IN UNITY WE SUCCEED
ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

History Knowledge Organiser
Elizabethan England c.1568-1603 Elizabeth's court and Parliament

Who had the power?

Who had the power in Elizabethan England?

Parliament
House of Lords – Lords, bishops and members of the nobility.
House of Commons – 'common' people but wealthy and educated
Less powerful than today but had an influence over tax and passed laws. The queen decided when to call them and how much to listen.

Privy Council
Usually 12 men who took responsibility for the day-to-day running of the country and were her main advisers. Elizabeth chose who was a member so picked men of power and influence to avoid rebellion. They dealt with issues including religious, military, foreign affairs and the queen's security. They rarely agreed but if they did it was hard for Elizabeth to refuse. It was led by the Secretary of State.

Lord Lieutenants
Appointed by the queen to be responsible for an area of the country. They solved disputes and collected taxes. If a militia was needed to fight for the queen it was their job to raise it. Many of them were also Lord Lieutenants. It could lead to great power and influence.

The Royal Court
Around 1000 nobles, government officials, ladies-in-waiting, servants and advisors who surrounded Elizabeth. It was a centre of political power, trends and fashions. The Privy Council was a key part of the court. Elizabeth could ensure loyalty through patronage – giving titles, places, power and rewards.

Justices of the Peace
Also known as JPs. Each county had several to keep order. They were selected from local gentry and their job was to enforce the laws passed by Parliament. They could send a person to prison but more than one had to agree to a death penalty. They swore to treat rich and poor equally.

Elizabeth's problems

Elizabeth's problems

Succession
A successful monarch produces heirs but for them to be legitimate Elizabeth would have to marry. In 1562 Elizabeth nearly died of smallpox. This drew attention to the marriage and succession question. Parliament were worried about what would happen if a Elizabeth died without an heir. Who should she marry?

Mary Queen of Scots
Until Elizabeth had an heir Mary was the next heir to the throne of England. She was Elizabeth's cousin, catholic but exiled from Scotland in 1568. While she was alive she was a threat to Elizabeth and the subject of potential plots to replace Elizabeth.

Religion
Her father Henry had broken from Rome to get a divorce. Her brother Edward had been a strict Protestant. Her sister Mary (bloody) executed 300 Protestants for refusing to change their faith. She was a Protestant who wanted to settle the religious problems but had to deal with Catholics, Protestants and Puritans.

Ireland
Elizabeth considered herself to be Queen of Ireland. Many os the Irish disagreed and in 1559 there was the first of several revolts in Northern Ireland. She spent thousands and sent many of her best soldiers to deal with this but without success.

Taxation
During Elizabeth's reign there was a time of great poverty. This made it difficult to collect the taxes she needed to run the county. New taxes would be unpopular and she had to consider how dangerous it could be for her as a new monarch.

Foreign policy
France and Spain were both Catholic, had the support of the Pope and wanted influence over England. They saw Protestant England as a threat. King Philip of Spain had ruled England when he was married to Mary Tudor. The Netherlands was a Protestant population in conflict with Catholic Spain. Should she help them? These were issues she would have to deal with.

Key individuals

Queen Elizabeth I - single female ruler at a time when men had the power. Was very intelligent but had a difficult childhood.

William Cecil Secretary of State twice. Most trusted advisor. Key role in developing the Poor Laws and new religious policies.

Francis Walsingham - Secretary of State and one of her closest advisors until his death in 1573. Elizabeth's spymaster with 'eyes and ears' everywhere. Played role in the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Key dates

1533	Elizabeth born to Anne Boleyn
1558	Crowned Queen of England following the death of her sister Mary
1569	The Northern Rebellion
1571	The Ridolfi Plot
1586	The Babington Plot
1587	Mary Queen of Scots executed
1588	The Spanish Armada
1601	Essex's rebellion
1603	Elizabeth dies

KEY VOCABULARY/ TERMS

Inherit, treason, privy council, Secretary of State, patronage, succession, heir, rebellion, Catholic, Protestant, Puritan, Foreign policy, JPs, taxation, Lord Lieutenants, Royal Court.

IN UNITY WE SUCCEED
ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

History Knowledge Organiser
Elizabethan England c1568-1603

Key words

Make sure you understand what each word means and try to use it in a practice answer.

Write an account… 8 marks

- Write an account of the problems Elizabeth faced in the first ten years of her reign.
- Write an account of the career of the Earl of Essex.
- Write an account of a rebellion you have studied that took place in Elizabeth's reign.

Explain… 8 marks

- Explain what was important about the Privy Council.
- Explain what was important about Elizabeth's decision regarding her marriage.

How convincing is interpretation...about… 8 marks

- How convincing is Interpretation C about the reasons why Elizabeth did not get married? Explain your answer using Interpretation C and your contextual knowledge.

Interpretation C Written by the historian Hugh Oakleley Arnold-Forster, in A History of England 1898

"Who was the queen's husband to be, and what power was he to have over the government of the country? If he were a foreigner there was no knowling what power he might get over the Queen, power which he would very likely use forth egos of a foreign country and not the good of England. On the other hand, if he were an Englishman, he must but chosen from among the queen's subjects, and then it was certain that there would be jealousy and strife among all the great nobles in the country when they saw one of their number picked out and made king over them."