

Englisch — Abituraufgabe (Übung)

Grundkurs / Leistungskurs, · Leseverstehen/Schreiben · Aufgabe 1: Comprehension

Materialgrundlage

Adaeze Okonkwo, "Running Away from Tomorrow: Nigeria's Japa Generation", *The Lagos Recorder*, March 2025 (fiktiv, ca. 390 Wörter).

Adaeze Okonkwo

Running Away from Tomorrow: Nigeria's Japa Generation

The Lagos Recorder, March 2025

On a Tuesday morning in Lagos, 24-year-old software engineer Chukwuemeka Eze is not at his desk. He is at a British consulate, clutching a folder of documents and hoping that this time, the visa officer will say yes. It is his third attempt. He does not plan to stop trying.

Eze is part of a generation Nigerians simply call "the Japa generation" — from a Yoruba word meaning roughly "run fast". Since the early 2020s, a growing wave of educated young Nigerians has been leaving the country in search of better opportunities abroad. According to the Nigerian Immigration Service, the number of passports issued annually has nearly doubled since 2019. The destinations of choice are the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States.

The reasons are not hard to find. Nigeria's economy has been under severe pressure for years. Annual inflation has exceeded 30 percent, the national currency has lost more than half its value against the dollar, and graduate unemployment remains stubbornly high. For many young Nigerians, years of education do not lead to stable careers. "I have a computer science degree," Eze says. "But what I earn in a month here, a colleague in London earns in a week."

Beyond economics, many cite a deeper disillusionment. Frequent power cuts make working from home unreliable. Roads in major cities remain poorly maintained. Public hospitals are underfunded, and schools face severe shortages of resources. "It is not just about money," says Dr. Ngozi Adeyemi, a sociologist at the University of Lagos. "For many young people, leaving is a statement. They have lost faith that things will improve."

The consequences for Nigeria are significant. The country is losing trained doctors, engineers, nurses, and IT specialists at a pace that alarms policymakers. Some economists warn of a growing "brain drain" that could weaken the very sectors Nigeria needs most to develop. Others, however, point to the billions of dollars sent home each year as remittances, arguing that the diaspora contributes to Nigeria's economy in ways that cannot be ignored.

Back at the consulate, Eze allows himself a moment of reflection. "I love Nigeria," he says quietly. "But loving a place does not mean you have to stay and suffer in it." Whether his generation's departure is a crisis, a coping mechanism, or both may be the defining question of Nigeria's next decade.

Aufgabenstellung

1. Sum up the reasons why young Nigerians are leaving their country as well as the consequences of this development as depicted in the article. (Comprehension) (12 Punkte)

The given article with the title "Running away from tomorrow: Nigeria's Japa-Generation", written by Adese Oshunwo and published in the Lagos Recorder in March 2025, deals with the growing number of young Nigerians leaving their country to live and work abroad.

Oshunwo describes several reasons why young Nigerians decide to leave. She states that Nigeria has serious economic problems: inflation is high, the national currency has lost a lot of its value, and many graduates cannot find stable jobs. The author also mentions that wages in Nigeria are much lower than in countries like the UK.

In addition Oshunwo points out that many young people are unhappy with the poor infrastructure in Nigeria. She mentions frequent power cuts, badly maintained roads and a lack of resources in health care and education. The author also quotes sociologist Dr Adegani who explains that for many young Nigerians leaving the country is a sign that they no longer believe things will get better in the future.

Regarding the consequences, the author reports that Nigeria is losing many trained workers, including doctors or engineers. She states that some economists warn of a brain drain that could weaken Nigeria's economy further. At the same time, Nigerians living abroad send large amounts of money back home every year, which also benefits the country.