

IELTS Academic Reading Sample Paper 1

Reading Passage 1

Massachusetts Bay Colony

A. The Massachusetts Bay Colony (1628–1691), more formally The Colony of Massachusetts Bay, was an English settlement on the east coast of America around the Massachusetts Bay, the northernmost of the several colonies later reorganized as the Province of Massachusetts Bay. The lands of the settlement were in southern New England, with initial settlements on two natural harbors and surrounding land about 15.4 miles (24.8 km) apart—the areas around Salem and Boston.

B. The territory nominally administered by the colony covered much of central New England, including portions of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. Territory claimed but never administered by the colonial government extended as far west as the Pacific Ocean. The Dutch colony of New Netherland disputed many of these claims, arguing that they held rights to land beyond Rhode Island up to the western side of Cape Cod, under the jurisdiction of Plymouth Colony at the time.

C. The Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded by the owners of the Massachusetts Bay Company, which included investors in the failed Dorchester Company which had established a short-lived settlement on Cape Ann in 1623. The colony began in 1628 and was the company's second attempt at colonization. It was successful, with about 20,000 people migrating to New England in the 1630s. The population was strongly Puritan, and its governance was dominated by a small group of leaders strongly influenced by Puritan teachings. Its governors were elected, and the electorate were limited to freemen who had been examined for their religious views and formally admitted to the local church. As a consequence, the colonial leadership exhibited intolerance to other religious views, including Anglican, Quaker, and Baptist theologies.

D. The colonists initially had good relationships with the local Indian populations, but frictions developed which ultimately led to the Pequot War (1636–38) and then to King Philip's War (1675–78), after which most of the Indians in southern New England made peace treaties with the colonists apart from the Pequot tribe, whose survivors were largely absorbed into the Narragansett and Mohegan tribes following the Pequot War.

E. The Massachusetts Bay Colony was economically successful engaging in trade with England, Mexico and the West Indies. Legal tender included England's pound, Spanish "Pieces of eight", wampum in the 1640s and of course, barter. A shortage of hard currency prompted the colony to call on the respected John Hull to establish a mint, serve as mintmaster and Treasurer in 1652. The Hull Mint produced oak tree, willow tree and the pine tree shillings.

F. Political differences with England after the English Restoration led to the revocation of the colonial charter in 1684. King James II established the Dominion of New England in 1686 to bring all of the New England colonies under firmer crown control. The dominion collapsed after the Glorious Revolution of 1688 deposed James, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony reverted to rule under the revoked charter until 1691, when a new charter was issued for the Province of Massachusetts Bay. This province combined the Massachusetts Bay territories with those of the Plymouth Colony and proprietary holdings on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Sir William Phips arrived in 1692 bearing the charter and formally took charge of the new province.

1. What is false in the case of The Massachusetts Bay Colony?

- A. It is also unofficially known as The Colony of Massachusetts Bay**
- B. It is comprised of more than one colony from the surrounding areas**
- C. Province of Massachusetts Bay was previously scattered and required proper organization**
- D. The settlement comprises of ports or docks and lands**

2. Despite the success, what major problem did The Massachusetts Bay Colony face?

- A. It was company's second attempt and the company already had a failed project in their list**
- B. A special group of teachers had forced others to follow their beliefs**
- C. Due to extremism, the leaders of one group had a different view on the others? religion leading to prejudice**
- D. Short-lived settlement on Cape Ann lead to dominance of Puritan teachings that later showed intolerance to other religions.**

3. The Massachusetts Bay Colony had great success in business due to

- A. Great deals with three rich countries -Western India, Mexico, and England**
- B. Trading with other countries and adaption of multiple currencies**
- C. Replacing hard currencies with other trading coins**
- D. The company planting trees that would give good revenue to the colony**

4. What difference did the English Restoration bring?

- A. King James enjoyed flawless victories that brought all colonies under him**
- B. The new charter was released for Province of Massachusetts Bay in 1691**
- C. The colonial charter in 1684 was brought into force to defeat King James II**
- D. The new province was formed that would be ruled by a new ruler**

5. What is true about King James II?

- A. Through Hull Mint, the King tackled the shortage of currency notes**
- B. He made a lot of changes to the charter to bring Glorious Revolution of 1688**
- C. He expanded Massachusetts Bay territories including the Plymouth Colony with Martha's Vineyard**
- D. He could not carry his legacy after 1688**

Reading Passage 2

Black September

Black September was a conflict fought in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan between the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF), under the leadership of King Hussein, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, primarily between 16 and 27 September 1970, with certain aspects of the conflict continuing until 17 July 1971.

After Jordan lost control of the West Bank to Israel in 1967, Palestinian fighters known as fedayeen moved their bases to Jordan and stepped up their attacks on Israel and Israeli-occupied territories. One Israeli retaliation on a PLO camp based in Karameh, a Jordanian town along the border with the West Bank, developed into a full-scale battle. The perceived joint Jordanian-Palestinian victory against Israel during the 1968 Battle of Karameh led to an upsurge in Arab support for the fedayeen in Jordan, in both new recruits and financial aid. The PLO's strength in Jordan grew, and by the beginning of 1970, groups within the PLO had started to openly call for the overthrow of the Hashemite monarchy.

Acting as a state within a state, the fedayeen disregarded local laws and regulations, and even attempted to assassinate King Hussein twice—leading to violent confrontations between them and the Jordanian Army in June 1970. Hussein wanted to oust them from the country, but hesitated to strike because he did not want his enemies to use it against him by equating Palestinian fighters with civilians. PLO actions in Jordan culminated in the Dawson's Field hijackings incident of 6 September, in which the PFLP hijacked three civilian aircraft and forced their landing in Zarqa, taking foreign nationals as hostages, and later blowing up the planes in front of international press. Hussein saw this as the last straw, and ordered the army to take action.

On 17 September, the Jordanian Army surrounded cities with significant PLO presence including Amman and Irbid, and began shelling Palestinian refugee camps where the fedayeen were established. The next day, forces from the Syrian Army, with Palestine Liberation Army markings, intervened in support of the fedayeen and advanced towards Irbid which the fedayeen had occupied and declared to be a "liberated" city. On 22 September, the Syrians withdrew from Irbid after the Jordanians launched an air-ground offensive that inflicted heavy losses on the Syrians. Mounting pressure by Arab countries (such as Iraq) led Hussein to halt the fighting. On 13 October he signed an agreement with Arafat to regulate the fedayeen's presence in Jordan. However, the Jordanian military attacked again in January 1971 and the fedayeen were driven out of the cities, one by one, until 2,000 fedayeen surrendered after being surrounded in a forest near Ajloun on 17 July, marking the end of the conflict.

Jordan allowed the fedayeen to leave for Lebanon via Syria, and the fedayeen later participated in the 1975 Lebanese Civil War. The Black September Organization was founded

after the conflict to carry out reprisals against Jordanian authorities, and the organization's first noted attack was the assassination of Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal in 1971 who had commanded parts of the operations that expelled the fedayeen. The organization then shifted to attacking Israeli targets, including the highly publicized Munich massacre of Israeli athletes. Even though Black September did not reflect a Jordanian-Palestinian divide, as there were Palestinians and Jordanians on both sides of the conflict, it paved the way for such a divide subsequently.

Palestinians in Jordan

After Jordan annexed the West Bank in 1950, it conferred its citizenship on the West Bank Palestinians. The combined population of the West Bank and Jordan consisted of two-thirds Palestinians (one-third in the West Bank and one-third in the East Bank) and one-third Jordanians. Jordan provided Palestinians with seats amounting to half the parliament and Palestinians enjoyed equal opportunities in all sectors of the state. This demographic change influenced Jordanian politics.

King Hussein considered that the Palestinian problem would remain the country's overriding national security issue; he feared an independent West Bank under PLO administration would threaten the autonomy of his Hashemite kingdom. The Palestinian factions were supported variously by many Arab governments, most notably Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who gave them political support.

The Palestinian nationalist organization Fatah started organizing cross-border attacks against Israel in January 1965, often drawing severe Israeli reprisals upon Jordan. The Samu Incident launched by Israel on 13 November 1966 was one such reprisal, after three Israeli soldiers were killed by a Fatah landmine. The Israeli assault on the Jordanian controlled West Bank town of As-Samu inflicted heavy casualties on Jordan. Israeli writer Avi Shlaim argued that Israel's disproportionate retaliation exacted revenge on the wrong party, as Israeli leaders knew from their interaction with Hussein that he was doing everything he could to prevent such attacks. Hussein, who felt he had been betrayed by the Israelis, drew fierce local criticism because of this incident. It is thought that this contributed to his decision to join Egypt and Syria's war against Israel in 1967. In June 1967 Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan during the Six-Day War.

The Battle of Karameh

After Jordan lost the West Bank, Fatah under the PLO stepped up their guerrilla attacks against Israel from Jordanian soil, making the border town of Karameh their headquarters. On 18 March 1968, an Israeli school bus was blown up by a mine near Be'er Ora in the Arava, killing two adults and wounding ten children—the 38th Fatah operation in little more than three months. On 21 March, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) units entered Jordan and launched a reprisal attack on Karameh that developed into a full-scale battle that lasted a day. The PLO suffered some 200 casualties and another 150 taken prisoner; 40–84 Jordanian soldiers were

also killed. Israeli losses stood at around 30 killed and 69–161 wounded, and they also left behind several vehicles.

Both sides declared victory: Israel had fulfilled its objective of destroying the Karamah camp, but failed to capture Arafat, while Jordan and the PLO had exacted relatively heavy Israeli casualties. Although the Palestinians had limited success in inflicting Israeli casualties, King Hussein let them take the credit. The fedayeen used the battle's wide acclaim and recognition in the Arab world to establish their national claims. The Karamah operation also highlighted the vulnerability of bases close to the Jordan River, so the PLO moved them farther into the mountains. Further Israeli attacks targeted Palestinian militants residing among the Jordanian civilian population, giving rise to friction between Jordanians and guerrillas.

Palestinians and Arabs generally considered the battle a psychological victory over the IDF, which had been seen as "invincible" until then, and recruitment into guerilla units soared. Fatah reported that 5,000 volunteers had applied to join within 48 hours of the events at Karamah. By late March, there were nearly 20,000 fedayeen in Jordan. Iraq and Syria offered training programs for several thousand guerrillas. The Persian Gulf states, led by Kuwait, raised money for them through a 5% tax on the salaries of their tens of thousands of resident Palestinian workers, and a fund drive in Lebanon raised \$500,000 from Beirut alone. The Palestinian organizations also began to guarantee a lifetime support for the families of all guerrillas killed in action. Within a year after the battle, Fatah had branches in about eighty countries. After the battle, Fatah gained control of the PLO in Egypt.

1. What happened after fedayeen shifted their bases to Jordan?

- A. they launched a full-scale battle with Karamah
- B. loss of Arab support for the fedayeen for money and manpower
- C. Hashemite monarchy was challenged
- D. the attacks on Israel and its occupancies were increased

2. The reason behind Syrians pulling out from Irbid was

- A. Jordan's dominance on airstrikes and ground battle to which Syria suffered heavily
- B. Arabs joining hands with the opposite parties to intensify the battle
- C. Fedayeen's charter with Arafat to regulate the battle with Syria
- D. Syria's focus had changed to look after their own military flaws

3. Which one from the below options is not the reason for the rise of fedayeen?

- A. Thousands of helpers joined them at Karamah
- B. Kuwait offered a great fiscal support to them
- C. Two countries offered a wide range of training program to their troops
- D. No Palestine organizations' posthumous favors to their troops' family members

4. According to Israeli writer Avi Shlaim

- A. Hussein was taking revenge with an inappropriate party

- B. Israeli leaders learned about Hussein's stance from the direct communication with him
- C. Israelis supported Hussein in his ideology due to which he won the battle
- D. In the Six Day War, Israel was captured from the West Bank

Reading Passage 3

Yellow-legged gull

The yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis*), sometimes referred to as western yellow-legged gull (to distinguish it from eastern populations of yellow-legged large white-headed gulls), is a large gull of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, which has only recently achieved wide recognition as a distinct species. It was formerly treated as a subspecies of either the Caspian gull *L. cachinnans*, or more broadly as a subspecies of the herring gull *L. argentatus*. The genus name is from Latin *Larus* which appears to have referred to a gull or other large seabird, and the species name honours the German zoologist Karl Michahelles.

Classification

It is now generally accepted that the yellow-legged gull is a full species, but until recently there was much disagreement. For example, British Birds magazine split the yellow-legged gull from the herring gull in 1993 but included the Caspian gull in the former, but the BOU in Great Britain retained the yellow-legged gull as a subspecies of the herring gull until 2007. DNA research, however, suggests that the yellow-legged gull is actually closest to the great black-backed gull *L. marinus* and the Armenian gull *L. armenicus*, while the Caspian gull is closer to the herring gull and the lesser black-backed gull *L. fuscus*, rather than being each other's closest relatives.

There are two subspecies of the yellow-legged gull:

L. m. michahellis Naumann, 1840: nominate, found in western and southern Europe, northwestern Africa, and the Mediterranean.

L. m. atlantis (Dwight, 1922), syn. *Larus fuscus atlantis*, Dwight, 1922: found in Macaronesia (the Canary Islands, Madeira, the Azores).

This subspecies is also sometimes known as the Atlantic gull and is potentially a full species in its own right. Birds breeding on the Atlantic coasts of Morocco, Portugal and Galicia (and spreading north from there) are usually also included here, but are sometimes considered to be a third subspecies, *L. m. lusitanicus*. Atlantic Ocean birds have darker wings and back in comparison with Mediterranean birds, creating a more pronounced contrast to the white parts.

Distribution

The breeding range is centred on the Mediterranean Sea. In North Africa it is common in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and increasing in places. Recent breeding has occurred in Libya and Egypt. In the Middle East, a few breeds in Israel and Syria with larger numbers in Cyprus

and Turkey. In Europe there are colonies all along the Mediterranean coast, and also on the Atlantic islands and coasts north to Brittany and west to the Azores. It also breeds on the western side of the Black Sea; here it overlaps with the Caspian gull but there is a difference in habitat, with the yellow-legged gull preferring sea cliffs and the Caspian gull flatter shores. In recent decades birds have spread north into central and western Europe. One to four pairs have attempted to breed in southern England since 1995 (sometimes hybrid pairs with lesser black-backed gulls), though colonisation has been very slow.

Many birds remain in the same area all year round, but others migrate to spend the winter in mild areas of western Europe or head south as far as Senegal, Gambia and the Red Sea. There is also extensive northward post-breeding dispersal in the late summer, with numbers in southern England high from July to October. It is reported as a vagrant to northeastern North America and Nigeria.

Description

The yellow-legged gull is a large gull, though the size does vary, with the smallest females being scarcely larger than a common gull and the largest males being roughly the size of a great black-backed gull. They range in length from 52 to 68 cm (20 to 27 in) in total length, from 120 to 155 cm (47 to 61 in) in wingspan and from 550 to 1,600 g (1.21 to 3.53 lb) in weight. Among standard measurements, the wing chord is 40.8 to 47.2 cm (16.1 to 18.6 in), the bill is 4.6 to 6 cm (1.8 to 2.4 in) and the tarsus is 5.6 to 7.5 cm (2.2 to 3.0 in). Adults are externally similar to herring gulls but have yellow legs. They have a grey back, slightly darker than herring gulls but lighter than lesser black-backed gulls. They are much whiter-headed in autumn, and have more extensively black wing tips with few white spots, just as lesser black-backed. They have a red spot on the bill as adults, like the entire complex. There is a red ring around the eye like in the lesser black-backed gull but unlike in the herring gull which has a dark yellow ring.

First-year birds have a paler head, rump and underparts than those of the herring gull, more closely resembling first-year great black-backed gulls in plumage. They have a dark bill and eyes, pinkish grey legs, dark flight feathers and a well-defined black band on the tail. They become lighter in the underparts and lose the upperpart pattern subsequently. By their second winter, birds are essentially feathered like adults, save for the patterned feathers remaining on the wing coverts. However, their bill tips are black, their eyes still dark, and the legs are a light yellow flesh colour.

The call is a loud laugh which is deeper and more nasal than the call of the herring gull.

Diet

Like most *Larus* gulls, they are omnivores and opportunistic foragers. They will scavenge on rubbish tips and elsewhere, as well as seeking suitable prey in fields or on the coast, or robbing smaller gulls and other seabirds of their catches. Although urban populations are

generally opportunistic scavengers, they can shift to a predatory diet if necessary; this was observed during the lockdown of Italy in 2020, when the lack of food scraps led the yellow-legged gulls of Rome to take prey as large as rats and rock doves.

Reproduction

Yellow-legged gulls usually breed in colonies. Eggs, usually three, are laid from mid-March to early May and are defended vigorously by this large gull. The nest is a sometimes-sparse mound of vegetation built on the ground or on cliff ledges. In some places such as Gibraltar they have started nesting on buildings and even on trees. The eggs are incubated for 27–31 days and the young birds fledge after 35–40 days.

1. What is false in the case of the yellow-legged gull?

- A. It has its own identity for years due to its unique appearance**
- B. Gulls from eastern and western parts share almost the same qualities**
- C. The name originally means a large seabird**
- D. Earlier, the bird came under different classification of species**

2. The classification of yellow-gull says that

- A. According to British Birds, Caspian gull is not yellow-legged gull**
- B. BOU in Great Britain always believed that the yellow-legged gull is a genus of the herring gull**
- C. Genes revealed that yellow-legged gull is in great proximity of characters with black-backed gull *L. marinus* and the Armenian gull**
- D. There are strictly two subspecies of the yellow-legged gull**

3. What is fictional about bird's breeding?

- A. Lately two places were recently discovered and added to Africa for breeding of the birds.**
- B. Black Sea is exempted from the places where the birds mating**
- C. Caspian gull doesn't interfere yellow-legged gull's mating as they don't share the same place for breeding**
- D. While most of the birds don't travel anywhere, a few of them head toward foreign country in a particular season.**

4. The fact about yellow-legged gull is that

- A. Herring gulls have darker back than theirs which is greyish in shade**
- B. Their head color appears to change as the seasons change**
- C. Unlike the herring gull, they have dark yellow ring**
- D. Younger birds have exact shades or colors like the herring gull**

5. Eggs of yellow-legged gull are

- A. Hatched in the later half of the year**
- B. Found only in the nests on buildings and grounds**

- C. The young birds come out of eggs between 35-40 days**
- D. Protected from predators by comparatively larger birds**