

NAME:

Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees – Current Situation

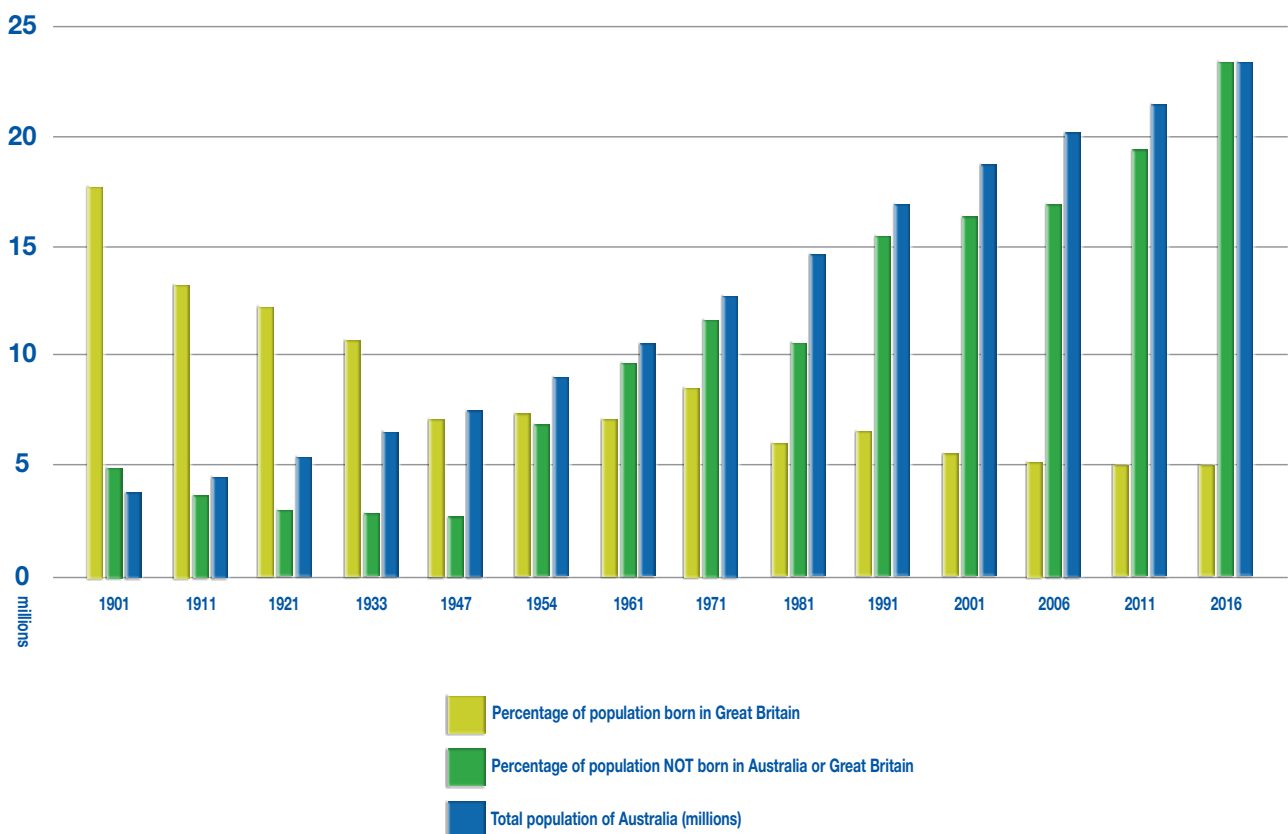
PATTERNS OF MIGRATION

The graph shows the makeup of Australia's population from 1901 to 2016

- The blue bars show the total percentage of Australia's population that were born in Great Britain. For example, in 1901 it can be seen that approximately 18% of Australia's population were born in Great Britain.
- The yellow bars show the percentage of Australia's population that were NOT born in Australia OR Great Britain. For example, in 1901 it can be seen that just under 5% of Australia's population were not born in Australia or Great Britain.
- The grey bars show Australia's total population in millions.

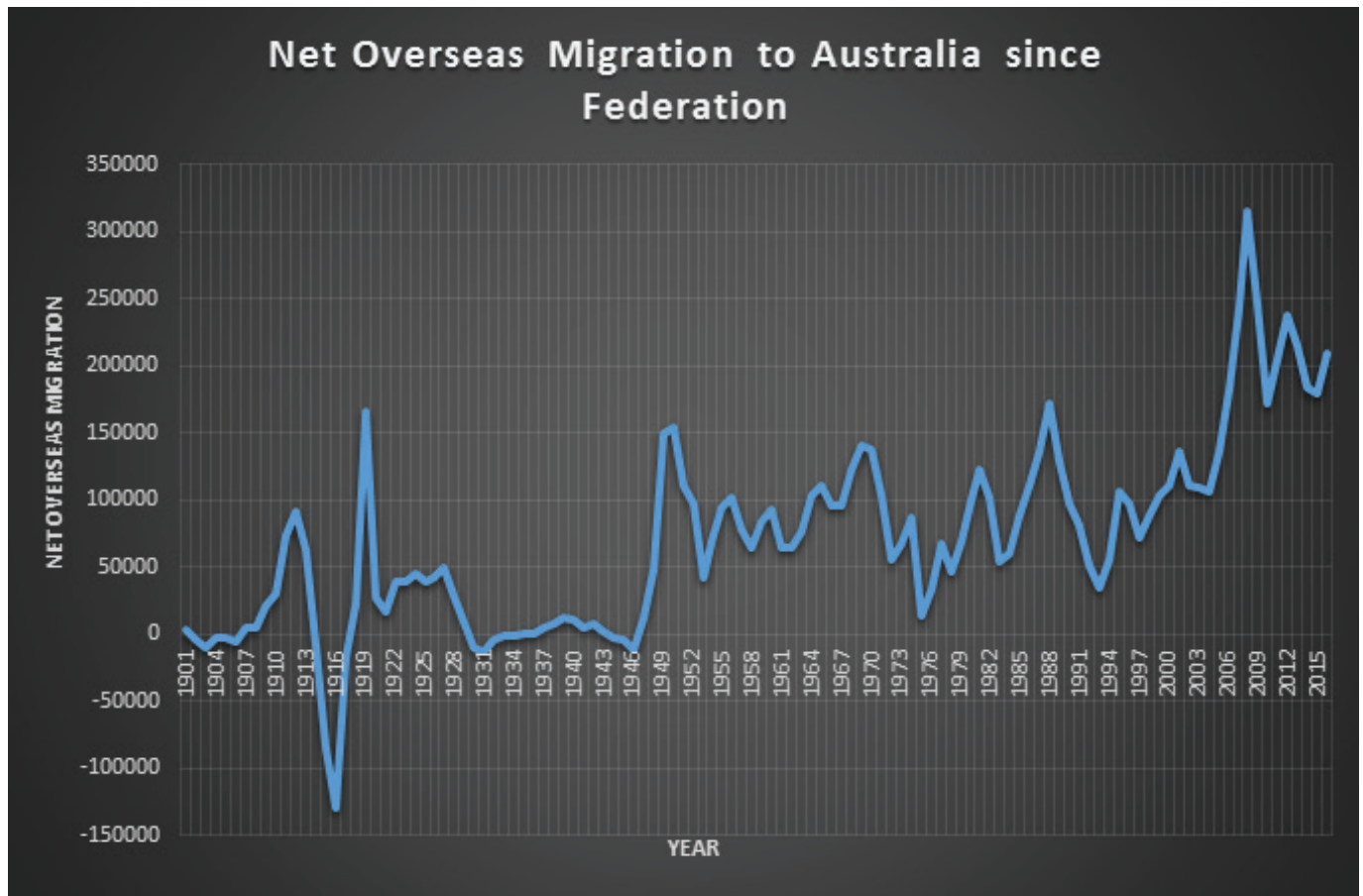
Analyse the graph and then answer questions 1-5.

AUSTRALIAN POPULATION - BORN OVERSEAS



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- The graph shows significant spikes and drops in migration during different time periods. Approximately what year was the highest Net Overseas Migration (NOM) to Australia?
- Around the same time, a significant global event occurred which saw migration numbers fall lower again. What was this event and why would it have caused migration to fall?
- Approximately what year was the lowest NOM to Australia? What would have caused it to be so low at this time?

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9. Explain the impact of the following events on NOM to Australia. In your response discuss why you believe the event would have had this impact on migration to Australia:

The Great Depression

World War II and its aftermath

Aftermath of the Vietnam War



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The ‘[Asylum Seeker and Refugee fact book](#)’ provides an overview of the history of migration to Australia and will help you answer the questions that follow.

1. What are some of the patterns you notice when looking at the graph?

The first noticeable pattern is that the percentage of the Australian population born in Great Britain has dropped significantly since 1901. Secondly, the percentage of the population not born in Great Britain or Australia has risen quickly since 1947. Finally, the total population of Australia has (expectedly) consistently risen since 1901.

2. Why was the percentage of the population born in Great Britain so high in 1901?

The percentage of the population born in Great Britain (18%) was so high in 1901 because Australia was founded as a British colony, with British convicts still arriving in Australia up to 1867. This was combined with an increasing number of free settlers arriving from Britain in the 1800s. At this stage, there was very little migration from countries other than Britain.

3. From 1901 to 1947, the percentage of the Australian population born in Great Britain significantly decreased. Why do you think it may have decreased during this time?

The percentage of the population born in Britain would have begun to decline before 1901. This is because as the British settlers began to start families, their children would be counted as Australian born. At the same time, the number of older British settlers would have started to dwindle. There were also two world wars during this time in which British men would have had to fight.

4. The 1954 numbers show the overseas born population percentage more than doubled. Why would this have occurred at this time?

The overseas born population increased significantly between 1947 and 1954 due to the large number of European refugees that needed resettlement after World War II. Australia also adopted the ‘Populate or Perish’ agenda during this time, which encouraged European migration.

5. Between 1981 and 1991, the overseas born population increased significantly. Where were these people coming from and what events caused them to come to Australia?

Many of the overseas born population were coming from Indochina, as the Vietnam War had created a refugee crisis in the region.

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6. The graph shows significant spikes and drops in migration during different time periods. Approximately what year was the highest Net Overseas Migration (NOM) to Australia?

The highest net overseas migration to Australia appears to have occurred in 2008.

7. Around the same time, a significant global event occurred which saw migration numbers fall lower again. What was this event and why would it have caused migration to fall?

The Global Financial Crisis occurred between mid-2007 and 2009. The financial crisis caused a rise in unemployment in most countries, meaning new migrants would have difficulty finding employment.

8. Approximately what year was the lowest NOM to Australia? What would have caused it to be so low at this time?

The lowest net overseas migration to Australia occurred around 1916. This was in the middle of World War I, so any migration to Australia at this time was basically halted. The reason the number is in the negatives is because many Australians were fighting overseas.

9. Explain the impact of the following events on NOM to Australia. In your response discuss why you believe the event would have had this impact on migration to Australia:

The Great Depression – It can be seen on the graph that the Great Depression (1929) caused a drop in net overseas migration down to below 0. This was due to the high level of unemployment that was a result of the Depression.

World War II and its aftermath – During World War II, net overseas migration hovered around zero. The aftermath of the war saw a significant spike in NOM. This spike occurred as a result of large numbers of refugees being resettled in Australia after the war.

Aftermath of the Vietnam War – The Vietnam War ended in 1975. The graph shows an increase of NOM to Australia from 1975 until 1988, largely as a result of the resettlement of Indochinese refugees.