

Edexcel Geography A-level

Migration, Identity & Sovereignty
Glossary of Key Terms









Asylum Seekers - People fleeing their country of residence for international protection by another government.

Colonialism - Gaining control of another country's politics and governance, for the benefit of the ruling state.

Diaspora – 'To scatter about' - People displaced from their homeland, voluntarily or forced.

Economic Migration - The movement of an individual to improve their financial wealth and quality of living.

Economic Theory - Governments will maximise 'economic efficiency' - a productive workforce and a developed financial market - if they allow the free movement of goods, capital and labour.

Embargoes - The limit or ban of trade between nations or participation within an IGO, often as a consequence of corruption or bad governance.

Environmental Migration - The movement of an individual or population due to natural hazards, drought, famine or sea level rise.

Failed State - A country of weak economic or political systems, leading to declining quality of life or conflict.

Forced Migration - People are forced to flee from unsafe living conditions, persecution or conflict.

Internal Migration - The movement of an individual's residence within a country, often from rural to urban.

International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD) and World Bank Group (WBG) - Both offer loans and temporary financial assistance to developing countries.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) - A fund of 189 member countries with the aim to aid each other to achieve financial stability and provide loans for development.

Nationalism - Populations have a sense of loyalty to their country of origin or residence, by identifying with national values and celebrating traditions or beliefs.

Net Migration - The difference between inward migration and outward migration for one country.

Pull Factors - Reasons and perceptions to attract migrants to live in a place.

Push Factors - Reasons or perceptions that discourage migrants to live in a place.

Refugee - The forced movement of an individual due to persecution, war or political unrest.

Sovereignty - Control over a country's own laws and regulations.









State - Territory that no other country has power or sovereignty of. As of 2016, the UN recognised 196 states.

Tax Haven - A location notorious for low taxes or profitable bank saving schemes, leading to an increase in offshore bank accounts here.

Voluntary Migration - People choose to move to improve their quality of life and seek better opportunities.