UAE to offer citizenship to 'talented' foreigners

3rd February, 2021

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced it will grant citizenship to foreign residents who "add value" to the nation. It is very rare for a Gulf state to bestow citizenship on foreign nationals and represents a bold revision of the UAE's immigration policy. UAE Vice-President and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum explained that people with "specialised talents" who "contribute to our development journey" could fall under the new policy. He said artists, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, intellectuals, inventors, investors and scientists could be eligible to be given a UAE passport. All successful people and their families would be permitted to hold dual nationality.

The procedure to be given citizenship is dependent on recommendations and nominations from members of the UAE royal family and high-ranking government officials. It will then be the decision of the UAE cabinet to approve or reject the nomination. Sheikh Mohammed said there are "clear criteria" in the selection process. Doctors must be specialised in scientific fields that are deemed high-priority by the UAE. They must have conducted significant studies and research. Scientists must be active researchers and have made contributions to their field by attaining an international award or research grant. Inventors need patented inventions registered by an internationally recognised organisation.

Sources: *bbc.com / gulfbusiness.com / thenationalnews.com*

Writing

The world would be a better place if there were no passports. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

> citizenship / foreign residents / bold / revision / immigration / development / passport / recommendations / royal family / decision / criteria / priority / researchers / invention

True / False

a) The UAE is looking for people that will add value to it. T / F

b) It is common for Gulf countries to give citizenship to foreigners. T / F

c) The UAE is looking for artists and inventors. T / F

d) The new UAE citizens will be allowed to have dual nationality. T / F

e) Foreigners may need help from the UAE royal family to get citizenship. T / F

f) There are no obvious criteria in the citizenship selection process. T / F

g) Scientists must have won an award or been awarded a grant. T / F

h) Inventors don't need to have any patented inventions. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**announced**	a.	able
2.	**rare**	b.	have a hand in
3.	**revision**	c.	getting
4.	**contribute**	d.	uncommon
5.	**eligible**	e.	reliant
6.	**procedure**	f.	bursary
7.	**dependent**	g.	declared
8.	**criteria**	h.	policy
9.	**attaining**	i.	specifications
10.	**grant**	j.	change

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) How might you get a recommendation from a royal?

c) What do you think of the UAE's selection criteria?

d) How would a country full of specialists develop?

e) What could you offer the UAE?

f) What specialised skills would you like in the future?

g) What international awards would you like to win?

h) What questions would you like to ask an immigration expert?

Phrase Match

1. it will grant
2. bestow citizenship
3. could fall
4. scientists could be eligible to
5. permitted to hold
6. approve or reject
7. clear
8. scientific fields that are deemed
9. made contributions
10. Inventors need patented

a. be given a UAE passport
b. criteria
c. dual nationality
d. to their field
e. inventions
f. citizenship
g. under the new policy
h. the nomination
i. on foreign nationals
j. high-priority

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you know about the UAE?
b) What do you think of being a citizen of your country?
c) What other country would you like to be a citizen of?
d) How happy are you to be a citizen of your country?
e) Would you like to be a citizen of the UAE?
f) What talents do you have?
g) What value do you add to your nation?
h) What would the world be like without passports?

Spelling

1. it will grant citizenship to foreign iedrntses
2. botews citizenship on foreign nationals
3. represents a bold soierniv
4. tnenerepsrreu, intellectuals, inventors...
5. investors and scientists could be iliglebe
6. hold ulad nationality
7. The peecdrour to be given citizenship
8. eddepentn on recommendations
9. vaeporp or reject the nomination
10. deemed high-ioitrpyr
11. made rctunbotision to their field
12. edtapent inventions

Role Play

Role A – Guitar Playing
You think guitar playing is the most useful talent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their talents. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): drawing, growing vegetables or coding.

Role B – Drawing
You think drawing is the most useful talent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their talents. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): guitar playing, growing vegetables or coding.

Role C – Growing Vegetables
You think growing vegetables is the most useful talent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their talents. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): drawing, guitar playing or coding.

Role D – Coding
You think coding is the most useful talent. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their talents. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): drawing, growing vegetables or guitar playing.
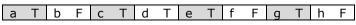
Speaking – Talents

Rank these with your partner. Put the best talents at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Origami
- Growing vegetables
- Fixing machines
- Coding

- Guitar playing
- Juggling
- Drawing
- Telling jokes

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. h	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. f

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.