




GCSE History

Paper 2

Elizabethan England

1568-1603



Topics to revise			
Elizabeth I and her court: background and character of Elizabeth I; court life, including patronage; key ministers.			
The difficulties of a female ruler: relations with Parliament; the problem of marriage and the succession; the strength of Elizabeth's authority at the end of her reign, including Essex's rebellion in 1601.			
A 'Golden Age': living standards and fashions; growing prosperity and the rise of the gentry; the Elizabethan theatre and its achievements; attitudes to the theatre.			
The poor: reasons for the increase in poverty; attitudes and responses to poverty; the reasons for government action and the seriousness of the problem.			
English sailors: Hawkins and Drake; circumnavigation 1577–1580, voyages and trade; the role of Raleigh.			
Religious matters: the question of religion, English Catholicism and Protestantism; the Northern Rebellion; Elizabeth's excommunication; the missionaries; Catholic plots and the threat to the Elizabethan settlement; the nature and ideas of the Puritans and Puritanism; Elizabeth and her government's responses and policies towards religious matters.			
Mary Queen of Scots: background; Elizabeth and Parliament's treatment of Mary; the challenge posed by Mary; plots; execution and its impact.			
Conflict with Spain: reasons; events; naval warfare, including tactics and technology; the defeat of the Spanish Armada.			
The Historic Environment study – The Globe			

Assessment focus

- How convincing is Interpretation A about Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge. (8 marks)

Paragraph 1 - *The interpretation is convincing because..... (Use own knowledge to support)*

Paragraph 2 - *The Interpretation is not convincing because.... (Use own knowledge to explain what information might be incorrect or missing)*

Conclusion – Overall this interpretation is or is not convincing because.....

- Explain what was important about Mary, Queen of Scots during the Elizabethan period. (8 marks)

Explain 3 consequences in

your answer. (3 paragraphs)

- Write an account of the ways in which conflict with Spain affected Elizabethan England. (8 marks)

Write an **explanation**.....of the topic/policy in the question (3 paragraphs)

If it is about an event explain – **Causes, Events and Consequences**

- The English Channel/Spanish Armada (16 marks)**

'The main reason' How far does a support this statement? Explain your answer. You should refer to your contextual knowledge and the English Channel throughout.

Paragraph 1: **Factor named in the question.** Explain in **full detail** and link it to the question.

Paragraph 2/3/4: **Different/other factors** of your choice. Explain in **full detail** and link it to the question.

Conclusion: Explain that all factors were important. Then **Support or contradict** with the statement in the question and explain your **decision**.

The 16th century witnessed more religious change than ever before and Elizabeth's main priority was to settle the nation and ensure England's national security. She was a clever politician with a cautious approach, and was sometimes willing to compromise for the sake of her people. She never married, deciding to put the security of England before herself.

Government

Queen Elizabeth I was sovereign of England, meaning she had the upmost authority and rule, and all agents of government were answerable to her. She surrounded herself with a loyal group of advisers (called the Privy Council) to guide her.

Elizabeth tightly controlled Parliament and set the agenda of what it was allowed to discuss and pass laws about. However, during her reign Parliament did become more influential and was in conflict with Elizabeth over issues such as religion, marriage and her monopoly licences.

Religion

In the 16th century England was divided by religion. The country had been a Catholic country for nearly a thousand years until Henry VIII's reign, then, over a 20 year period, the country's religion had changed three times, causing tension and divisions.

When Elizabeth ascended to the throne she changed the official religion to Protestantism, but also outlined a religious settlement that allowed some Catholic traditions to be practised. Parliament helped by passing the **Act of Supremacy** and the **Act of Uniformity**.

Elizabeth's tolerant 'middle-way' had broad support, but she did face threats and plots from Catholics and Puritans, with Mary Queen of Scots becoming a figure head for Catholic plots, such as the Babington Plot in 1586.

Economy and society

The Elizabethans believed that God had set out an order for everything, known as the Great Chain of Being. This also included the order of society and your place in it. The queen was at the top and controlled wealth and life chances, and inequalities further down the chain were accepted.

Poverty was mostly considered to be the individual's fault in Elizabethan times. However, during Elizabeth's reign the Poor Laws were introduced as measures to support the poor and unemployed, because of growing poverty and a fear of social unrest. They were the first form of welfare.

Elizabeth's reign was seen as a 'golden age' of culture, with theatre becoming popular across all of society. This is also when Shakespeare wrote many of his plays.

Law and order

Elizabeth faced challenges throughout her long reign. Many were from Catholic plotters wanting Mary, Queen of Scots to replace Elizabeth. She secured England's security by thwarting plots such as the **Northern Earls' Rebellion, the Throckmorton Plot and the Babington Plot**.

Foreign affairs

Elizabeth faced challenges from France and Spain during her reign. These countries were more powerful, wealthier, and Catholic.

France began as the biggest threat due to their strong links with Mary, Queen of Scots - but civil war in France and Elizabeth's sensible diplomacy minimised this risk.

Spain turned out to be the bigger threat. During Elizabeth's reign, tensions built between the two countries, culminating in the **Spanish Armada** in 1588 – Spain's failed attempt to invade England and overthrow Elizabeth. England's victory over Spain was a highpoint for Elizabeth and she seized on the propaganda opportunity to further boost her image and international status.

Background of Elizabeth I

When Elizabeth was born she was a disappointment to Henry VIII as he was desperate for a son. Shortly before Elizabeth's 3rd birthday her mother (Anne Boleyn) was executed for treason in 1536. After this Elizabeth was declared illegitimate and was of little relevance once her brother Edward was born to her father's new wife Jane Seymour. Elizabeth rarely saw her father but was not alone in these years and lived in various luxury royal households throughout the country. Elizabeth was given an excellent education and was educated by such scholars as Cambridge's Roger Ascham. Elizabeth could speak French, Italian, Latin and Spanish fluently by fourteen. When Henry died and Edward took to the throne Elizabeth found herself taken in by Henry's 6th wife Catherine Parr and her new husband Thomas Seymour. This led to Elizabeth's first real scandal as after Catherine died an outrageous flirtation was rumoured between the pair. Thomas was accused of plotting to overthrow Edward and wanting to marry Elizabeth to gain the throne. He was executed and Elizabeth was questioned, but managed to convince the investigators of her innocence. The episode was humiliating but taught Elizabeth some valuable political lessons. Once Edward died, and Mary took the throne, Elizabeth rode alongside Mary to show loyalty during the accession but this was disguising a huge gulf. Mary disliked Elizabeth due to her mother Anne Boleyn and her protestant religion, Elizabeth attended catholic mass during Mary's reign but Mary was suspicious. When Mary married King Phillip of Spain there was a rebellion by some as it was viewed as a Spanish takeover at this point Elizabeth was seen as a rival and was placed under arrest so that Mary could check on her. She was later released with no charge but was kept under house arrest due to her threat to Mary.

Elizabeth came to power in 1558 and inherited an unstable kingdom. England was divided by religion, poverty was increasing and foreign enemies were growing more powerful. She became queen after both her brother, Edward VI, and her sister, Mary I, had died. Despite inheriting all of these problems she brought many strengths, ruled well and brought stability back to England.

Elizabeth's strengths:

- **Parents:** She had English parents, Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII. This meant that she would be more likely to be free from overseas influences.
- **Education:** Elizabeth had a difficult childhood and had to use her intelligence in order to survive during the reign of her Catholic half-sister. Elizabeth spoke French, Flemish, Italian and Spanish, and many other languages; she was one of the most educated women of her generation.
- **Popularity:** Elizabeth was popular with many people in England and her reign was seen as a fresh start.
- **Political lessons:** Elizabeth had already suffered scandal and had been through hardship within court, she understood what was expected of a monarch and what the pitfalls may be.

Elizabeth's challenges:

- **Gender:** Some feared a female ruler meant that England would continue to be seen as a weak country. France and Spain were the most powerful nations, and both were ruled by kings. There were worries about who Elizabeth might marry; a foreign prince could end up taking control.
- **Religion:** Religious conflict was a major issue. Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, had broken away from the Roman Catholic Church and started his own Church of England. When Elizabeth's sister, Mary, came to the throne she restored the Pope and made England a Catholic country again. Elizabeth now had to settle the situation, maintaining security and establishing an agreement that would keep her people content.
- **Invasion:** Elizabeth's cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, had a claim to the throne. Mary was a Catholic and married to the heir to the French throne. They could try to invade and threaten Elizabeth's position.
- **Money:** Elizabeth's sister, Mary, had left debts of £250,000, which was a great deal of money at the time.

How is Elizabeth prepared for her role as Queen?

How was her childhood?

How might it effect her?

Elizabeth's key advisors

Role of the Privy Council

Elizabeth's first key task was to surround herself with trusted advisers, a group called the Privy Council.

- The Privy Council were a group of powerful noblemen appointed by Elizabeth. They advised Elizabeth but did not control her.
- Elizabeth chose a small group of 19 men to minimise conflict between them, but she also had to make sure no one member got too powerful or became disloyal.
- The council initially met three times a week during her reign and as the influence of the council grew they met every day.
- They advised on domestic and foreign issues such as how to handle challenges and threats, when to go to war, relations with foreign ambassadors, and supervising the enforcement of the Religious Settlement.
- They took responsibility for the day to day running of the country
- its members were Elizabeth's main advisors and could be called on to deal with any issue.
- It was made up of the most powerful landowners, all selected by the Queen. If the Privy Council agreed on something it was hard for Elizabeth to disagree.

However Elizabeth used the 'divide and rule' idea where she picked men in her council with different views so they would disagree so she could hear different opinions and she could make the final decision knowing some of her council would always support her.

The Royal Court – the court was made up of government officials, ladies in waiting, advisors and servants, about 1000 people. The Privy Council was part of the court too. The real power lay with around 12 men who were close to the queen. Along with Elizabeth herself, this group could be described as the government. William Cecil and Francis Walsingham were two of these important men.

Justices for Peace (JPs) – each county had justices for peace to ensure order was kept. They were local gentry selected to ensure laws were properly enforced. They could send people to prison but more than one JP was needed to sentence a criminal to death.

Lord Lieutenants – appointed by the Queen to take administrative responsibility for a particular area of the country, this involved raising taxes, armies and settling disputes. They could also be members of the privy council in which case they would need a deputy to help with duties.

Elizabeth's main advisors

1. **William Cecil** - Elizabeth appointed Cecil as the Secretary of State in 1558. He was her most important minister and guided her wisely for 40 years. In 1571 he received the title **Lord Burghley**
2. **Robert Dudley** - Earl of Leicester and a trusted adviser until he died in 1588. He and Elizabeth were very close and there were rumours that he and Elizabeth were lovers.
3. **Sir Francis Walsingham** - was in charge of Elizabeth's secret service and advised on foreign affairs. In 1586, he uncovered the plot that led to Mary, Queen of Scots' execution.

Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament

The Elizabethan Parliament was very different to the Parliament of today; it was much less powerful and not fully representative of the population. There was no Prime Minister, no political parties, Members of Parliament (MPs) were all men, and they were all voted in by wealthy landowners.

Elizabeth tightly controlled Parliament

- Parliament could only meet if Elizabeth called it, and she set the agenda.
- Parliament could only talk about what Elizabeth allowed it to discuss.
- Elizabeth mainly used Parliament to grant her taxes - this was her main income.
- Elizabeth could close (prorogue) Parliament at any time.
- Parliament only met 13 times in her 45 year reign for an average of three weeks per year.
- Elizabeth made sure her Privy Councillors sat in Parliament to help control proceedings.

MPs tried to take control back

During Elizabeth's reign however, MPs became more assertive and influential. They were in conflict with Elizabeth over the following issues.

Marriage issue

Some MPs felt Elizabeth should name a suitor to marry and produce an heir in order to secure the line of succession. Elizabeth's response was that this was her private business and she would marry when and if it was convenient.

Religion issue

Elizabeth was a Protestant and re-instated the Church of England when she came to power, but wanting to avoid religious conflict she offered a 'middle-way' which did allow some Catholic worship and traditions. Some Puritan MPs disagreed with this compromise and challenged Elizabeth by threatening to not grant her taxes. Elizabeth said religion was a 'matter of state', not for Parliament, and forbade them to discuss religion.

Freedom of speech issue

In 1576 the Puritan MP, Peter Wentworth, complained that MPs were not free to discuss whatever they liked. Elizabeth sent him to the Tower of London for a month for speaking out.

Monopolies issue

Monopolies gave individual nobles and merchants the sole right to manufacture or sell particular goods. Elizabeth intended for monopolies to promote business and boost the economy, but because one person now controlled the supply of a particular product it meant that prices rose. Elizabeth also made money from granting the monopoly licences.

Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign some MPs felt monopolies were unfair and were being abused. They protested against them in 1597-8 and 1601 and would not grant taxes until they had been withdrawn. At this stage Elizabeth compromised and withdrew some monopolies. She also made a long speech flattering Parliament, which became known as her 'Golden Speech' which again showed her to be a clever and shrewd ruler.

Who has the most power in the Elizabethan period?

How does Elizabeth control parliament and her privy council?

Who are her key advisors?

Marriage

Elizabeth is the only English queen never to marry. MPs and the Privy Councillors expected her to marry in order to secure the succession and many foreign princes and English noblemen wanted to marry her. She kept her thoughts on the subject private, but we can speculate as to why she never married. Some historians think she chose not to marry in order to protect England's security; she wanted to remain independent of any foreign influence which marrying a foreign prince would have brought.

She kept everyone guessing on the subject of who she might marry but never did. This had advantages and disadvantages.

What were the advantages and disadvantages of Elizabeth not announcing a marriage?

Advantages

Staying single meant that Elizabeth could keep sole control of English affairs, namely government and religion. Elizabeth had a range of suitors from different countries. Her refusal to choose between them allowed her to keep her options open in foreign affairs, whilst at the same time this enabled her to play countries off against each other, making her a strong negotiator. She remained the focus of all power since there was no apparent successor.

Disadvantages

Ongoing uncertainty over who would inherit the throne had the potential to lead to plots and attacks to overthrow Elizabeth. For example, plots from foreign, Catholic powers, such as Mary, Queen of Scots. The Privy Councillors and MPs were frustrated because the succession wasn't settled and they felt this made the country vulnerable.

Potential Suitors

1. **Robert Dudley:** Dudley, the Earl of Leicester, was an ambitious, good looking courtier. Elizabeth spent a lot of time with him and people thought they were in love, but there was a big problem: he was already married. When his wife was found dead there was a scandal and rumours circulated. This led Elizabeth to withdraw from Dudley as her reputation and position as queen were threatened.
2. **King Philip of Spain:** In the 1560s, King Philip proposed to Elizabeth. He was a Catholic who had been married to Mary, Elizabeth's sister. MPs were not in favour of this alliance for fear of causing religious unsettlement and creating a foreign influence in government. Elizabeth cautiously rejected this offer.
3. **Archduke Charles:** In 1567 Elizabeth considered marrying Archduke Charles of Austria but his Catholic faith meant there were the same religious differences as with King Philip of Spain, and in the end there was no match.
4. **Francis Duke of Alencon:** Marriage negotiations went on for nearly a decade with Francis, who was heir to the French throne. There were many political advantages to be gained from this alliance, for example influence over French policy in the Netherlands, and Elizabeth used this to her advantage. However, Francis died in 1584 and after that Elizabeth was destined to be alone.

The "Virgin Queen"

Elizabeth emphasised her "Virgin Queen" image by portraying herself as a monarch who put the stability and security of England before her personal happiness. She would not marry anyone who might jeopardise England's position.

Possible heirs

In Oct 1562, Elizabeth contracted smallpox and almost died, her privy council encouraged her to name an heir if she was not to marry after this incident so the throne would be secure. Elizabeth however struggled to choose a claim from the Suffolk or Stuart family. Henry had wanted it to pass to the Suffolk's, his sisters family however her granddaughter, Lady Jane Grey had already been executed for trying to take the throne after Edwards death. There were two younger girls Lady Catherine and Lady Mary who were seen as potential heirs; however Catherine was put under house arrest for marrying and falling pregnant without Elizabeth's permission and then her sister Mary was also placed under house arrest for marrying without permission also. This meant Elizabeth lost two of her options. The option of the Stuart family was a stronger link as they were descended from Henry's older sister; however she was a catholic which was a problem. Elizabeth considered Robert Dudley marrying Mary to control her but Mary annoyed Elizabeth by refusing and making her claim to the throne stronger by marrying her cousin, Lord Darnley uniting two strong Stuart claims for any children they may have.

Why do people wish Elizabeth to marry?

Why does she not marry?

Who are potential suitors?

Why do her privy council worry?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of her not marrying?

The Essex Rebellion 1601

Towards the end of her reign in 1601 Elizabeth faced a threat from one of her own Privy Councillors, Robert Devereux, and the second Earl of Essex.

Causes of the rebellion

Essex was one of Elizabeth's closest companions. He became a Privy Councillor in 1593 and led a successful expedition to attack the Spanish port city of Cadiz, returning to England a hero in 1596.

However, their close relationship deteriorated when:

Elizabeth twice promoted her advisor Cecil instead of the Earl of Essex, who was sent to Ireland to defeat a rebellion. Instead, Essex made peace with the rebels against Elizabeth's orders. He was then banned from court and financially ruined.

The rebellion

By this point Essex was a desperate man and set out to seize power. He attempted to gather the people of London to start a rebellion and overthrow the government, but failed and was executed for treason in 1601.

What does the rebellion suggest?

What is the impact?

Golden Age

The Renaissance that had started in Europe as early as the 14th century had led to a new flourishing of arts and culture all over Europe. England began to see a growth of the arts in Tudor times, and Elizabeth encouraged this through her patronage of the theatre, music and art. Before Elizabeth's reign, drama mainly focused on religious plays that were performed in public, and Greek and Roman dramas performed in Oxford and Cambridge universities. During the 1570s permanent groups of actors were set up under the patronage of wealthy nobles and there was even a group called Queen Elizabeth's Men set up in 1583.

Shakespeare began writing his plays during Elizabeth's reign, and a number of them had themes connected to English history. His plays always supported the monarch and the Tudor dynasty, such as his drama about Richard III who had been defeated by Elizabeth's grandfather Henry VII and was shown as an evil deformed murderer in the play.

Purpose-built theatres were encouraged and had tiered seating with prices accessible for people from all ranks of society. Many nobles protected groups of actors and became their patrons.

The queen went on tours of the country every summer, when she would stay at the homes of her wealthy nobles. These 'royal progresses' encouraged these nobles to build grand stately homes and organise lavish entertainments for the queen.

Theatre – there were no theatres in the country when Elizabeth became queen, actors were viewed with suspicion by the government and a new law in 1572 required actors to be licensed. It did have the effect of scaring off actors as the government hoped but organised them into companies and they began to build theatres and by the end of Elizabeth's reign there were 7 theatres and 40 companies. Theatres were very popular with cheap entrance fees for the pit of the theatre and to watch in the covered galleries with a

seat was more expensive and then more expensive again was to watch from the rooms or lords. This shows it was a golden age for all to enjoy the theatre but it was still clearly segregated into social rank. Actors had been viewed with suspicion by government previously but Elizabeth saw theatre could act as a distraction for the poor and lower classes and make rebellion less likely, also plays could be carefully policed to be used as a form of propaganda in favour of the Queen. For example, Shakespeare's, Richard III, was very flattering to Elizabeth's grandfather Henry VII showing him as the saviour whereas his enemy Richard is shown as an evil monster.

Opposition to the theatre

Not everyone approved of theatres. There was some opposition from:

- The Puritans - they believed theatres were the work of the devil, spreading rude and lewd ideas encouraging poor moral behaviour. They also associated the theatre with the Romans, who had persecuted Christians.
- The authorities - an extract from a law passed in 1572 stated that: "All common players...who wander about and have not a license shall be taken, adjudged and deemed rogues, vagabonds and sturdy beggars."

Pastimes

By Elizabeth's time the upper classes saw their culture as superior. Huge inequalities existed within Tudor society and whilst the theatre was universally popular there were two cultures:

- **Higher society** - the invention of the printing press and spread of education meant that gentlemen were part of an elitist culture involved in intellectual pursuits, such as reading the classics, studying music, hunting and hawking.
- **Lower society** - the vast majority were involved in popular cultural pursuits, which gave them a brief escape from their harsh living conditions. Inns and taverns were an important part of every social ritual. Drinking, gambling on bear-baiting, cockfighting, cards, dice and racing were popular. Tobacco smoking was new and expensive but it was growing in popularity by the end of Elizabeth's reign. Ordinary people also took part in wrestling, running races and football.

Fashion

The new gentry helped the fashions develop as it was seen as a status symbol. Male wealth would be shown by long sleeved silk or satin shirts with ruffles (a doublet) and Jerkins – colourful velvet jackets whereas women's wealth was shown with satin or velvet gowns and blackened teeth to show sugar consumption of the wealthy. The golden age of fashion was not for all as Elizabeth passed the statutes of apparel in 1574 which strictly controlled the clothes people could wear depending on their social rank.

Architecture

new houses were often built to impress and host Elizabeth while she was on progress. Residences no longer needed to include defence features so they were often replaced with decorative gardens. Robert Smythson was the leading architect at the time designing key houses such as Longleat house and Hardwick Hall. The new buildings were different depending on the area and what materials were available locally. Architects focused on symmetry and size and many houses had expensive leaded glass and mullioned windows. Internally homes were different as they were now very light due to the windows, bedrooms were placed

upstairs for the first time. Elizabethan homes often had a long gallery on an upper floor which was used for entertainment and to display art collections, downstairs the area was divided into separate rooms with windows and fireplaces to give the families more privacy than before. The houses were more comfortable with plasterwork on the ceilings, oak-panelled rooms, impressive fireplaces, tapestries and libraries of books.

Art

Portraits became very popular and they often included lots of symbolism: for example, Elizabeth was painted often with a hand on a globe to show her power.

Literature

In addition to the great plays written during Elizabeth's reign, Shakespeare also wrote many sonnets along with some other well respected nobles. More affordable stories were produced by some writers called 'chap books' which were sold in the streets

Explorers

Advancements in the practical skills of navigation allowed explorers to thrive during the Elizabethan era. The main benefit of exploration around this time was to open up trade routes with countries around the world. There were a number of famed explorers who led these voyages.

Sir Francis Drake

Sir Francis Drake was the most famous seaman of Elizabeth's reign. His career has been interpreted in different ways, ranging from national hero to villain. He grew up as a Puritan who hated Catholics and he was very anti-Spanish. His first voyage in 1566 was as a slave trader. He was attacked in 1568 by the Spanish at San Juan de Ulua in Mexico, losing four ships and over 300 men. He sought to take revenge on the Spanish after this.

Notable expeditions

Drake was the first Englishman to sail around the world, circumnavigating the globe between 1577 and 1580. He went on to play a role in the Spanish Armada by attacking Cadiz in 1587 and delaying preparations. He was also vice-admiral during the Armada.

Impact

- Launched successful attacks on the Spanish empire, bringing back gold, silver and jewels, making a huge profit.
- Claimed new lands for England and made valuable trading contacts with the Spice Islands.
- Knighted by Elizabeth and made an admiral.

John Hawkins

He was a navigator and slave trader who was Sir Francis Drake's cousin.

Notable expeditions

He made three voyages during the 1560s, capturing Africans and selling them into slavery in Central America to Spanish settlers.

After this he returned to England and designed and built ships for the navy. Elizabeth appointed him as a vice-admiral fighting against the Spanish Armada.

Impact

- Developed a new type of fighting galleon which was faster, lighter and better able to withstand harsh weather conditions than ships in the Spanish fleet.
- His innovative designs were important in helping to lead England to victory.

Walter Raleigh

He was a famous sailor, explorer and courtier. The queen invested in his privateering expeditions against the Spanish. He wanted to establish colonies for Elizabeth in North America. The area was thought to have an inexhaustible supply of wine, oil, sugar and flax and would reduce England's trading dependence upon Europe.

Notable expeditions

In 1584 he obtained a royal **charter** to establish a colony on Roanoke Island off the coast of North Carolina. He organised two expeditions to take settlers to the colony. The first group came home after a year; the second were left there but later disappeared. There is no conclusive proof of what happened to the colonists - perhaps they were forced to leave, ran away or lacked food. The reasons for their disappearance are unclear and Roanoke is sometimes given the name 'The Lost Colony'.

Raleigh didn't play a major part in the Armada campaign.

Impact

- Raleigh was imprisoned in the Tower of London in June 1592 for marrying one of Elizabeth's ladies-in-waiting, He was released in August 1592 to lead a very successful naval attack against the Spanish. Following the attack, Raleigh was sent back to the Tower but was released the following year and became a Member of Parliament.
- Whilst imprisoned in the Tower, Raleigh wrote many poems and even wrote a history of the world.

Why explore?

One of the major reasons voyages were important was to gain wealth and establish trade importantly to maintain income – companies were set up to secure trade such as the Muscovy company in Moscow in 1555 giving monopoly on trade with the city of Moscow. Then others followed in Scandinavia, the Baltic, Turkey and the Middle East. Most importantly in 1600 the East India Company was established to trade in spices, silks and porcelain. In 1564 Englishman for the first time carried out the entire process of a slave trade, Drake and John Hawkins captured several hundred West Africans and sold them as slaves on the American coast.

Power was another reason for voyages showing England were unbeatable at sea was important to Elizabeth and also territory was important in the first stages of building up an empire in the Elizabethan era.

To what extent is the Elizabethan period a Golden age?

Why did Elizabeth encourage exploration?

Who were the key explorers?

The poor

The Elizabethan era is associated with the wealth and luxury of the queen and her courtiers but life for ordinary people was often hard and the number of poor people increased during Elizabeth's reign. Unlike now, there was no welfare system or support for anyone who fell on hard times. Poverty was mostly considered to be your own fault in Elizabethan times - the belief that you had a 'divinely appointed' position in society was reinforced every week at church and this attitude was widely held.

Increase in poverty – reasons why?

Reason	Explanation
Rising population	The population rose by a million during the Elizabethan period. More people meant there was more demand for goods, and so prices rose.
Inflation	Prices for goods rose, but wages fell as there were more people around to do the work.
Cloth trade collapse	Woollen cloth was the England's main export. There was a decline in demand and this led to unemployment.
Wars	Taxes were increased to compensate for the price of waging war.
Bad harvests	Harvests were particularly bad in the 1590s leading to even higher demand and more rising prices.
Changes in farming	Many landlords decided to enclose their fields and keep sheep instead of growing crops which led to high unemployment.

The Poor Laws

Poverty was mostly considered to be your own fault in Elizabethan times, but attitudes started to change towards the end of Elizabeth's reign and the government decided to take action. This was because of:

- fears that the 'social order' might be threatened if the growing number of poor people ganged together and started a rebellion
- the risk that vagabonds and beggars might turn to crime
- fears that the poor might spread disease

A Sympathetic approach began to develop under Elizabeth as she looked after her subjects it was beginning to be believed that the wealthy should help the poor in their areas. People began to recognise that in many areas some people couldn't find work even though they wanted to and these people became known as the **deserving poor**, this meant that some richer people set up almshouses to provide accommodation and food for those in need. They also saw a group as the **undeserving poor** these were the untrustworthy beggars who had no interest in work and Thomas Harman's book published showed the tricks some of these conmen/women would use such as the counterfeit crank – biting on soap to froth at the mouth and pretend to have a fit. Tom O-Bedlam who would pretend to be mad to get money by barking like a dog, this caused many people to question all beggars.

Most of the laws of previous Tudor monarchs remained in place during Elizabeth's reign such as whipping beggars in the street but in 1576, Elizabeth passed an act to put the responsibility of the poor onto local authorities.

Local approaches?

This caused different approaches around the country such as in **York** – beggars had to be issued with a licence and they would be checked by a master beggar, any who refused to work were put in the house of correction. In **Norwich** – separated the poor into idle and unfortunate, the idle poor were sent to work and the unfortunate were given food and care.

National level – 1601 Poor Law

1601 saw the formalisation of earlier acts and laws of poor relief. Poor Laws were key pieces of legislation:

- they brought in a **compulsory** nationwide Poor Rate system
- everyone had to contribute and those who refused would go to jail
- begging was banned and anyone caught was whipped and sent back to their place of birth
- almshouses were established to look after the impotent poor

The poor were categorised into 3 different types: **the idle poor**, those who were seen as lazy and were whipped and put in a house of correction. **The able-bodied poor**, those who were considered fit such as children were expected to work and were given food and drink and sometimes shelter in return. **The helpless poor**, the sick and old who were provided with food and somewhere to live.

Did Elizabeth successfully look after the welfare of the people?

Instances of begging did seem to decrease but it was not consistently used in all areas as hoped. Some areas would argue over who was responsible for who with some paupers being sent from one area to another but in effect this system was an improvement on previous policy and remained in place until the 19th century.

The first 30 years of Elizabeth's reign saw stability and prosperity but a rising population led to an increase in poverty and growing social problems, especially in towns. By the end of Elizabeth's reign wide-ranging laws were passed to support the poor, which remained in place for the next 200 years. The Poor Laws can be seen as a major shift in English history, for the first time the government was responsible for the welfare of the weakest people in society however most of the relief still came from private individuals.

To what extent did Elizabeth change the lives of the poor?

How did the local approaches differ?

What is the significance of the poor law?

The religious settlement

The established religion under Elizabeth was Protestant, so the English did not acknowledge the authority of the Pope in Rome: the English monarch was to be the overall leader of the Church of England, but not a spiritual authority. However, there were some actual religious practices that were very similar to the Catholic Church, including the celebration of the mass (also known as Holy Communion) and the priests' wearing of **vestments**.

To try to bring together these different groups and ease religious tensions, Elizabeth came up with what became known as the Religious Settlement. In 1559 she passed two laws:

Act of supremacy, 1559 - this act re-established the break from Rome and an independent Church of England but it removed the idea of Elizabeth being the head of the church to become governor instead to pacify the Catholics. It also stated the church would keep the pre-reformation structure of archbishops etc. which was also a concession to the Catholics as other European churches had got rid of this hierarchy.

The Act of Uniformity, 1559 was also passed which outlined the new English services but allowed crosses and ornaments to decorate the church and traditional catholic priest vestments rather than plain black

ones worn by Protestants. This was to try and avoid as little conflict as possible between the two religions.

The Catholic threat

Treason act, 1571 Elizabeth was increasingly worried about catholic plots and in response introduced this act. It stated that denying Elizabeth's supremacy could be punished by death. Anyone who left the country for more than 6 months had their land confiscated to avoid any English Catholics going off to train as missionaries.

Catholic repression when Elizabeth came to the throne Catholics feared protestant retribution for the burnings and the persecution of Mary I's reign but they did not find this. With services aimed at including all and recusancy fines for Catholics who refused to attend Protestant services were also very low. Catholics kept their own beliefs private and in turn the government did not seek out disobedience. In 1570 the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth and called on Catholics to end her reign! This called for Elizabeth to increase fines for those who didn't attend approved church services to £20, in 1585 it was made illegal to have a catholic priest in your home and in 1593 Catholics could not travel more than 5 miles from their home. This was due to the pope's encouragement of rebellion and the increase in plots such as the Northern Rebellion in 1569, the Ridolfi plot in 1571 and the later throckmorton and Babington plots.

Fear of Catholic plots

Despite these measures, a fear of Catholic plots was an on-going and serious threat. The rulers of the most powerful countries in Europe - Spain and France - were Catholic, and plots often had foreign backing. In 1570 the Pope issued a Papal Bull of Excommunication against Elizabeth and actively encouraged plots against her.

The Pope also encouraged Catholic priests to undertake secret missionary work in England to convert people back to Roman Catholicism. If these men were discovered by Elizabeth's agents, they could be sentenced to death for treason. Which is what happened to Edmund Campion, who was executed in 1581.

The main figurehead for such plotters was Mary, Queen of Scots. She had a claim to the English throne, and was seen as a potential replacement for Elizabeth.

Catholic plots

The 1570s and 1580s were dangerous decades for Elizabeth; she faced four big Catholic plots against her. All had the aim of getting the Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne and returning England to Catholic rule.

Date	Plot	Elizabeth's action
1569 - The Northern Earls' Rebellion	The Catholic Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland hatched a plan to get Mary, Queen of Scots out of jail and on to the throne. They gathered an army of 6,000 soldiers in their attempt to return England to Catholicism.	Elizabeth got wind of the plan and sent a huge army to crush the rebellion. Elizabeth put 800 rebels to death and the two Earls fled to Scotland.
1571 - The Ridolfi Plot	Roberto Ridolfi, an Italian banker, planned to assassinate Elizabeth and make Mary queen. He had the support	The plot was uncovered by Elizabeth's advisor, Cecil. Ridolfi and the Spanish

	of King Philip II of Spain, the Duke of Norfolk, and Mary, Queen of Scots herself.	ambassador were arrested and expelled from the country.
1583 - The Throckmorton Plot	A young Catholic man, Francis Throckmorton, organised a plan for a French army (paid for by the Pope and King Philip II of Spain) to invade England and replace Elizabeth with Mary, Queen of Scots.	Throckmorton was executed and Mary was moved to Tutbury Castle in Staffordshire, where she was held in isolation and allowed no visitors.
1586 - The Babington Plot	Sir Anthony Babington planned to rescue Mary, Queen of Scots from jail and murder Elizabeth. Secret letters between the plotters and Mary were discovered which gave Elizabeth's advisers the evidence needed to prove Mary's guilt.	This finally led to the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, Babington and six other plotters.

The Puritan threat

Puritans were strict Protestants who wanted to 'purify' the Church and get rid of all traces of the Catholic faith. Many had fled abroad when Mary I, a Catholic, was queen, but had started to return when Elizabeth, a Protestant, came to the throne. Elizabeth's Religious Settlement meant that the country was now officially Protestant, but allowed some traditions of Catholic worship. At first many Puritans seemed to accept the Settlement, but they soon started organising campaigns to make it more Protestant.

How much of a threat were the Puritans?

They raised their points in Parliament, but did not on the whole get involved in plots to overthrow Elizabeth or destabilise the country and were therefore seen as less of a threat than the Catholics.

Some of Elizabeth's most trusted Privy Councillors and MPs, notably Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester and Sir Francis Walsingham, were Puritans and tried to pressure her into taking harsher steps against Catholics.

Even if they weren't a great threat, Elizabeth still did not welcome the Puritans' challenge to her authority.

Puritan threats

Date	Puritan threat	Elizabeth's action
1571	Walter Strickland, leader of the Puritan group in Parliament, wanted to reform Elizabeth's new Prayer Book and ban clergy vestments (this was known as the Vestarian Controversy).	Elizabeth silenced him by closing Parliament so his ideas could not be discussed.

1575-83	Some Puritan clergy started organising prayer meetings known as ' prophesyings ' which displeased Elizabeth. In these meetings Puritans took a freer approach to prayer and did not follow what Elizabeth had specified. She was concerned ideas might spread that challenged the Religious Settlement.	Elizabeth ordered her new Archbishop of Canterbury, Edmund Grindal, to ban the meetings but he protested. She suspended him, suggested he resign, and 200 Puritan priests were expelled from their roles. Grindal then apologised and was reinstated.
1583	The Puritan, John Stubbs, published a pamphlet criticising Elizabeth's on-going marriage negotiations with the brother of the Catholic French king.	Stubbs was found guilty of stirring up trouble and sentenced to have had his right hand cut off.

Elizabeth firmly resisted the Puritan attempts to get her to change the Religious Settlement and the movement lost momentum towards the end of her reign as, one by one, the old Puritan leaders died. By 1590 most of the people accepted the Church of England as the national Church.

To what extent were the Catholics a threat to Elizabeth?

What do the plots suggest about Elizabeth?

What is the significance of the catholic plots?

Did Elizabeth's policy on religion work?

Were the puritans a threat?

Mary Queen of Scots

Mary, Queen of Scots was Elizabeth's cousin (not to be confused with Mary I, who was Elizabeth's sister), so she had a dynastic claim to the line of succession to the English throne. However, Mary was a Catholic and also half-French, making her unsuitable as a monarch to the majority of English people.

Mary's life had been filled with dramatic events. She had become Queen of Scotland in 1542 when she was just six days old.

Her first two husbands died and she was implicated in the second one's murder. She was forced to abdicate and was imprisoned. She managed to escape and fled to England where she sought refuge from Elizabeth in 1568.

Mary's threat to Elizabeth suddenly became more immediate now that she was in the country. In the short term, Elizabeth allowed Mary to live in Carlisle Castle as a closely guarded 'guest'. But now she was faced with a dilemma: what should she do with Mary?

Why did Mary pose a threat to Elizabeth?

Many English Catholics supported the idea of Mary being named as Elizabeth's successor, if the queen did not marry and have children.

A minority of Catholics supported the idea of Mary replacing Elizabeth as Queen of England, because they thought:

- Elizabeth was illegitimate and so felt she had no right to be on the throne. (Her father, Henry VIII, had divorced his first wife. Catholics didn't recognise divorce and so viewed his second marriage to Elizabeth's mother as illegal.)
- Mary would restore the supremacy of the Catholic Church and reverse Elizabeth's Religious Settlement.

Mary's connections to France, both through her mother and her first husband, also made Mary a potentially dangerous threat to England.

What should Elizabeth do with Mary?

Mary was a clear threat to Elizabeth, and potentially England, but Elizabeth had to think carefully about what to do, weighing up the potential political consequences of each option. These included:

- **Getting Mary out of the country** - sending Mary back to Scotland or France could backfire, allowing her to gather more support to challenge Elizabeth.
- **Keeping Mary imprisoned** – this would reduce the risk of Mary gathering more support back in Scotland or France and allow Elizabeth to keep tight control. But unlawfully imprisoning Mary could provoke international outcry and attacks anyway.
- **Executing Mary** – whilst this would remove the figurehead for Catholic challengers, it could also provoke international attacks and set a precedent for killing a queen.

In the short term Elizabeth decided to keep Mary as a closely guarded royal 'guest', moving her from castle to castle so she would not be the focus of plots.

Alongside Mary's challenge, Elizabeth faced many other challenges and **plots against her**. Most of them were led by Catholics aiming to get Mary on the throne and return England to Catholic rule. By 1572 MPs were pressurising Elizabeth to have Mary executed in order to keep England secure.

Mary is executed

Mary was put on trial, found guilty of treason and was executed on 8 February 1587. The executioner held up her severed head and shouted "God save the Queen".

Elizabeth's reaction to Mary's execution

Elizabeth had always believed that executing Mary would lead to bigger a problem, such as an international backlash, which is why she held off executing her for so long. When Mary was found guilty of treason, Elizabeth hesitated to sign her death warrant. When she eventually did sign, she refused to submit it, but her secretary secretly took it. When Elizabeth found out, she was furious and he was put in the Tower for 18 months. Elizabeth wrote to King James apologising for the death of his mother, Mary.

Consequences of Mary's death

As it turned out the consequences were not as serious as Elizabeth had feared:

- **France** – fearing the might of Spain, they wanted to maintain their alliance with England.
- **Spain** - were already at war with England due to the action of the 'Sea Dogs' and events in the Netherlands.
- **Scotland** - King James VI was on the throne of Scotland, he was Elizabeth's heir and so he took no action.
- **English Catholics** - remained loyal to Elizabeth.

Why was MQS a threat?

Did Elizabeth deal with MQS correctly?

What were the consequences of MQS execution?

What does the MQS threat suggest about Elizabeth's power?

Rivalry with Spain – Spanish Armada – KEY TOPIC FOR REVISION!!!!

During the early years of Elizabeth's reign Catholic Spain (the most powerful country in the world at that time) and Protestant England remained friendly. Over time tension built up leading to war in 1585 and an invasion of England in 1588, known as the Spanish Armada.

What led to war?

Issue	Explanation
Religious differences	Spain was a Catholic country and England a Protestant country – meaning that the two rulers had conflicting spiritual outlooks.
Marriage rejection	King Philip of Spain had been married to Elizabeth's sister, Mary I. When Mary died he offered to marry Elizabeth but she rejected him.
Piracy	English sailors like Hawkins and Drake attacked and stole treasure from Spanish ships in the New World. King Philip was furious but Elizabeth encouraged and rewarded adventurers.
The civil war in France	France was the traditional enemy of both England and Spain, meaning that they united together against the country. Now France was in civil war it was preoccupied

	with its own issues and no longer posed a threat – so the alliance between Spain and England was not necessary anymore.
Spain supported Catholic plots	There was evidence of Spanish support for plots to restore Catholicism to England, particularly involving getting Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne and Elizabeth off.
The Dutch Revolt	Protestants in the Netherlands began a revolt against Spanish rule in 1572. Elizabeth secretly supported the Dutch rebels because she knew the Dutch revolt would keep the Spanish too busy to threaten England.
Elizabeth's army joined the Dutch rebels	Elizabeth sent an army to help the Dutch rebels fight Spain. For the first time English and Spanish armies were fighting each other. England and Spain were now at war.

Why were the Netherlands so important?

The Netherlands were ruled by Spain but the English saw the Netherlands as a vital place for trade.

By 1572 Protestant ideas had spread in the Netherlands and Protestant Dutch rebels began a campaign for independence from Catholic Spain, leading to the Dutch Revolt.

King Philip of Spain sent an army to defeat the rebels. Following the death of the Dutch rebel leader, William of Orange, Elizabeth was approached to become Queen of the Dutch. She declined but sent an army to fight with the Dutch against Spain.

Throughout the 1590s the Dutch won several victories against the Spanish and by 1609, after Elizabeth's death, the Dutch Protestants won control of Holland.

The Spanish Armada

The greatest challenge to Elizabeth was first sighted in the English Channel on 29 July 1588. This was the Spanish Armada, a fleet of armed ships sailing towards England in a crescent formation.

Partly because of religious differences, and partly because of English interference in Spanish affairs in the New World and the Netherlands, King Philip of Spain decided to invade England and attempt to overthrow Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was expected to protect her people from this invasion. How did the two sides line up?

	Spain	England
Commanders	The Duke of Medina Sidonia - little experience of sailing.	Lord Howard of Effingham – little experience of fighting at sea, but Drake and Hawkins were both very experienced.
Fleet	130 ships - 64 battleships, 22 huge galleons and 45 converted merchant ships.	200 ships - 54 strong, light and fast battleships, and 140 converted merchant ships.

Sailors and soldiers	30,000 men on board the fleet and 20,000 soldiers on land.	14,000 men on board the fleet and 20,000 soldiers on land.
Food supplies	Not fresh – six months' worth of supplies were stored on the ships.	Fresh food supplied daily.
Weapons	2,000 large cannon – could fire heavy cannon balls, but only over a short distance and were slow to load.	200 smaller cannon – could fire over long distance and were quick to load.
Tactics for fighting at sea	Get close so men could board and capture the enemy ships.	Destroy enemy ships by firing cannon at them from a distance.
Annual income	£3 million.	£300,000. Parliament did grant Elizabeth taxes to top this up.

Events

- The Armada leaves Lisbon on 28 May 1588. It's delayed by storms and repairs, and finally sets sail for England on 21 July.
- The Armada is sighted by the English from Lizard Point in Cornwall. Warning beacons are lit along the English coastline.
- The Armada continues through the English Channel now chased by English ships, but suffers little damage.
- The Armada anchors near Calais where more troops are meant to join, led by the Duke of Parma, but the English send burning fire ships into the fleet. The Spanish ships panic and are scattered out of formation.
- The Spanish ships are blown towards dangerous sandbanks and the English attack again in the Battle of Gravelines. This time they battle at close range and significant damage is inflicted to the Spanish fleet.
- The Armada is forced north around the east coast of Britain and the English fleet turn back after food and ammunition supplies run low.
- The Armada sets sail for home but are forced around Scotland and Ireland. Many ships are wrecked in storms and thousands of sailors drown.
- The surviving Spanish ships arrive back in Spain, but almost half of their fleet is lost.
- The English celebrate a major victory over Europe's superpower: Spain.

Casualties of battle

Both sides suffered casualties as a result of the Armada but English losses were relatively minor compared to those of the Spanish. England lost just 100 men compared the 20,000 men and 51 ships lost by the Spanish.

However, despite England's victory several thousand men died from illness and disease in the weeks following the battle.

How did England defeat the Spanish Armada?

Leaders	The Duke of Medina Sidonia led the Spanish fleet, but he was inexperienced in naval battle and so made some fatal errors in his planning and tactics.
Planning	The strength of the Spanish fleet came from its crescent formation plan – but when the English broke this up with their fire ships, the Spanish became vulnerable and exposed to attack.
No reinforcements	The Spanish plan relied on stopping to pick up the Duke of Parma's army to boost their numbers, but the fleet was unable to anchor and so never picked them up.
Tactics	Spanish tactics were to get close enough to English ships to board them, whereas the English tactic was to attack from a safe distance.
Ships	Spanish ships were slower and less equipped for the bad weather than the English ships.
Weapons	The English ships had cannon they could fire at a safe distance and could be reloaded quickly. The design of the Spanish cannon meant that they could only fire over short distances and were slow to re-load.
Weather	The lack of a secure port where the Spanish could take shelter meant that the Spanish ships were buffeted by the wind. The thinking was that God intervened and the windy weather was a sign that God was on Elizabeth's side.

Why did Spain go to war with England?

What caused the failure of the Armada?

What was the most important reason for their failure?

What does the Spanish Armada suggest about Elizabeth's power?

Paper 2 – Elizabethan England, 1568 -1603 quiz

- 1. Why did Elizabeth have a difficult childhood?**
- 2. How did Elizabeth encounter her first scandal during Edwards reign?**
- 3. How was Elizabeth treated during Mary's reign?**
- 4. Did her difficult childhood or poor relationships with her siblings benefit Elizabeth in any way?**
- 5. What controls did Parliament have in the Elizabethan period?**
- 6. How did Elizabeth keep parliament under her control and minimise their power?**
- 7. What is the privy council?**
- 8. How did Elizabeth change and control the privy council during her reign?**
- 9. What is the royal court?**
- 10. What other powerful roles were there in the Elizabethan court?**

11. Why was it a problem in the Elizabethan times to be a female ruler like Elizabeth?

12. Why was Elizabeth pushed to marry as soon as she became Queen?

13. King Philip of Spain was the first to propose, why was he not a good suitor?

14. Robert Dudley was also a candidate, what went wrong for this suitor?

15. The Duke of Alencon was another suitor, why was he not successful?

16. Who were Elizabeth's possible heirs? Why did she not name one when asked to?

17. Explain the Northern Rebellion and its outcome?

18. Explain the Ridolfi plot and its outcome?

19. Who was the Earl of Essex?

20. What caused the Essex rebellion?

21. What happened in the rebellion?

22. How did it end?

23. What was the effect and significance of this rebellion?

24. Why did plots fail against Elizabeth?

Quiz continued

1. What changed in fashion during the Elizabethan age?
2. Did Fashion change for all society or was it limited? Why?
3. How did architecture change during the Elizabethan age?
4. Who was the leading architect at the time?
5. What was featured heavily in new Elizabethan buildings? What did this represent?
6. How did the homes change inside during the Elizabethan era?
7. Did architecture change for all Elizabethans?
8. How dramatically did theatre change during the Elizabethan era?
9. Who enjoyed theatre?
10. Was it accessible for all?
11. What type of art was popular?

12. How did literature develop? Was it for all?

13. Who was Francis Drake?

14. What did he do?

15. Why did Elizabeth want to explore and voyage?

16. Who was John Hawkins?

17. What did he do?

18. Why did poverty increase during the Tudor period?

19. What was the approach to poverty before Elizabeth?

20. Elizabeth began with a little more sympathetic approach deciding there were two types of poor – what were they?

21. What different approaches occurred around the country? York? Norwich?

22. What did the Poor Law of 1601 outline?

23. What were its three categories of poor?

24. How effective was this poor law?

25. What evidence do you have that the Elizabethan era was a golden age?

26. What evidence do you have that it was not a golden age?

Continued

- 1. What was Elizabeth's religious settlement?**
- 2. Why did she decide to do this?**
- 3. What is the act of supremacy?**
- 4. What is the act of uniformity?**
- 5. Why did Elizabeth begin to repress Catholics more later in her reign?**
- 6. Why did puritans cause a problem for Elizabeth?**
- 7. How did she deal with this threat?**
- 8. Why was Mary Queen of Scots a problem for Elizabeth?**
- 9. Why was the Babington plot the final straw?**
- 10. What happened to MQS? How did Elizabeth feel about this?**
- 11. Why was there conflict between England and Spain?**

12. What was King Philips plan?

13. What mistakes did the Spanish make?

14. What was good about the English tactics?

15. Why was the weather important?

16. What was the aftermath and the significance of the defeat of the armada for Elizabeth?

Possible 16 Mark Questions – The Spanish Armada

1. The main reason for the cause of the Spanish Armada is religious difference. How far does a study of the Spanish Armada support this?

Factors

- Religious difference
- MQS
- Marriage proposal
- Papal Bull
- Sailors actions/raiding of Spanish ships
- The Netherlands

2. Superior tactics was the most important factor in the outcome of the Spanish Armada. How far does a study of the Spanish Armada support this?

Factors

- Superior tactics
- Leadership
- Better technology
- Luck
- Weather
- Battle plans

3. New naval technology was the reason for the success of British naval campaigns. How far does the Spanish Armada support this?

Factors

- **Spanish mistakes**
- **Naval technology**
- **English strengths**
- **Golden age**
- **Individuals**
- **Previous exhibitions**

Elizabethan England: Exam Help Tips

1. How convincing is Interpretation A about Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.(8 marks)

Paragraph 1 - *The interpretation is convincing because..... (Use own knowledge to support)*

Paragraph 2 - *The Interpretation is not convincing because.... (Use own knowledge to explain what information might be incorrect or missing)*

Conclusion – *Overall this interpretation is or is not convincing because.....*

2. Explain what was important about Mary, Queen of Scots during the Elizabethan period. (8 marks)

Explain 3 consequences in your answer. (3 paragraphs)

3. Write an account of the ways in which conflict with Spain affected Elizabethan England. (8 marks)

Write an **explanation.....**of the topic/policy in the question (3 paragraphs)

If it is about an event explain – **Causes, Events and Consequences**

4. **The English Channel/Spanish Armada (16 marks)**

'The main reason' How far does a support this statement? Explain your answer. You should refer to your contextual knowledge and the English Channel throughout.

Paragraph 1: **Factor named in the question.** Explain in **full detail** and link it to the question.

Paragraph 2/3/4: **Different/other factors** of your choice. Explain in **full detail** and link it to the question.

Conclusion: Explain that all factors were important. Then **Support or contradict** with the statement in the question and explain your **decision**.

8 mark interpretation questions



An interpretation of the Spanish fleet anchored at Calais being attacked by an English fireship.

How convincing is interpretation A about the reasons for the defeat of the Spanish Armada?

Explain your answer using interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

Interpretation B

From a letter written by William Cecil to his son shortly before his death, summing up the nature of his relationship with Elizabeth.

I do hold, and always will, this course in such matters as I differ in opinion from Her Majesty; as long as I may be allowed to give advice I will not change my opinion, but as a servant I will obey Her Majesty's commandment, presuming that she be God's chief minister here, it shall be God's will to have her commandments obeyed.

How convincing is interpretation B in studying Elizabeth's relationship with her privy council?

Explain your answer using interpretation B and your contextual knowledge.

Interpretation C

J. Hurstfield, 'Elizabeth and the unity of England', 1960

Marriage and motherhood would deprive her temporarily – perhaps permanently – of the authority and power to rule. To share power she would hate. To renounce it she would find intolerable.

How convincing is interpretation C about Elizabeth's reasons not to marry?

Explain your answer using interpretation C and your contextual knowledge.



Interpretation D

The 'Armada' portrait symbolises the imperial power of Elizabeth

How convincing is interpretation D about the influence of culture in Elizabethan England?

Explain your answer using interpretation D and your contextual knowledge.



Interpretation E

An Elizabethan beggar appealing to a nobleman

How convincing is interpretation E about the attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan times?

Explain your answer using interpretation E and your contextual knowledge.

Interpretation F

Extracts from the Papal Bull excommunicating Elizabeth in 1570

Elizabeth, the pretended Queen of England and the servant of crime has monstrously usurped the place of Supreme Head of the Church in all England, reducing that said kingdom into a miserable and ruinous condition. We declare the aforesaid Elizabeth as being a HERETIC and to have incurred the sentence of excommunication. We do command and challenge all people not to obey her.

How convincing in interpretation F about the reasons for Catholic uprisings against Elizabeth?

Explain your answer using interpretation F and your contextual knowledge.

Explain – 8 mark questions

1. Explain the importance of Elizabeth's young life before she became Queen.

2. Explain why culture was important in the Elizabethan era.

3. Explain the importance of exploration during the Elizabethan era.

4. Explain the importance of changes to the system of poor relief.

5. Explain the importance of the religious settlement during Elizabethan times

6. Explain what was important about the Papal Bull of 1570

7. Explain the importance of the Spanish Armada attack on England

8. Explain what was important about the privy council in Elizabeth's reign

9. Explain what was important about new ideas and fashion in Elizabethan England

10. Explain what was important about the gentry in Elizabethan times

11. Explain what was important about population growth in the Elizabethan period.

12. Explain what was important about Mary Queen of Scots' presence in England between 1568 and 1587

3. Write an account of how uprising against Elizabeth were dealt with.

4. Write an account of how England began exploration during the Elizabethan era.

5. Write an account of how the issue of poverty was dealt with during the Elizabethan era

6. Write an account of the issues surround the religious settlement in Elizabethan times.

7. Write an account of the Catholic uprisings against Elizabeth

8. Write an account of why the Spanish launched their Armada

9. Write an account of the ways in which the system of political patronage helped Elizabeth to govern England.

10. Write an account of the ways in which the Earl of Essex affected England

11. Write an account of the ways in which Elizabeth used propaganda to strengthen her rule

12. Write an account of the ways in which Sir Walter Raleigh affected Elizabethan England
[Same question could apply to Drake and Hawkins.]

13. Write an account of the ways in which Puritans posed a challenge to Elizabeth

14. Write an account of the ways in which Elizabeth and her government enforced the religious settlement.

Possible 16 Mark Questions – The Spanish Armada

1. The main reason for the cause of the Spanish Armada is religious difference. How far does a study of the Spanish Armada support this?

Factors

- Religious difference
- MQS
- Marriage proposal
- Papal Bull
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Factors

- **Spanish mistakes**
- **Naval technology**
- **English strengths**
- **Golden age**
- **Individuals**
- **Previous exhibitions**

**KEEP CALM
AND REVISE
THE SPANISH
ARMADA!
GOOD LUCK!**