

# NEWS BREAK

**Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, February 21, 2016** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected story and answer the attached study questions.

## **In Germany, free college for all – even Americans (Main, page A4)**

### **Pre-Reading and Vocabulary**

1. Why do you think Germany offers free college for everyone? Do you think college should be free to all – why or why not?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. abroad
- B. asylum
- C. background
- D. enrolled
- E. estimated
- F. fertility rate
- G. foot the bill
- H. gap
- I. inflict
- J. refugee
- K. resources
- L. strained
- M. surged
- N. traditional
- O. welfare system

1. the experiences, knowledge, education, etc., in a person's past
2. to suddenly increase to an unusually high level
3. to cause someone to experience or be affected by (something unpleasant or harmful)
4. a guess that you make based on the information you have about the size, amount, etc., of something
5. a missing part
6. someone who has been forced to leave a country because of war or for religious or political reasons
7. the ratio of live births in an area to the population of that area; expressed per 1000 population per year
8. protection given by a government to someone who has left another country in order to escape being harmed
9. a government program for poor or unemployed people that helps pay for their food, housing, medical costs, etc.
10. feeling or showing the effect of too much work, use, effort, etc.
11. in or to a foreign country
12. to pay for something
13. typical or normal for something or someone : having the qualities, beliefs, etc., that are usual or expected in a particular type of person or thing
14. to enter (someone) as a member of or participant in something

15. a supply of something (such as money) that someone has and can use when it is needed; something that a country has and can use to increase its wealth

### Comprehension

1. By what percent has tuition to U.S. universities surged since 1985? **(Multiple Choice)**
  - a) 50 percent
  - b) 100 percent
  - c) 200 percent
  - d) 500 percent
2. An estimated 100,000 U.S. citizens are enrolled in German universities – **true or false?**
3. According to the article, what is one reason German taxpayers foot the bill for college tuition in Germany?
4. What have German companies been unable to do in recent years?
5. Although Germany has one of the world's most generous welfare systems, its resources are becoming increasingly strained as what happens?
6. According to Lars Funk, a representative for the Association of German Engineers, what could help fill the gap from the current labor shortage in Germany?
7. What have many German universities started to offer courses on undergraduate and post graduate levels in and why?
8. What subject is considered a particular strength of Germany's education system? **(Multiple Choice)**
  - a) Engineering
  - b) English
  - c) Social Sciences
9. Dorothee Stapelfeldt, a senator in the northern city of Hamburg, said that tuition fees discourage young people who do not have what, from taking up study?
10. More German universities are also offering courses for refugees, although they are not eligible to graduate until what has happened?

### Additional Activities

1. As a class discuss the following questions: Do you think college should be free? If so, who do you think should pay for it? What states in the U.S. currently offer some free college (community college, etc.)? How are those states funding their free college plans?
2. The cost and funding of higher education has been an issue among candidates for the U.S. presidential race. In small groups, research to find out where each of the current presidential candidates stand on college affordability, how much of college should be paid for and how they propose funding it (or not funding it). Is free college tuition an important issue for you – why or why not? Would you vote for a presidential candidate solely on the issue of free college – why or why not?

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

### **Answer Key to Vocabulary**

- A. 11
- B. 8
- C. 1
- D. 14
- E. 4
- F. 7
- G. 12
- H. 5
- I. 3
- J. 6
- K. 15
- L. 10
- M. 2
- N. 13
- O. 9

### **Answer Key to Comprehension Questions**

1. d) 500 percent
2. False – An estimated 10,000.
3. In order to attract more skilled workers to Germany.
4. German companies have been unable to fill thousands of jobs.
5. Germany's resources are becoming increasingly strained as more workers retire.
6. Foreign students could help fill the gap.
7. They have begun offering courses in English in order to attract students ( or talent) from abroad.
8. a) Engineering
9. Young people who do not have a traditional academic family background.
10. They are not eligible to graduate until their applications for asylum have been successfully processed.