



## MODEL QUESTION 18

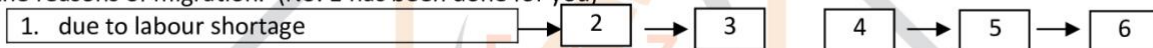
### Unite: 9, Lesson: 3

Last month, a 20-year dream came true: we visited Italy. While it was an amazing lesson in history, I was also taken by surprise at the Bangladeshis in Italy. I heard estimates of between 200,000 and 600,000 Bangladeshis in Italy. I saw them in Rome, Florence and Venice (but not in Siena.) The ones I saw all had small to medium-size businesses. In Rome, they were selling handbags, sunglasses and tourist material on the streets. In Florence, we walked into a store selling Indian-looking things - a monohori dokan - only to find the owner was a Bangladeshi who had a chain of these stores in the city. In Venice, they were selling trinkets-like little puppets made from balloons - on the Accademia Bridge and in San Marco Square. One seller told me these would not sell in Rome, but in Venice the tourists buy them. They were incredibly kind and polite to us. The person in Florence-much to our protestations-treated us with cokes and ice cream, and sold things to us at large discounts. When it came to prices, they said "Pay us what you want-we are so happy to see a Bangladeshi tourist here." It was a kind of haggling in reverse. One street vendor in Rome, after selling a sunglass at 18 Euro to a European person, turned around and sold me a similar sunglass at 4.5 Euro. I wanted to pay him more, but, incredible as it seems, he would not take it. I think this barely covered his cost. At a mini-flea-market of Bangladeshi stalls at the Tiburtina station in Rome, I fell into a discussion of the business. It costs them 1000-2000 Euros a month to rent each stall. The work is very hard, and they live frugally. So they are able to save some money which they send home. One seller in Venice said he can save up to Euro 1000 a month, but only if a lot of conditions are met (e.g. he has to sell an average of 50 euros worth daily; his food expenses cannot exceed Euro 80/month, etc.) I was inspired by their entrepreneurship and touched by their generosity and hope their Diaspora comes true soon.

1. Choose the right word which is the closest meaning in the context that has been used in the text.
  - a) The word **estimate** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
    - i) calculation
    - ii) calculator
    - iii) accounted
    - iv) price
  - b) The word **frugally** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
    - i) prudently
    - ii) carefully
    - iii) carelessly
    - iv) economically
  - c) The word **haggling** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
    - i) hag
    - ii) huge
    - iii) bargaining
    - iv) hanging
  - d) The word **flea market** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
    - i) selling place of local goods
    - ii) selling place of second hand goods
    - iii) selling place of chicken
    - iv) selling place of fish
  - e) The word **vendor** refers to text \_\_\_\_\_
    - i) buyer
    - ii) seller
    - iii) quarrelling
    - iv) vent
2. Write the answer of the following question.
  - a. What was the author's dream and what did he expect to see in Italy?
  - b. What are some of the occupations of the Bangladeshis the author met in Italy?
  - c. How was the author treated by the expatriate Bangladeshis?
  - d. What kind of bargaining took place between the author and some of these Bangladeshis?
  - e. What kind of savings do these Bangladeshis make and what do they do with them?
  - f. What is the author's feeling about these expatriate Bangladeshis?

Migration from Bangladesh to Britain started in 1930s and was predominantly a Sylheti phenomenon. Men of this particular geographical area employed by the British ship companies first started the process of migration. These men were largely illiterate and belonged to the landless peasantry. After the World War II, due to labor shortages, British government encouraged labor migration from its former colonies. The postwar British economy demanded cheap and plentiful labor, much of which was recruited from South Asia. Since Sylhet had already forged a strong link with the UK, most new labor was drawn from there. Sylhetis, based in the UK, helped each other to integrate into the new society by providing credit, arranging documents, and gradually spreading the network. During the 1950s, the numbers increased dramatically. However, along with people from poorer backgrounds, a small number of urban upper and middle class Bangladeshis also migrated even before the World War II for higher education and settled in the UK. According to the 2001 census, 283,063 Bangladeshis lived in the UK, which is 0.5 percent of the total population. In Britain, they are primarily concentrated in Greater London and the third generation of Bangladeshi population, those “born and bred” in Britain, constitute half of the community. The largest Bangladeshi population outside London is located in Oldham, and the others are scattered across Birmingham, Luton and Bradford. British Bangladeshis are predominantly Muslims. Studies reveal that the second and the third generation Bangladeshis seem to uphold their Muslim identity rather than their identity as Bangladeshis.

3. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes of the flow chart showing the reasons of migration. (No. 1 has been done for you)



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4. Make a summary of the text (not more than 100 words)