

## K largest elements in C++

```
#include <iostream>
#include <queue>
#include <vector>
using namespace std;

void klargest(vector<int>& arr, int k) {
    priority_queue<int, vector<int>, greater<int>>> pq;

    // Insert the first k elements into the min heap
    for (int i = 0; i < k; i++) {
        pq.push(arr[i]);
    }

    // For each element from k to end of array, check if
    // it's larger than the smallest in the heap
    for (int i = k; i < arr.size(); i++) {
        if (pq.top() < arr[i]) {
            pq.pop();
            pq.push(arr[i]);
        }
    }

    // Print the k largest elements
    cout << "K largest elements: ";
    while (!pq.empty()) {
        cout << pq.top() << " ";
        pq.pop();
    }
    cout << endl;
}

int main() {
    // Hardcoded input array
    vector<int> arr = {5, 15, 10, 20, 8, 25, 18};
    int k = 3;

    // Call the klargest function to find and print the k
    // largest elements
    klargest(arr, k);

    return 0;
}
```

### Step-by-Step Dry Run

Step	i	Element	Min Heap Before	Action	Min Heap After
Init	-	-	[]	Start inserting first k=3	
1	0	5	[5]	Push 5	[5]
2	1	15	[5]	Push 15	[5, 15]
3	2	10	[5, 15]	Push 10	[5, 15, 10]
4	3	20	[5, 15, 10]	20 > 5 → pop 5, push 20	[10, 15, 20]
5	4	8	[10, 15, 20]	8 < 10 → do nothing	[10, 15, 20]
6	5	25	[10, 15, 20]	25 > 10 → pop 10, push 25	[15, 20, 25]
7	6	18	[15, 20, 25]	18 > 15 → pop 15, push 18	[18, 25, 20]

✓ **Final Heap Contents: [18, 25, 20]**

This heap now contains the **top 3 largest elements: 18, 25, 20**

📄 **Output:**  
K largest elements: 18 20 25

K largest elements: 18 20 25