

Name

ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND

revision guide

Briefly describe the problems Elizabeth faced at the beginning of her reign.

Elizabeth faced the problem of religion as the country was divided between both Protestant and Catholic. Elizabeth had to deal with the prejudiced ideas of the role and limitations of women which undermined her authority. Economic difficulties included the decline of the cloth industry, inflation and unemployment, which in turn led to greater poverty and vagrancy. The country was poor and England was also at war with Catholic France which led to increased taxation.

PARLIAMENT

Parliament's role was to advise the monarch, pass laws and raise taxes, especially for war. MP'S were prejudiced in their attitude to Elizabeth and saw her as weak and indecisive in dealing with Catholics and the question of her marriage. Elizabeth was rarely interested in the opinions of her Members of Parliament. One exception was in 1586, when Elizabeth summoned Parliament to ask its view of whether she should execute Mary, Queen of Scots. Its role became more important as a result of the Spanish Armada and the social legislation needed to deal with poverty. Arguments about monopolies in 1601 resulted in Elizabeth's 'Golden Speech' promising reform.

LOYALTY

Briefly describe how Elizabeth used portraits.

Elizabeth used portraits, as a form of propaganda, to create a public image of herself as a powerful queen or to celebrate her achievements. Portraits were symbolic rather than true representations, such as the Rainbow Portrait. After 1563 only official government portraits were allowed and after 1596 any unseemly portraits were destroyed. Portraits were displayed by nobles, in their houses, to show loyalty. However, most people would only see the portrait on coins and medals.

Explain why Elizabeth went on progresses.

Elizabeth went on progresses to visit and develop her relationship with nobles to ensure loyalty. It was also a way of saving money as the nobles had to pay the costs of her visit. However, staged routes were publicised so as many ordinary people could see her. This allowed Elizabeth to develop a relationship with them and create a positive popular image. However, she never travelled west of Bristol or north of Stafford where loyalty and control were uncertain. Elizabeth also held carefully planned parades in London on significant dates or festivals as demonstrations of loyalty.

POVERTY

Briefly describe the activities of vagabonds.

Many rogues and sturdy beggars wandered around the countryside in large groups terrorising, robbing and stealing from the villages that passed through. Others vagabonds worked individually or in small groups. These included; beggars such as Clapper dudgeons and Counterfeit Cranks who pretend-lame/ill soap/epileptic, while Anglers and Bawdy Baskets specialised in stealing food and clothing.

Explain why the number of poor people increased during Elizabeth's reign.

There was an increase in the poor people because landowners started to keep sheep instead of growing crops while many people lost their land because of enclosures. This led to an increase in unemployment. A rising population and economic factors such as the decline of the cloth trade, the debasement of the coinage and inflation. Poor harvests in the 1590's led to widespread famine. The dissolution of the monasteries had also removed the only support available to poor people which made the problem worse.

'By the end of the reign the authorities were dealing successfully with the problem of poverty.' How far do you agree with this statement?

Explain your answer.

There was a great deal of success in dealing with poverty. There was recognition that the 'deserving poor' needed help and this led to a number of poor laws to provide for the poor in the parishes. In 1572 all people pay had to contribute to a local poor rate to help the deserving poor. In 1597 every parish had to elect an Overseer of the Poor to administer the system of doles for outdoor relief and indoor relief in almshouses and workhouses. The Poor Law of 1601 brought together all the measures to create a national system. It was a fair system run for and administered by local people and it lasted for hundreds of years. Despite widespread poverty there was no rebellion against Elizabeth. Many towns such as London, Liverpool, Norwich, Bristol set up set up their own corporations of the poor.

However, poverty continued to rise, there were riots, the poor harvests in the 1590s caused famine people starving to death. The poor rates often raised less money than charity; still much to be done. Vagabonds were punished harshly, whipped and returned to their parish, branded with ear boring or for repeat offending, executed. Houses of Correction were introduced for the undeserving poor unwilling to work.

RELIGION

Briefly describe the religious situation in England at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign.

The religious situation at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign was very difficult. The country was divided between Catholics and Protestants. The Catholic Queen Mary was unpopular with many but the Catholic faith was still strong, especially in the North. She also faced demands from Protestants who hoped she would establish their faith and from Puritans returning from Europe

Explain why the Puritans were dissatisfied with Elizabeth's religious settlement of 1559.

Puritans had returned from exile in Europe with radical ideas and a hatred of Catholicism. They were dissatisfied because they had wanted the Church to be reformed and to remove the Catholic ideas of Mary's reign. Elizabeth did not want a confrontation with Catholics and so her religious settlement was a compromise. There were still many Catholic remnants left such as bishops, vestments, decorations and music in churches.

'The Elizabethan government dealt with the Catholics more successfully than it dealt with the Puritans.'

How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Puritans

Elizabeth's government dealt successfully with the Puritans through strict policies and punishments. Edward Grindal, the Archbishop of Canterbury tried to protect Puritans but he was suspended and when he died he was replaced by John Whitgift who brought in stricter policies against the Puritans. Some were expelled from the church, some arrested and imprisoned. MPs such as Strickland and Cope who introduced bills to reform the church were arrested. Writers such as Stubbs received harsh punishments.

Many Puritans, although they disagreed with Elizabeth's policies, knew she was preferable to the Catholic Mary Stuart. Some Puritans such as the separatists were determined not to accept Elizabeth's settlement but they were few in number. When they produced the Marprelate Tracts, which attacked the church, Elizabeth responded with a crackdown on Puritans with arrests and executions. After 1590 the Puritans were no longer a threat.

Catholics

The Catholic Queen Mary had been unpopular with many but the Catholic faith was still strong, especially in the North. Elizabeth initially had a policy of

leniency and tolerance towards Catholics wanting to avoid confrontation. However, the Papal Bull of 1570 and rebellions and plots, such as the Northern Rebellion, 1569, The Rudolphi Plot, 1571, and the Throckmorton Plot, 1583 saw the Catholic threat increase. Elizabeth was seen as weak and indecisive in her response.

Elizabeth's response changed from 1580 with the arrival of the Jesuits, such as Campion, who provided leadership for Catholic resistance. They also hoped to convert people back to Catholicism. Elizabeth now took a harsher response. Following the Babington Plot, of 1586 and the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, Catholicism was now seen as a political threat. Jesuits were executed as traitors. Catholic recusants were heavily fined, had their land confiscated or were imprisoned. Greater use was made of spies and informers.

Over time Catholic influences and ideas faded and many Catholics conformed, wanting to show loyalty. By the end of Elizabeth's reign the number of Catholics had declined significantly, with few new converts. The Catholic threat was often exaggerated but was greater than that of the Puritans.

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Briefly describe the events leading up to Mary, Queen of Scots arriving in England in 1568.

Mary was implicated, by the casket letters, in the death of her husband Darnley and caused a scandal by marrying Bothwell, the chief suspect. Following a loss of support from both Catholic and Protestant nobles and a rebellion against her she was forced to abdicate the Scottish throne in 1567. She was imprisoned but escaped and after a failed attempt to regain the throne she fled to England in 1568.

Explain why Elizabeth faced demands in 1572 to have Mary, Queen of Scots executed. (Do not allow events after 1572)

'Elizabeth did not deal very well with the threat posed by Mary, Queen of Scots.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

'Mary, Queen of Scots was never a serious threat to Elizabeth's position as Queen of England.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Mary was seen by English Catholics as the rightful ruler with a legitimate claim to the throne. She had the support of English Catholic nobles and the Kings of France and later, Spain and the Pope. For the next 19 years Mary was placed under house arrest and moved around to prevent her becoming a figurehead for revolt. However, she became the focus for plots and conspiracies.

- In 1569 the Northern Catholic nobles planned to seize Mary Q of S, march to London, make her Queen and re-establish the Catholic religion. The rebellion was easily put down.
In 1570 the Pope issued a Papal bull declaring Elizabeth "**to be a heretic and releasing all her subjects from any allegiance to her and excommunicating any that obeyed her orders**" It was issued in support of, but following the rebellion with the support of Mary Q of S.

- The Ridolfi Plot in 1571, Ridolfi had secured the help of the Spanish Duke of Alba and 10,000 soldiers to overthrow Elizabeth. However, the plan for the Duke of Norfolk to marry Mary, a former Queen of France and then establish her as Queen undermined Spanish support and the plot failed.

There were demands by Parliament to have Mary executed. Although there was evidence linking Mary to the plot Elizabeth did not have her executed. Elizabeth was unwilling to execute a member of her family and believed it was against principle of Divine Right of Kings which said monarchs were answerable only to God and could set a precedent. She was also worried that the consequences of executing Mary could lead to a Catholic rebellion or a Spanish invasion.

However, it allowed the problem to continue and Elizabeth was seen as weak and indecisive. Mary was a constant threat and while she was alive Elizabeth was never safe. The plots continued;

- The Throckmorton Plot 1583 - English Catholics planned to rebel and make Mary Queen with Spanish help
- The Babington Plot. 1586 - Babington and his men planned to kill Elizabeth and replace her with Mary. Mary was implicated when her secret letter to Babington was intercepted by Walsingham.

In October 1586 Mary was tried for treason, found guilty and executed on 8th February 1587

Who was more of a threat to Elizabeth, the Earl of Essex or Mary, Queen of Scots? Explain your answer.

Robert Devereux, the Earl of Essex, was an English nobleman and a politically ambitious former favourite of Elizabeth I. He had been placed under house arrest following a poor campaign in Ireland in 1599 and then lost his income when Elizabeth removed his monopoly on sweet wines. He had been totally dependent on Elizabeth for jobs, money, favours.

On the 8th February 1601 with only 300 supporters he led an abortive coup d'état against the government which failed. He only had 300 supporters many who quickly surrendered. He did not have enough powerful supporters the people of London failed to support him. The rebellion easily defeated. He was executed for treason.

THEATRE

Briefly describe what an Elizabethan theatre looked like.

'Elizabethan theatres were different from theatres today. Features might include:



- Raised stage projects into the yard,
- No curtains or scenery, open to the sky,
- Galleries were covered seats where the rich sat,

- Poor, groundlings, stood in the yard or pit (*They talked all through the performance and might even throw things at the actors*)

Explain how playwrights and actors solved the problems of putting on plays in Elizabethan theatres.

They found this very difficult because they did not have all the advantages of a modern theatre.

Methods include:

- Content of plays designed for all sections of audience, sub-plots used to appeal to particular groups,
- Female characters had to be played by men,
- Dramatic starts were used to get audience's attention as there were no curtains.
- The playwrights had to use words to tell the audience all kinds of things that would not be necessary today
- For example there was no artificial lighting so words were used to say what time it was and as there was no scenery, words had to be used to set the scene.

'During Elizabeth's reign the theatre was a popular and harmless source of entertainment? How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Elizabethan theatres were very popular with all levels of society, even Queen Elizabeth liked plays. They gave enjoyment to a lot of people, especially with cheap tickets to the poor, produced the works of Shakespeare and contributed to a golden age of culture in England.

However, Elizabethan theatre was certainly not harmless or popular with everyone. Plays were sometimes, like, '*The Isle of Dogs*', used to convey dangerous political and religious messages. Censorship laws were introduced in 1572. Theatres, with so many people (3,000 1.5% London pop), could help spread disease and were places where prostitutes and pickpockets operated causing problems for the authorities trying to keep law and order. Theatres could also be used as bear pits and for gambling. The theatres only managed to stay open because they were outside the power of the City of London authorities who would have closed them down.' Puritans saw dangers in the theatre

'The theatre was more important to Elizabethan England than the voyages of exploration.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Examples include: agree – gave enjoyment to a lot of people, produced the work of Shakespeare, contributed to a golden age of culture in England; disagree - establishment of colonies, improved the quality of the navy and sailors, helped defence, trade help make England richer.

The voyages of exploration were far more important. Through the voyages of exploration England was able to increase its trade. It set up trading

companies and imported silk and tea and timber. This all helped England become richer.'

THE SPANISH ARMADA

Explain why Philip of Spain sent the Armada.

Spain sent the Armada against England because Philip wanted to make Protestant England into a Catholic country. He was angry at Elizabeth's refusal to marry him and the execution of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots. Furthermore, the English were also helping the Protestant Dutch fight against Spain, while English sailors attacked Spanish settlements and treasure ships in the 'New World'. The Armada would land a Spanish army in England, help the English Catholics rebel against Elizabeth leading to a Catholic take over.

Explain why the English navy was able to defeat the Armada.

The English were able to defeat the Armada because their ships, cannons and tactics, such as the use of fire ships, were much better. Their ships had long-range guns, were faster and more manoeuvrable and could fire at the Spanish ships without getting close to them. The Spanish ships were larger but slower and they also had a lot of slower merchant ships to carry all their supplies. They also lacked a safe port in northern waters. The Duke of Medina Sidonia was a poor leader. However, the most important reason was the weather, especially the storms which led to the destruction of the Armada.

Describe what happened to the Spanish Armada.

The Armada was delayed by Drake's attack on Cadiz in 1587 and damaged by storms May in 1588.

When the Armada of 130 ships was spotted in the English channel, beacons were lit. It was attacked by the English fleet but little damage was done.

The Armada anchored at Calais where it was attacked by fireships and then by the English fleet at the Battle of Gravelines.

The Armada was blown into North Sea and had to return passing around Scotland and Ireland. Many ships were wrecked by storms and on rocks. Only 67 ships returned to Spain

VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

Explain why English sailors went on voyages of exploration.

English sailors, such as Cabot, Hawkins and Drake, went on voyages of exploration because they were competing for control of the seas with Catholic Spain. They set up colonies in the 'New World' as well as attacking the Spanish treasure fleet and colonies to gain a share of the wealth they provide. They were encouraged in this by Elizabeth. They also wanted to improve England's trade with the rest of the world. New trading companies, such as the East India Company, traded with India in silks and spices and helped make England a much wealthier country. Many Elizabethan explorers were also searching for personal adventure, wealth and glory, eg. Drake's circumnavigation of the world. New navigational instruments eg compass and the development of faster ships made such exploration possible.

'Drake was a pirate and not a hero.'

How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Hero – (From the English point of view) He was a brilliant sailor and his circumnavigation of the world crossing the Pacific and Indian Oceans in 1577-80 in the 'Golden Hind' (5) made him a national hero for which he was knighted. He brought back lots of wealth from his attacks on Spanish treasure ships and settlements which made him popular with Elizabeth. He carried out a successful attack against the Armada at Cadiz in 1587 and was Vice Admiral of the fleet that helped defeat the Armada in 1588.

However, his later career less successful, he was not popular with many English nobles and he was also involved in the early slave trade. His execution of Thomas Doughty for mutiny was controversial.

Pirate (From the Spanish point of view) His attacks on Spanish treasure ships and Spanish settlements to steal gold and silver meant that for Philip of Spain he was seen as a pirate.

<http://www.indrakeswake.co.uk/Education/gcse.htm>

1. Why did the English people regard Sir Francis Drake as a hero?

You need to mention his voyages:

- Nombre de Dios 1572
- the circumnavigation 1577-80
- Cádiz 1587
- the defeat of the Spanish Armada 1588

and what they achieved for England: in terms of money, security, respect, fame.

You need to think of Drake the man, what aspects of his personality made him popular. Remember he cared for those who were dependent on him; he was: kind, funny and witty, generous, a good speaker and humane. Also the ordinary people adopted him as their hero because he was not from the middle or upper classes. He was a working man's son who by his own efforts achieved knighthood for sailing around the world. Therefore he became a gentleman and was the only Elizabethan to do so. He gave the English sailors the confidence to believe in the power and ability of the English navy to defeat our enemies. Drake gave the ordinary working Elizabethan a role model; if he could achieve a high level of success then many others could be social climbers. Drake never forgot his origins and responded to people, showing them that he was a people person. Moreover, he was ambitious and arrogant with the upper classes. The ordinary English people love a hero who is slightly wayward and, most importantly, he had made a fool of England's major enemy - Spain.

For extra marks you need to acknowledge that not everybody liked Drake. A small minority of merchants felt that Drake's hostile acts would disrupt trade with Spain. Some members of the upper-classes, especially the older members of the aristocracy, regarded him as a low-born, common, arrogant upstart.

2. Why did the Spaniards regard Sir Francis Drake as a villain?

You need to describe how Drake:

- robbed their ships
- sacked their towns,
- made a fool of Catholic Spain in the eyes of the Pope and the rest of Europe
- showed Europe that Spain was not the superpower it thought it was.

3. Was Sir Francis Drake a villain, a hero or an explorer?

The examiner will expect to read that Drake was a mixture of all three. Thus you need to consider the points for the previous two questions, plus evidence to prove that he was great explorer.

- Drake's captive Portuguese pilot during the world voyage wrote that Drake was a great navigator. Three-quarters of the world voyage was navigated without reliable charts.
- Drake steered the Golden Hind through the Strait of Magellan in a mere sixteen days. The Golden Hind held this record until the 20th century. This sea passage is one of the most dangerous stretches of water in the world.
- Drake discovered Cape Horn, Chile and Nova Albion in California.
- Drake discovered that the fabled Strait of Anian was impassable from the Pacific side of America.
- Drake was the first English captain to sail a ship across the Pacific Ocean and around the world.
- It was Drake's intimate navigational knowledge of the English Channel that helped the English navy to defeat the Spanish Armada.

4. Why did some people in the past and also some people in the present have such different opinions about Sir Francis Drake?

There are many different views expressed about him in the primary sources. Obviously King Philip II hated Drake but Queen Elizabeth admired him. Some Spanish commanders spoke well of him. The queen's courtiers, Walsingham, Hatton and Leicester genuinely liked him. The majority of the English people liked and admired Sir Francis Drake, along with his ships' officers and crews who furthermore truly respected him. He was loved by his West Country friends and the citizens of Plymouth. He seems to have been happily married twice. Even the Pope had a great deal of respect for Drake and wished that he were a Catholic.

Some of the upper-classes, as we have seen, did not like Drake, and showed it. Drake had the confidence to respond to their distain and contempt with arrogance and self-glorification, to conceal his discomfort. Drake often made "tongue in cheek, off the cuff" remarks and people formed a misguided view of him. Hence some of the ruling elite saw the worst facets of his character.

He is condemned as a slave-trader, simply because he participated as a junior officer on three voyages. Drake's prime motive was to gain oceanic sailing experience. Once he had achieved this, he resorted to the more humane profession of privateering. He was the first white man to work on equal terms with black people and took every opportunity to free slaves from their Spanish masters. The escaped black slaves of 1573 in Panamá revered Drake.

Drake is unjustifiably labelled as a pirate since this is the first common word that people can think of. Drake was a privateer which was a legal profession until 1902.

MEMORY

Key words

Organise

Retrieve? Imagination and association
Rehearse!!

WRITTEN ANSWER

Subject vocabulary used effectively
Well structured with appropriate form and style of writing
Sentence lengths, paragraphs, connectives
Good use of spelling, punctuation and grammar

Portraits Propaganda Image Powerful Achievements Symbolic Accurate Armada Rainbow 1563 Official 1596 Destroyed Nobles Houses Loyalty Coins Medals	Progresses Relationships Nobles Loyalty Saving Plague Staged Publicised Ordinary Image Bristol Stafford Loyalty? Control? Parades London Festivals
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RELIGION

<u>Puritans</u> Dissatisfied Exile Europe Radical Hatred Reformed Remove Confrontation Settlement Compromise Remnants Bishops Vestments Decorations Music	<u>Catholics</u> Many North Initially Leniency Tolerance Confrontation Papal Bull 1570 Northern 1569 Rudolfi 1571 Throckmorton 1583
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Deal Policies Punishments Expelled Imprisoned Execute Archbishop of Canterbury Grindal Whitgift MP's Reform Strickland Cope Writers Stubbs Most Preferable Accept Separatists Martprelate Tracts Crackdown 1590	Change Jesuits Leadership Converts Political Traitors Campion Babington 1586 Mary, Queen of Scots Recusants Fined Confiscated Spies Informers Faded Conformed Exaggerated
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