

TOEFL Reading Practice Test 30

Passage

When you take the real test, you will be given a university-level text. After fully reading the text, you will be able to access the questions. During this time, you will be able to refer back to the passage while answering the questions. You will have three to four reading passages during your test and twenty minutes to spend on each passage. Take your time and remember that all of the answers can be found in the passage.

In 1603, Queen Elizabeth I of England died. She had never married and had no heir, so the throne passed to a distant relative: James Stuart, the son of Elizabeth's cousin and one-time rival for the throne, Mary, Queen of Scots. James was crowned King James I of England. At the time, he was also King James VI of Scotland, and the combination of roles would create a spirit of conflict that haunted the two nations for generations to come.

The conflict developed as a result of rising tensions among the people within the nations, as well as between them. Scholars in the 21st century are far too hasty in dismissing the role of religion in political disputes, but religion undoubtedly played a role in the problems that faced England and Scotland. By the time of James Stuart's succession to the English throne, the English people had firmly embraced the teachings of Protestant theology. Similarly, the Scottish Lowlands was decisively Protestant. In the Scottish Highlands, however, the clans retained their Catholic faith. James acknowledged the Church of England and sanctioned the largely Protestant translation of the Bible that still bears his name.

James's son King Charles I proved himself to be less committed to the Protestant Church of England. Charles married the Catholic Princess Henrietta Maria of France, and there were suspicions among the English and the Lowland Scots that Charles was quietly a Catholic. Charles's own political troubles extended beyond religion in this case, and he was beheaded in 1649. Eventually, his son King Charles II would be crowned, and this Charles is believed to have converted secretly to the Catholic Church. Charles II died without a legitimate heir, and his brother James ascended to the throne as King James II.

James was recognized to be a practicing Catholic, and his commitment to Catholicism would prove to be his downfall. James's wife Mary Beatrice lost a number of children during their infancy, and when she became pregnant again in 1687 the public became concerned. If James had a son, that son would undoubtedly be raised a Catholic, and the English people would not stand for this. Mary gave birth to a son, but the story quickly circulated that the royal child had died and the child named James's heir was a foundling smuggled in. James, his wife, and his infant son were forced to flee; and James's Protestant daughter Mary was crowned the queen.

In spite of a strong resemblance to the king, the young James II was generally rejected among the English and the Lowland Scots, who referred to him as "the Pretender." But in the Highlands the Catholic princeling was welcomed. He inspired a group known as *Jacobites*, to reflect the Latin version of his name. His own son Charles, known affectionately as Bonnie Prince Charlie, would eventually raise an army and attempt to recapture what he believed to be his throne. The movement was soundly defeated at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, and England and Scotland have remained Protestant ever since.

1. Which of the following sentences contains an opinion on the part of the author?

- James was recognized to be a practicing Catholic, and his commitment to Catholicism would prove to be his downfall.
- James' son King Charles I proved himself to be less committed to the Protestant Church of England.
- The movement was soundly defeated at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, and England and Scotland have remained Protestant ever since.
- Scholars in the 21st century are far too hasty in dismissing the role of religion in political disputes, but religion undoubtedly played a role in the problems that faced England and Scotland.

2. Which of the following is a logical conclusion based on the information that is provided within the passage?

- Like Elizabeth I, Charles II never married and thus never had children.
- The English people were relieved each time that James II's wife Mary lost another child, as this prevented the chance of a Catholic monarch.
- Charles I's beheading had less to do with religion than with other political problems that England was facing.
- Unlike his son and grandsons, King James I had no Catholic leanings and was a faithful follower of the Protestant Church of England.

3. Based on the information that is provided within the passage, which of the following can be inferred about King James II's son?

- Considering his resemblance to King James II, the young James was very likely the legitimate child of the king and the queen.
- Given the queen's previous inability to produce a healthy child, the English and the Lowland Scots were right in suspecting the legitimacy of the prince.
- James "the Pretender" was not as popular among the Highland clans as his son Bonnie Prince Charlie.
- James was unable to acquire the resources needed to build the army and plan the invasion that his son succeeded in doing.

4. Which of the following best describes the organization of the information in the passage?

- Cause-effect
- Chronological sequence
- Problem-solution
- Comparison-contrast

5. Which of the following best describes the author's intent in the passage?

- To persuade
- To entertain
- To express feeling
- To inform

6. What can be inferred from paragraph two about the author's view of 21st century scholars?

- 21st century scholars often disregard the role of religious views in historical political disputes.
- 21st century scholars make hasty observations about historical political disputes.
- 21st century scholars lack the details necessary to understand historical political disputes.
- 21st century scholars think that religion is never used in political disputes.

7. What is the nickname of the founder of a group called the *Jacobites*?

- Jacob
- The Deceiver
- The Pretender
- The Fool

8. Who does the passage say ascended the throne because someone else did not have a legitimate heir?

- King James Stuart
- Queen Elizabeth I
- King Charles II
- King James II

9. Which of the following best describes what the passage is about?

- The lineage of the current Queen of England
- The history of religions in Scotland and in England
- The role of religion in conflict between England and Scotland
- The history and origin of the Jacobites

10. What was the result of King Charles I's political troubles?

- He was beheaded
- He was exiled
- He was hanged
- He was dethroned