**Polish Migration to the United Kingdom**

Evaluate the positive and negative impacts of international migration using **one case study of a country within the European Union**:

-numbers migrating, their origins and destination;

-impacts on services and the economy.

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| **Background** | **Push/Full Factors** | **Social** | **Economic** |
| 2004 – A8 countries join the European Union, includes Poland.  Treaty of Rome states that EU citizens are free to travel and work within other EU nations.  The A8 nations had a standard of living which was 40% of the EU average.  To prevent mass economic migration other EU countries were able to limit migrants from these countries, but these controls must be removed by 2011.  2007 official figures showed that 431,000 Polish migrants were registered to work in the UK.  50% registered came for summer work.  63% of Polish migrants were aged 25-34, 40% had a university degree.  33% of migrants were employed in administration.  36,000 dependents also migrated. | **Push (from Poland)** | **Positive** | **Positive** |
| The average income in Poland was $12,500 a year.  Average wage a month was £150.  18.5% unemployment rate in 2005, 40% in rural areas.  Polish economy still struggling to adapt from Communist era. | Cultural exchanges- Nottingham Polish festival, Polish products within supermarkets.  Migrants pay National Insurance and Council Tax, therefore contribute to local services and the Welfare State.  Migrants contributed to the National Health Service, over 500 migrants were doctors. 10% Polish migrants were employed in the NHS.    10% of migrants settled within rural areas, supporting local services which were in decline.  Increase in Church attendance, which had been steadily declining in the UK. | Source of cheap labour with a strong work ethic.  Workers kept wage inflation down.  Young workers needed due to ageing population.  Agricultural industry benefitted from temporary workers during harvest time.  Construction industry benefited, bricklayers, plumbers in short supply.  Increased economic output- 0.5-1% of GNP in 2006.  Additional £2.8 billion a year from the A8 country migrants.  Research indicated that the migration had little impact on UK unemployment.  Additional consumers, supermarkets stocking Polish products. |
| **Pull (to UK)** | **Negative** | **Negative** |
| Average income in UK is $30,000.  Minimum wage in the UK is £6 an hour.  Pound was strong against the Zloyt, every pound could be exchanged for 7 Zloyts.  Established communities within the UK.  UK accepting of economic migrants if registered.  UK will support registered working migrants via benefits, unemployment benefit, if employed for more than 12 months.  Migrant dependents can register for benefits, such as child benefit.  Unfilled vacancies for low and semi-skilled jobs- 607,000 in 2007.  Low unemployment rate, 5.1% in 2007.  Cheap flights via low cost airlines such as Ryanair.  Opportunity to pay off debts and save for the future. | Additional strain on local services, primary school places, doctors, additional costs of translators, printing leaflets in target language.  Increase in rents, due to increased competition.  Estimate that continued migration could increase house prices by 10% over the next 20 yrs.  Migrants tended to locate in urban areas, friction caused- young males, noise and drunkenness.  Increased social security payments (But only 7,000 claimed for income support.) 26,000 additional child benefit applications.  Migrants targeted by right-wing parties such as the BNP.  Increase in hate crimes, 42 in 2007.  Increase in homeless migrants, unable to work or not registered, 400 alone in London.  Political pressure to curb migration.  Concern over the rising population of the UK- 65 million by 2016. | Wages pushed down in low skilled jobs, created competition with UK workers.  Migrants send home more £1 billion pounds a year, this could have been spent within the UK.  Concerns that some employers were exploiting migrants.  98% of jobs created since 1997 have been filled by migrants. |

