

IELTS General Reading Sample Paper 3

Reading Passage 1

American revolution

The American Revolution (1775–83), also called the United States War of Independence or American Revolutionary War, was a war in which 13 of Great Britain's North American colonies won political independence and went on to form the United States of America . The conflict started as a civil war within the British Empire until early 1778 when France joined the war in support of the colonists. Spain joined on the side of the colonies in 1779. The Netherlands provided both official recognition of the United States and financial support. King George III sent British troops to the colony of Massachusetts to quell protests and disobedience there. On March 5, 1770, British soldiers fired into a crowd in Boston and killed several Americans, an event known as the Boston massacre. The Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775) marked the beginning of the American Revolution. In Lexington, officers on both sides ordered their men to hold their positions and not to fire their weapons. It's unclear who fired "the shot heard 'round the world." By the end of both battles, the number killed and wounded totaled 273 British and 95 Americans. The first major battle of the war, the Battle of Bunker Hill , was fought June 17, 1775, primarily on Breed's Hill in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Although the British won, the hard-fought battle proved that the colonists could stand up against the British Empire.

The Second Continental Congress met in 1775 and formed the Continental Army. It appointed George Washington commander in chief of the newly formed army. On July 2, 1776, the Congress, with New York abstaining, unanimously resolved "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." Two days later it approved the Declaration of Independence. The 1777 Battles of Saratoga are considered a turning point in the war. After General John Burgoyne surrendered to colonial troops in October, the American victory persuaded the French, who had been secretly furnishing financial and material aid to the colonists since 1776, to formally join the war in 1778. The last major battle of the war was the defeat of British General Charles Cornwallis at the siege of Yorktown in Virginia, virtually ending military campaigns in the American Revolution. The Articles of Confederation defined the new government of the United States and became the first U.S. constitution in March 1781. The war ended in 1783, and the United States of America was officially recognized as an independent country.

1. How many North American colonies won political independence and went on to form the United States of America.

A. 43?

B. 17?

C. 13

2. Which country in early 1778 joined the war in support of the colonists.

A. Spain

B. France

C. Netherlands?

3. Which battles marked the beginning of the American Revolution.

A. Battles of Boston??

B. Battles of Lexington and Massachusetts.??

C. The Battles of Lexington and Concord

4. Who won the first major battle of Bunker Hill.

A. British

B. Colonist?

C. French?

5. Who was appointed the Commander in Chief of Continental army?

A. Charles Cornwallis

B. General John Burgoyne

C. George Washington

6. Which year American revolution war ended.

A. 1781

B. 1783

C. 1778

Reading Passage 2

Asiatic Lions

Characteristics:

Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions. Adult males weigh 160 to 190 kg, while females weigh 110 to 120 kg. The height at the shoulders is about 3.5 ft (110 cm). The maximum recorded total length of a male Asiatic lion is 2.92m (115 inches) including the tail. The most striking morphological character, which is always seen in Asiatic lions, and rarely in African lions, is a longitudinal fold of skin running along its belly. The fur ranges in colour from ruddy tawny, heavily speckled with black, to sandy or buff-grey, sometimes with a silvery sheen in certain lights. Males have only moderate mane growth at the top of the head, so that their ears are always visible.

Conservation Issues:

The lions face the usual threats of poaching and habitat fragmentation. Three major roads and a railway track pass through the Gir Protected Area (PA). Also, there are three big temples inside the PA that attract a large number of pilgrims, particularly during certain times of the year. There has been an increase in lion population, and more than 200 lions stay outside the PA. Though the conflict is not high now, with changing lifestyles and values these may increase in the future. There are also cases of lions dying by falling into the unguarded wells around the Gir PA. The Asiatic lion faces a threat of genetic inbreeding arising from a single population in one place.

WWF-India's Initiatives

WWF supported barricading of 180 wells with local partners and Gujarat Forest Department. This initiative led to doubling the subsidy by the Gujarat government and many farmers barricaded the wells with government support. To strengthen the efforts of Gir PA towards managing conflict and poaching, WWF provided need-based support. WWF India conducted a study to assess habitat change over a period of 20 years.

1. The African lions are bigger in size compared to Asiatic Lions.

True

False

Not Given

2. The population of lions is dwindling.

True

False

Not Given

3. Poaching is responsible for maximum damage in the lion population.

True

False

Not Given

4. The main aim of WWF was to protect the wildlife of Gir.

True

False

Not Given

5. The subsidy offered by the Gujarat government has been doubled in order to save the lions.

True

False

Not Given

6. WWF conducted a research to increase the funding and save the lion habitat.

True

False

Not Given

Reading Passage 3

VIENNA

Vienna, the capital of Austria. Of the country's nine states, Vienna is the smallest in area but the largest in population. Modern Vienna has undergone several historical incarnations. From 1558 to 1918 it was an imperial city—until 1806 the seat of the Holy Roman Empire and then the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1918 it became the capital of the truncated, landlocked central European country that emerged from World War I as a republic. Austria's capital has avoided many of the problems—financial crises, social unrest, urban decay—that afflict other European cities. Its people enjoy an enlightened health and welfare system. A city of green parks with ponds, cafés, and playing bands; opulent stores and elegant shopping streets; banks, bookshops, and crowded theatres; and boulevards for leisurely sauntering—Vienna is invigorating.

Vienna lies in the northeastern corner of Austria, between the foothills of the Alps and the Carpathians, where the Danube (German: Donau), Europe's second longest river, has cut its course through the mountains. Lying east of the Alps, Vienna is protected from their climatic influences by a range of hills, the Vienna Woods (Wiener Wald). The city's weather comes both from the north, the winds bringing cool summers and warm winters, and from the southeast, bringing heat in summer and cold in winter. The result, despite some summer fog and heat and winter snow and ice, is a generally temperate and agreeable climate. Throughout the year the temperature averages above 50 °F (10 °C).

1. Vienna is the most populated City in Austria

True

False

Not Given

2. Modern Vienna has undergone various changes historically.

True

False

Not Given

3. Vienna faces similar problems compared to various European cities

True

False

Not Given

4. People of Vienna are usually traditional and follow specific norms

True

False

Not Given

5. The city's climate is influenced majorly by the north

True

False

Not Given

6. The city of Vienna lies between two mountain ranges

True

False

Not Given

7. The city mostly enjoys a temperate climate.

True

False

Not Given

8. The winters of Vienna are usually colder compared to other Austrian Cities

True

False

Not Given