

Young Moroccans intend to emigrate

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By Siham Ali for Magharebia in Rabat

- 1 A new study revealed that 42% of Moroccans would like to live abroad. And the intention to emigrate is greatest among young people. These are the findings of a study conducted by the Moroccan Migration Research Association.
- 2 According to the February 26th report, the tendency to migrate is higher among people with an average or higher than average level of education. "Unemployment encourages emigration to some extent," but migration does not involve only the poor or the unemployed, the survey said.
- 3 The survey revealed that the difficulty in finding a job is the most frequent reason for people with a poor level of education who want to leave. Hicham Bourebbah, 28, graduated in accounting six years ago and has struggled to find stable employment. "I know Europe is in crisis. But I have no more hope for life here in Morocco. I want to explore other lands and start to get somewhere," he said.
- 4 Like Hicham, 25-year-old business management graduate Noura Cherrafi wants to try her chances abroad. "For three years I've done nothing but training courses and I've never had a job. I'm depressed. My family wants to marry me off," she said. "I've been unable to make my dreams come true in Morocco; so now I'm thinking of emigrating to France," she said.
- 5 This desire is evident just at a time when a number of expatriates are returning to Morocco because of the consequences of the economic crisis for them. The survey conducted for the European Training Foundation also looked at returning migrants. More than two-thirds of them put all their savings during their life abroad into buying property. One-third of returning migrants are thinking of emigrating again. Only 5% have decided to return and invest.
- 6 "The skills acquired during migration are not sufficiently exploited after returning home, which represents a loss of earnings for the migrant, Morocco and the host country," European Training Foundation Director Madlen Serban said. Aware of the difficulties encountered by Moroccan expatriates here, the government set up a programme on February 27th which aimed at encouraging these to invest by providing bank loans and state subsidies.
- 7 "This is a huge opportunity," expat Wafaa Farhat said. She returned to Morocco from France in 2010 to set up a school specialising in health engineering. "I was able to set up my project thanks to financial support by the state," she said. That investment back home could lead to the creation of jobs and wealth, an increase in the production of goods and services, and contribute to regional and national development.



I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Are the following sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3 pts)

1 All emigrants say that the main reason why they want to emigrate is the lack of job opportunities.

.....
.....

2 Most immigrants have decided to settle in Morocco.

.....
.....

3 Moroccan migrants make good use of their skills when they return.

.....
.....

B Answer these questions with information from the text. (3 pts)

1 Which factors make Moroccan youths leave their home country?

.....
.....

2 Why are a lot of emigrants returning to their home country?

.....
.....

3 What is the ultimate goal that makes the government encourage expatriates to invest in their home country?

.....
.....

C Find in the text words and expressions that mean the same as the following. (3 pts)

1 partly / not completely (para 2)

.....
.....

2 emigrants (para 5)

3 faced (para 6)

D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)

1 she (parag 4)

.....
.....

2 them (parag 5)

3 these (parag 6)

E Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)

1 Bouebbah wants to emigrate and start to get somewhere even though

.....
.....

2 Noura Cherrafi is thinking of emigrating to France now because

.....
.....

3 The government set up a programme on February 27th whose

.....
.....

II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A Put the words between brackets into the correct form. (3 pts)

- 1 Should euthanasia be made (law)
- 2 Admitting you've made a mistake is a sign of (strong), not weakness.
- 3 She always says a lot in meetings, but she doesn't try to (domination)

B Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form. (3 pts)

- 1 This is the easiest language I (ever / learn)
- 2 He went to America after I (finish) school.
- 3 He needn't (go) to hospital yesterday, but he went just to reassure himself.

C Rewrite these sentences beginning with the words given. (3 pts)

- 1 She has found two missing children safe and well.
Two missing children
- 2 The match will begin before we get home.
By the time we get home,
- 3 All her answers were wrong because she didn't really understand the problem.
If

D Join the sentences with the words between brackets. (3 pts)

- 1 The internet has a lot of benefits. It can sometimes be dangerous. (in spite of)
.....
.....
- 2 Some women suffer from inferiority. They suffer from violence too. (not only ... but ... also)
.....
.....
- 3 Parents should read books at home. They want to make their children value education. (in order to)
.....
.....

E Match the sentences on the left with the functions on the right. (3 pts)

Sentences		Functions	
1	I'm not sure I got your point.	a	Expressing regret.
2	I should have thought well before taking that decision.	b	Giving advice.
3	If I were you, I wouldn't waste my time chatting.	c	Expressing lack of understanding
		d	Expressing purpose

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