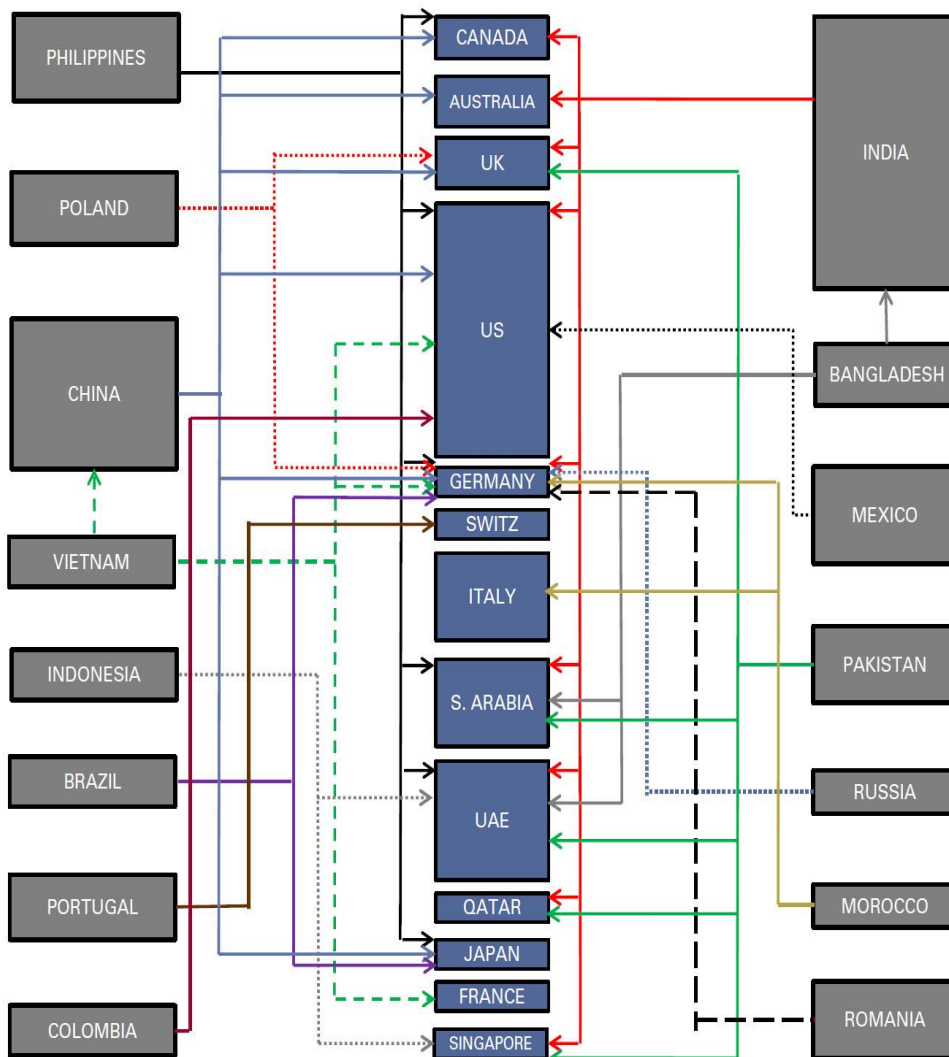
The top desired destination countries are the U.S., Canada, the U.K., France, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and Australia.

Projected numbers based on percentages expressing a desire to move to a specific country



Tracking people flows

2000-13, net people outflow and inflow countries (in grey and blue respectively)



Note: Major people flows highlighted. Size of the box depicts size of net inflows/outflows; note that line colours are only meant to make flows easier to follow.
 Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, UN.