

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-13, which are based on Reading Passage 1

Exploration through the ages

One of the key reasons for early explorations was probably the need to find food or to move away from areas where climate change caused environmental changes. While modern technology allows water to be stored so that people can stay in areas for longer periods of time, this would not have been so in prehistoric times. When the water ran out, it would be time to move on.

Many of the earliest explorations were therefore probably accidental. As the hunters followed a source of food, they may have finished in a previously unvisited area. If the new area had adequate supplies, the hunters may even have decided to stay there.

More organized exploration began in the Middle East. The first recorded voyage into unknown seas was a four-year expedition around 4,500 years ago, to search for and buy valuable goods, including gold, incense and myrrh.

Some of the earliest sea voyages were undertaken by the Polynesians. The island areas they occupied were relatively small and they also had immediate and easy contact with the ocean. As they spread from island to island, their navigational skills and knowledge of the area grew.

While the original Vikings – from Norway – were initially prepared to loot and plunder throughout Northern Europe, others soon demonstrated a desire to settle in the new lands. Settlements were soon established throughout Europe, and it was found that the previously aggressive settlers were quite the opposite once they had some land and security.

One of the areas that the Vikings explored and settled was Iceland. As they spread through the island, they came across Irishmen who had beaten them there, but who moved away, as they were not willing to share the place with the newcomers.

Although the Vikings managed to set foot in North America, they had little idea of what exactly they had achieved. They, like many others, stumbled there thinking they had in fact found just another small island.

Often the explorations of a curious traveller would open the eyes of others to new things that might then be used in their home country. Marco Polo travelled from Italy, spending a considerable period of time in Asia, and reaching as far as China. He had a head for business, and an eye for the novel and unusual while on his journeys. He encountered and reported on many unusual plants and animals as well as the use of petroleum-based oils in the Middle East. The success of his explorations inspired many others to follow in his footsteps.

Trade has provided one of the key reasons for exploration throughout the years. Much of the exploration by Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries was motivated by commerce and trade in exotic goods, as well as by the need to find faster trade routes. Several governments negotiated treaties so that their nationals could trade on other countries.

Massive changes were now taking place in Europe, with new ideas affecting many traditional areas of life. Politics, economics, religion and social organization were all undergoing huge upheavals. The population grew rapidly, creating an increased demand for food. Among the workforce, there was a trend towards developing a particular expertise, which included a rapid growth in the number of merchants. With growing wealth, the old barter economy was no longer efficient. Instead, there was a demand for gold and other precious metals, some of which was turned into coins and used for buying and selling.

Probably even more prized at this time were spices, which were used for preserving and flavouring meats. This was important at a time when even fresh food, if available, could be rather tasteless. These items, such as pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, were only found growing naturally in India and certain areas of the east.

Questions 1 – 7

Complete each sentence with the correct ending A – J from the box below.

- 1** Prehistoric exploration often took place because of
- 2** Exploration in the Middle East appears to have been caused by
- 3** Polynesian exploration was encouraged by
- 4** Viking travellers illustrate
- 5** Viking settlers in Iceland were not
- 6** The Vikings of North America showed
- 7** Marco Polo's travels encouraged

- A** imitation by others.
- B** a change from warlike to peaceful behaviour.
- C** the people's geographical location.
- D** a misunderstanding of what they had found.
- E** settlers in the normal sense of the word.
- F** a lack of the basic necessities of life.
- G** the first people to reach the area.
- H** a suspicious attitude towards the local population.
- I** improvements in the design of boats.
- J** a desire for trade.

Questions 8 – 13

Complete the notes below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD** from the passage for each answer.*

Some factors in European exploration of 15th and 16th centuries

- desire to find better **8** to use when trading
- need for states to sign **9** permitting trade
- need for **10** for increasing population
- increasing specialization of **11**
- need for raw materials for production of **12**
- need for various **13** to use in cooking