

AQA GCSE History

Elizabethan

England



1. Background and character (ASO)
2. Propaganda (ASO)
3. Court (ASO)
4. Religious settlement (ASO)
5. Marriage (ASO)
6. Q1 Technique- interpretations
7. Norfolk (ASO)
8. Q3 Technique- Write an account
9. Catholic threat (KBO)
10. MQofS (ASO)
11. Puritans (KBO)
12. Wealth and fashion (ASO)
13. Theatre (ASO)
14. Q2 Technique- Explain
15. Causes of poverty (KBO)
16. Response to poverty (KBO)
17. Drake (KBO)
18. Raleigh (KBO)
19. War with Spain (KBO)
20. Naval warfare (KBO)
21. Spanish Armada (KBO)
22. Decline (Essex)

- 24-29- Hardwick Hall

- 30- Assessment

Key event	Date	None	Slight	Partial	Moderate	Substantial	Significant	Extreme
Elizabeth comes to the throne								
Elizabeth signs the Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis and makes peace with France								
Elizabeth agrees her Religious Settlement, which is a 'middle way'								
Mary, Queen of Scots becomes Queen of France								
King Francis of France dies, and Mary is widowed aged 18								
Catholic Mary returns to Protestant Scotland								
The Pope instructs Catholics to not attend Church of England services								
In the Netherlands, Protestants rebel against Spanish rule								
Mary, Queen of Scots is forced to abdicate in favour of her son, and is imprisoned								
Catholic King Philip of Spain sends a large army to the Protestant Netherlands								
Mary, Queen of Scots flees Scotland and is imprisoned after arriving in England								
The Catholic Revolt of the Northern Earls fails								
The Pope excommunicates Elizabeth								
The Catholic Ridolfi plot against Elizabeth fails								
Elizabeth hires Francis Drake as a privateer, he captures £40,000 of Spanish silver								
Protestants in the Netherlands rebel against Spanish rule again								
The Spanish army mutinies in the Netherlands after months without pay								
The Pacification of Ghent is signed by the Netherlands expelling Spanish troops								
Philip sends another army to the Netherlands, Elizabeth pays mercenaries to help Protestants								
Francis Drake sets off to the New World to find treasure and attack the Spanish								

Lesson 1- Elizabeth's background and character

Task 1: Read the information below and highlight anything that happens that you think will have an impact on Elizabeth in later life.

Elizabeth was born in 1533, the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, she was instantly a disappointment as she was not the son and heir that her parents- namely her father- was hopeful for. Henry VIII had fallen for Anne Boleyn many years prior when she was serving as his then wife, Katherine of Aragon's lady in waiting. Katherine and Henry had been married for 16 years and they had one daughter together- Mary Tudor- but she had failed to give him a son. However, as a catholic Henry had to have permission from the Pope in order to annul his marriage, and the Pope refused. This led to the Reformation and the creation of the Church of England, the Protestant church. Henry declared himself head of this church and granted his own annulment which left him free to marry Anne, who was already pregnant with Elizabeth. Anne was a devoted mother who breastfed Elizabeth herself, something that Henry frowned upon as it was most irregular for higher class women at the time. She was also the Queen of England however, and so was busy with public engagements. Elizabeth was only 3 months old therefore when she was sent to live in her own house with her own staff, only seeing her mother when public engagements allowed. However, things soon turned sour between Henry and Anne, and after 2 years of marriage and as many subsequent failed pregnancies, Henry accused her of 22 counts of adultery and ordered her execution. Eleven of these accusations have since been proved to be incorrect, and considering the lack of evidence for the others, it is likely that they are too. Anne was beheaded on 19th May 1536 when Elizabeth was only 2 years old. It is not clear when Elizabeth was informed of her mother's fate, however she was a very astute young lady and when Henry VIII declared her illegitimate after Anne's demise, she noticed how her servants had gone from calling her 'Lady Princess' one day, and 'Lady Elizabeth' the next, and so it is likely that she was aware from a very young age. She only made two references to Anne Boleyn in her adult life. Henry still provided for Elizabeth, but her life was far from the luxury we would imagine. Her maids would often have to ask Henry to buy clothes for her as she had outgrown her current dresses and we didn't think to buy her new ones. Further trauma occurred during her early life when she was only 8 years old and her father's new wife, Katherine Howard, was executed for adultery. This was when Elizabeth told her friend Robert Dudley, "I will never marry." It is important to note that there is no evidence that this was a stance that she took as Queen, but we must appreciate the influence that this will have had on her later life. Despite being shunned by her father, he did provide her with an education befitting to a Renaissance prince, and she was educated alongside her brother, Edward, in the Protestant faith. Throughout her life she set aside 3 hours a day for reading historical texts. Her young life found some stability following the death of her father (with whom she did manage to reconcile with prior to his death) when she went to live with his final wife Katherine Parr. Katherine was the closest figure to a mother Elizabeth had, and she nurtured her education. Unfortunately this safety didn't last long and Katherine's new husband took a liking to the young Elizabeth. It is not clear how far their relationship went, but Elizabeth was sent from Katherine's house, to protect her marriage and the young Elizabeth's image. Katherine died in childbirth soon after and Seymour was later convicted of plotting to kill the King during Edward's reign and condemned to death. In 1553, the Catholic Mary Tudor (Elizabeth's half-sister) came to the throne following the death of Elizabeth's half-brother, Edward VI, at only 16. The following year in 1554 Elizabeth was sent to the Tower of London for her alleged involvement in Wyatt's rebellion to replace Mary with the Protestant Elizabeth. Here she spent 3 months, thinking that every day her execution would be ordered by her sister. She was eventually released and ascended to the throne herself in 1558 at the age of 25. Elizabeth has been described as thrifty, unusually tolerant for the age (despite her redheaded temper), she changed her mind more times than men deemed necessary, she put off decisions, she suffered from panic attacks, disliked loud noises, and viewed other women as a threat. Is it any wonder?

Task 2: Summarise how you think Elizabeth's early life may impact her decisions as Queen.

Life in Tudor England

Historians studying the Elizabethan Era primarily focus on the wealthy nobles, who comprised only about 3% of the population. Limited first-hand records exist for the majority of Elizabethans, mainly from the lower classes, leading to a gap in understanding their daily lives characterised by poverty, lack of education, and hard work.

Economy

In the Middle Ages, England's working classes faced challenging lives under the feudal system, where powerful lords governed rural districts comprising peasant families, who performed the majority of labour in farming. The Black Death in 1348 disrupted the farming economy, causing widespread death and leading to a shortage of labour. By the early sixteenth century, labourers could demand better conditions, and some peasants seized the opportunity to become landowners as vacant lands became available.

In the early sixteenth century, England's cloth-making industry became highly profitable, leading landowners to prioritise raising sheep for wool over traditional crop planting. This economic shift displaced many peasants as lands were fenced off for sheep, forcing them to move to prospering cities. However, the new industries offered limited opportunities for unskilled labourers, resulting in low wages and widespread unemployment among the displaced peasants.

The Rise of Cities and Towns

Elizabeth I's reign saw a significant population increase in England from 2.8 million to 4.1 million, with urban areas experiencing a higher growth rate, reaching about 15% of the population. The rise of businesses and industries created a new middle class, including successful merchants and craftsmen, leading to remarkable changes in cities like London. However, the urban poor faced harsh conditions, with crowded and unsanitary living conditions, widespread disease, and limited opportunities for employment, resulting in increased crime and desperation.

Poor Laws

Elizabethan Parliament enacted poor laws assigning the responsibility of caring for the poor to local parishes, funded by property owners' contributions. The laws distinguished between the "deserving poor" (sick, elderly, orphans) and the "undeserving poor," with punishment for the latter.

Enforcement included legal designation of homes, making it difficult for vagrants to establish residency, leading to punishments like public whippings and return to their home village.

Education

During Elizabeth I's reign, England saw the development of an extensive educational system, resulting in a considerable increase in literacy rates. While education was not universally accessible, the rate of literacy rose from one-fifth to about one-third of the population by Elizabeth's death. Nobility hired top scholars as tutors, while public schools, mainly for boys of the middle class, provided educational opportunities, albeit at a cost. In cities, even some working-class parents managed to spare their sons from full-time work, allowing a growing number of them to attend school for basic literacy skills.

Schooling

Children aged five to seven attended petty schools during Elizabethan times, usually run by educated local women, often the wives of town nobles, in their homes. At petty schools, boys and a few girls learned to read and write English, received instruction on Christian values, and were taught proper behaviour, including practical matters like table manners. The schools were rigorous, starting early in the morning and lasting until sundown, with beatings being a common disciplinary method. Petty schools served as preparation for grammar schools.

Elizabethan petty school students used hornbooks, simple textbooks with a paper covered by a transparent sheet of animal horn, to learn the alphabet, the Lord's Prayer, and basic words in English. Grammar schools, attended from ages seven to fourteen, focused on teaching Latin,

preparing students for university education where all studies were conducted in Latin. University education during Elizabeth's time expanded to include more middle-class boys, and some sons of humble craftsmen attended on scholarships, studying liberal arts, philosophy, rhetoric, poetry, natural history, religion, medicine, and law.

Clothing

The Elizabethan Era is renowned for the extravagant attire worn by the wealthy at court and elite functions, depicted in detailed portraits. Rich garments featured furs, jewels, and intricate embroidery. Clothing served as a clear indicator of social status, with sumptuary laws regulating attire based on rank. Elizabeth I's acts specified that only royalty could wear purple, ermine was reserved for the royal family, and gold was limited to nobles of earl rank or higher. The laws aimed to maintain social order and curb excessive spending on clothing, but enforcement was generally lax outside the royal court. The poor and middle classes, by necessity, dressed more simply, while children transitioned to smaller versions of adult clothing after the age of six.

None shall wear Any cloth of gold, tissue, nor fur of sables: except duchesses, marquises, and countesses in their gowns, kirtles [underskirts], partlets [garments, usually made of lace, that filled the opening in the front of a dress and had a collar attached], and sleeves; cloth of gold, silver, tinsel satin, silk, or cloth mixed or embroidered with gold or silver or pearl, saving silk mixed with gold or silver in linings of cowls [a draped neckline], partlets, and sleeves: except all degrees above viscountesses, and viscountesses, baronesses, and other personages of like degrees in their kirtles and sleeves.

Food and Drink

Wealthy Elizabethan households favoured large quantities of meats like beef, mutton, pork, venison, and rabbit, often cooked with fruits for a sweet taste. Preservation of meat involved salting to last through the winter, with spices from Asia used to mask the taste of old or spoiled meat. For the poorer classes, meals primarily consisted of bread, eggs, dairy products, and rarely vegetables, while meat was a luxury. Elizabethans, fearing impure water, drank wine, flat beer, or weak ale across all classes, with the wealthy consuming refined white wheat bread (manchet) and the poor opting for black or brown bread made from rye or barley.

Family

The nuclear family (father, mother, and children) was common in Elizabethan England, but wealthy households often included extended family members and a large staff of live-in servants. Families among farm labourers and craftspeople were viewed as working units, with each member having assigned tasks. Marriages were typically arranged for social or financial reasons, and divorce was rare, requiring an act of Parliament. Women were expected to marry and be homemakers, and those remaining single faced social suspicion. Parenting styles varied, with children raised to be respectful, yet discipline often involved beatings and severe punishments. The desire for children was widespread, but due to a high mortality rate, couples often had many children, acknowledging that some might not survive.

Holidays and celebrations

Elizabethan England had a cherished holiday tradition, offering a welcome break from the long and demanding work week for most workers. Many holidays were rooted in honouring saints or events from the life of Jesus Christ, celebrated within parishes with a mix of feasting, games, and prayers. However, the Reformation brought changes, with the Anglican Church and Puritans aiming to eliminate Catholic holidays and imposing stricter standards on celebration behaviour. Elizabeth I abolished most saints' days in 1552 and established an official Anglican list of annual holy days.

Task 3: Using the information above, create

Lesson 2- Elizabethan propaganda

Propaganda- information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

Portraits of Queen Elizabeth I

Early portraits of Queen Elizabeth I stress her God-given right to rule. By her death she symbolised national unity.

Elizabeth was unmarried and childless when she succeeded Mary I on 17 November 1558. Mary, the first queen of England, had also been unmarried at her accession.

Mary, a devout Roman Catholic, reversed the Reformation started by Henry VIII, returning church power to Rome and enforcing a campaign of harsh persecutions for those who did not conform.

Mary always put principles first and during her reign about 300 people were burned at the stake for being 'heretics', earning her the name 'Bloody Mary'.

Early portraits: Elizabeth's God-given right to rule

For much of her reign, Queen Elizabeth I wanted to convince her subjects that a woman could rule and rule well. Determined to rule by head over heart, she favoured considered advice over unwavering principles and supported moderation and compromise over extremism and fanaticism. Reflecting the concerns of Queen Elizabeth I and her government, early portraits of the Queen stress her God-given right to rule and assert her legitimacy as the rightful heir to the throne. They draw on the Tudor heritage, particularly that of Henry VII and the unification of the country after the Wars of the Roses.



Elizabeth I, the "Phoenix" portrait

Propaganda portraits

During the 1570s, portraits of Elizabeth began to function more overtly as propaganda or as homages to the Queen. Unlike her predecessors, Queen Elizabeth I never appointed a royal painter. Instead, much of the construction of her image was undertaken by artists and the patrons who commissioned the portraits.

In portraits of the Queen her femininity was often transcended to project an image of female power. To do so, a whole host of symbols and emblems familiar to the public were appropriated from biblical, classical and mythological sources. This pleased Elizabeth, who was herself a highly educated woman with a profound sense of the authority of history.

The 'Virgin Queen'

Elizabeth's marital status was an issue throughout her reign. Unable to marry Robert Dudley (the man of her choice), without tarnishing her reputation or causing national divisions, Elizabeth remained unmarried. After the failure of the last serious proposal in the early 1580s, Elizabeth's

evasion of marriage was portrayed as an act of self-sacrifice: a selfless move that kept England out of the foreign entanglements and compromises that accompany royal marriage.

Virginity was a courtly ideal with romantic connotations. In her youth, Elizabeth's virginity had been played-up for its connotations of purity, innocence and chastity, making her an attractive marriage proposition. As she aged, these qualities were fused with that of maternal sacrifice for the greater good, lending an air of holiness to her calling and inviting comparisons with the Virgin Mary.

Over time, Elizabeth's virginity became a symbol of national independence, placing her as the mother of her nation - a queen who put her subjects' welfare before her own desires.

The cult of the 'Virgin Queen' was in full swing during the 1580s and 1590s and demand for portraits of Queen Elizabeth increased. During this time, artists began to use other symbols to express her virgin status. Elizabeth was often presented as the personification of mythological or literary figures and her appearance became increasingly magnificent as she was transformed into an emblem of beauty and virtue.



The "Pelican Portrait" of Queen Elizabeth I c.1575 by Nicolas Hilliard.

The cult of Elizabeth

With the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 the cult of Queen Elizabeth I reached new heights and demand for her image soared. Very few artists had the opportunity to paint the Queen from life, so most worked from approved 'face patterns' derived from official portraits which presented an eternally youthful queen.

In paintings she was surrounded by objects full of meaning, known as 'attributes'.

Elizabeth was also honoured in other mediums. Musical compositions by Thomas Tallis and William Byrd were dedicated to her, likewise poems by Ben Jonson, Sir Walter Raleigh and Edmund Spenser. The mythologising of Elizabeth and her reign continued long after her death and she became an icon of national integrity and unity.

Queens Victoria and Anne were inspired by the way Elizabeth presented herself as a symbol of power.

Elizabeth I's mask of youth

Elizabeth I, like all monarchs, used portraiture as a form of propaganda. Throughout her reign she wanted to be seen as a Renaissance prince, equal to any of her Continental male counterparts.

In order to secure her country, Elizabeth needed to be seen as a strong leader, capable of resisting threats of invasion. As a queen with no lineal heir, Elizabeth's youth was integral to her strength - an ageing queen with no successor did not inspire faith in the Court or the country.

In 1596 there was an order to the Privy Council demanding that public officers seek out 'unseemly' portraits of the Queen.

In the 1970's art historian Sir Roy Strong coined the term 'The Mask of Youth' to describe Queen Elizabeth I's appearance in portraits in the latter years of her reign.

Many see this as a reference to the layers of white make up worn by women at the Tudor Court. Depictions of the Virgin Queen in film and drama often focus on the grotesque nature of the thick makeup. Prior to the 1970s, this was not such a popular trope but has become the defining feature of Elizabeth in popular culture.

The mask of youth created a sense of timelessness, but also allowed Elizabeth control over her image. It was most likely propaganda, rather than a reference to the makeup which was, after all, the trend of the time anyway.

Task 1: How did Elizabethan propaganda change over time?

Task 2: Watch the video on Elizabeth's use of language as propaganda. How does she use it at Tilbury to her advantage?

Task 3: Watch the Lucy Worsley video 'Royal History's biggest fibs' and answer the following:

1. Why would the famous line from the speech be added 35 years later?
2. How is writing it in an example of propaganda in itself?
3. How does the provenance of this speech (the later version) affect its utility?

Challenge: Look at the rainbow portrait below and annotate the image with what you can learn about Elizabeth from it. (Look closely at the images on her dress!)



Lesson 3- The Elizabethan Court and Key Ministers

The Great Chain of Being

William Harrison is of the opinion that there are four sorts of men in England: gentlemen, prosperous townsmen, countrymen (yeomen, husbandmen and labourers) and artificers (craftsmen). His contemporary, Thomas Wilson, who also writes a description of England a few years later, states that there are five types: nobles, townsmen, yeomen, artisans and countrymen; and he further divides these groupings into smaller sections, according to title, income and land ownership."5 From this alone you can see that the social order is not simple. Some knights are richer than lords; a rich husbandman can be more respectable than a poor yeoman; and a spinster born into an ancient gentry family with a coat of arms might look down on a merchant with ten times as much income. Class distinctions in England are a little like the age brackets of 'young' and 'old' self-perception does not always agree with general perception, and only the extremes can be described without fear of contradiction. One thing is certain: the queen is without peer at the top of the whole pile - in terms of social respectability, wealth, authority and divine grace.

Elizabethan society was based on an idea called 'the Great Chain of Being'. In the Great Chain, God is at the top, followed by his angels and other residents of Heaven. Human beings are beneath, followed by animals and plants. The Elizabethans broke the chain down further by having subdivisions of humans. The monarch was at the top, followed by the nobility, the gentry and then the peasants. It was almost impossible to move between the human divisions as they believed that the division you were born into was the one in which God intended for you to live.

Who held power?

Parliament

Parliament was made up of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. It was much less powerful than today, but it did have influence over tax and was responsible for passing laws. The queen decided when to call Parliament and how much of their advice she would listen to.

Privy Council

The Privy Council took responsibility for the day-to-day running of the country. They were Elizabeth's main advisors. Elizabeth could technically choose the members, but realistically she had to choose the top landowners to avoid rebellion. They could be called on to deal with any issue and if they agreed, it was hard for Elizabeth to disagree. The Council was led by the **Secretary of State**.

Who had the power in Elizabethan England?

Lord Lieutenants

The Lord Lieutenants were appointed by the queen to administer a particular area of the country. This included settling disputes and collecting taxes, as well as raising an army if needed. Many also held other positions such as being members of the Privy Council (if this was the case their work was carried out by a deputy).

Justices of the Peace (JPs)

Each county had several JPs to ensure that order was kept. They were always selected from the local gentry and their main role was to ensure that laws were enforced. One JP could send someone to prison, but more than one was required to sentence someone to death. They had to swear to treat everyone equally, whether rich or poor.

Task 1: Who held the most power?

Challenge: Did the Queen, or Parliament have the most power?

Key ministers

Throughout Elizabeth's reign, various men became influential in her court. They often served on the Privy Council, in Parliament or as Lord Lieutenants but in reality their relationship with the queen was more important than the title they held. One way in which the queen could ensure loyalty was through patronage. This involved giving titles, power, or other rewards to ensure the support of individuals. Banishment from court was considered disgraceful, so patronage was highly desired.

William Cecil, Lord Burghley (1520-98) 	- Elizabeth's most trusted and experienced adviser. He served as a Privy Councillor under Edward VI. - Became Secretary of State in 1558 when Elizabeth became Queen. - Managed meetings of parliament. - Became Lord Treasurer in 1572. - Became Secretary of State again in 1590 after Walsingham's death. When Cecil died, his son Robert Cecil took over this role.
Christopher Hatton (1540-91) 	- Organised the Queen's progresses. - Laid on magnificent feasts and entertainments for the royal court that impressed foreign visitors. - Helped Elizabeth to control members of parliament and pass laws.
Francis Walsingham (1532-90) 	- In charge of Elizabeth's secret service- he controlled a network of spies and informers all over Europe. - He helped to uncover plots against Elizabeth. - Took over from William Cecil as Secretary of State in 1572. He was not afraid to disagree with Elizabeth but always remained loyal to her and she valued his honesty and advice.
Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester (1533-88) 	- An experienced soldier- Elizabeth made him an army commander and he was sent to fight Spanish forces in the Netherlands in 1585. - He was appointed as Master of the Horse, which made him personally responsible for protecting the Queen. - When the Spanish Armada threatened England in 1588, he was put in charge of all the land forces guarding the country. - As a courtier, he was always keen to impress Elizabeth and spent a fortune on Kenilworth Castle and hosting Elizabeth for 19 days on her royal progress in 1575 (this was the longest Elizabeth ever stayed with a member of her court).

Progresses

The Swiss visitor Thomas Platter writes of the queen in 1599:

The English esteem her not only as their queen but as their God, for which reason three things are prohibited on pain of death. Firstly none may enquire whether she is still a virgin, for they hold her too holy to admit of doubt. Secondly no one may question her government or estates, so completely is she trusted. And lastly it is forbidden on pain of death to make enquiries as to who is to succeed her on her decease, for fear that if it were known, this person in his lust for government might plot against the queen's life. For they love their queen and fear her mightily, for she has ruled her kingdom for so long and kept the peace against all schemers; nor can she bear any other person besides herself to be popular with the people.

Task 2: Following the video, summarise the point of Elizabeth going on progresses around the country in the summer.

Court life

The royal court and the government were not the same thing. The court was made up of the government officials, ladies-in-waiting, servants and advisors who surrounded Elizabeth. Elizabeth's court consisted of around 1000 people from the highest nobels down to servants. It was the centre of political power but also the source of trends and fashions for the country. The Privy Council was a key part of the court but other important positions like Justices of the Peace were external to it. 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.

Task 3: Understanding the groups who hold power in Elizabethan Engand is integral to the rest of the course. Create a diagram (it could include drawings, but doesn't have to) to summarise what we have learned today. You could do dual coding, a spider diagram, etc.

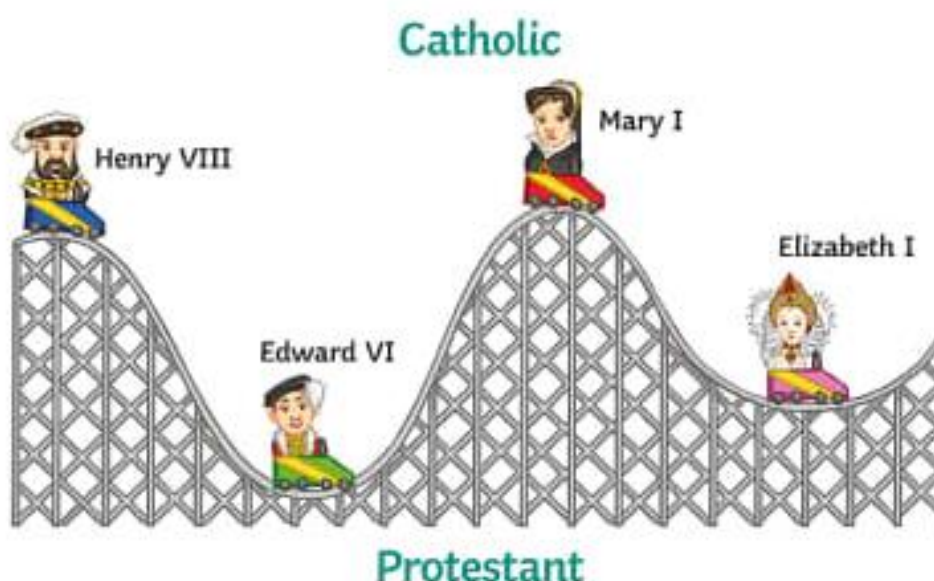
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Lesson 4- Religious Settlement

Roman Catholicism vs. Protestantism

Roman Catholicism	Protestantism
• The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church across the world. He is based in Vatican City in Rome. The Pope is elected by the cardinals. • Underneath the Pope are cardinals, archbishops, bishops and priests. • The Bible and church services should be in Latin, even though most people didn't understand Latin. • The Church acts as an intermediary (go-between) between God and the people. • The Church can forgive sins. • During a church service called Mass, Catholics believe a miracle occurs when the bread and the wine become the body and blood of Christ. This is called transubstantiation. • Priests are special and should wear special clothing (vestments). • Churches should be highly decorated to honour God. • There are seven sacraments which are special church ceremonies when God is said to bless people (for example when you get married). • Priests are forbidden to marry and have to focus on serving God.	• There is no pope. • It is not necessary to have cardinals, or even archbishops or bishops. • Bible and church services should be in your own language so that everyone can understand them. • People have their own, direct relationship with God through prayer and Bible study. They don't need the Church to act as an intermediary. • Sins can only be forgiven by God, not a priest. • The bread and wine symbolize the body and blood of Christ. There is no miracle. • Priests are not special and should not wear special clothing. • Churches should be plain and simple so as not to distract from worshipping God. • There are only two sacraments – Holy Communion and baptism. • Priests are permitted to get married if they wish.

Religion in England pre-Elizabeth



During the reign of her father, King Henry VIII, England underwent the Reformation and broke away from the Catholic Church. Henry declared himself head of the Church of England and the religion of the country changed from catholic (which it had **always** been), to Protestant.

When Henry died in 1547, the throne went to his only son, Edward VI. Edward had been raised and educated as a staunch protestant brought in numerous measures that were stricter than his father's. For example, the Bible was printed in English, all decorations were removed from churches, and priests had to wear plain colours.

Following Edwards untimely death in 1553 at the age of only 15, Henry's daughter, Mary, became queen. Mary had been a devout catholic her entire life and was particularly bitter towards the protestant religion as it was her mother that Henry had divorced during the reformation. She reverted the churches and religion back to fully catholic and the Pope was once again the head of the church in England. During her reign, many protestants wanted the religion to change back and so plotted to replace Mary with the protestant Elizabeth. One of these rebellions, Wyatt's rebellion, resulted in Elizabeth being sent to the Tower of London for 3 months for her alleged involvement in the plot.

Task 1: What would be the problems created by this religious turmoil during the Tudor period for the general public?

Challenge: How would this influence Elizabeth's decision on religion?

The 'Middle Way'

Key terms:

Supremacy	Being superior to all others
Uniformity	When everything is the same, and everyone follows the same rules
Injunction	Official orders

Elizabeth's religious settlement had 3 aspects.

THE ACT OF SUPREMACY

This made Elizabeth Supreme Governor of the Church of England. All clergy and royal officials had to swear an oath of allegiance to her as the leader of the Church. The Ecclesiastical High Commission was established, which maintained discipline within the Church and enforced the Religious Settlement. Members of the clergy whose loyalty was in doubt could be punished.

The Act of Supremacy gave Elizabeth control of the English Church, without explicitly describing her as its 'Head'. This compromise satisfied those who believed a woman could not lead the Church.

THE ACT OF UNIFORMITY

This established the appearance of the Church and the form of services they held. It introduced a set form of Church services in the Book of Common Prayer. The clergy had to use the wording of the Prayer Book when conducting services. Anyone who refused to use it was punished. The wording was deliberately left unclear so that Catholics could take it as meaning that the bread and wine actually became the body and blood of Christ, while Protestants could see it symbolically. It also made clear that priests wore special clothes. Everybody had to attend Church on a Sunday and other Holy Days, or they were fined.

ROYAL INJUNCTIONS

This was a set of instructions issued by William Cecil on behalf of the Queen to the clergy, which reinforced the acts of Supremacy and Uniformity. It included instructions on how people should worship God and the structure of church services.

- All clergy were to teach the Royal Supremacy (that the monarch was the head of the Church)
- Anyone refusing to attend Church was reported to the Privy Council
- Each parish was to have a copy of the Bible in English
- You had to have a license to preach
- Pilgrimages were banned
- The clergy wore special vestments

By introducing the Religious Settlement, Elizabeth hoped that her Church would be inclusive and accepted by as many of her subjects as possible. The wording of the new Prayer Book was vague, and could be understood to mean different things by Catholics and Protestants.

- Protestants would have approved of the ban on pilgrimages to 'fake' miracles, whilst Catholics would have approved of the possibility of 'real' miracles.
- Catholics would have approved of the use of candles, crosses and vestments in church services.

The Elizabethan religious settlement made England a Protestant country, but allowed some elements of Catholic belief and practice to continue. This clever 'middle way' was designed to satisfy the majority of the population, who held moderate religious beliefs and were willing to make some compromises for the sake of peace and stability.

What was the impact of the Religious Settlement?

- 8000 clergy out of about 10,000 accepted the Religious Settlement.
- Many Bishops who had served under Mary I opposed the settlement and had to be replaced
- The majority of ordinary people accepted Elizabeth's religious settlement and attended the church services, even though many of them held onto Catholic beliefs in private.
- As long as people conform outwardly, Elizabeth did not want to punish them.
- Elizabeth hoped the Catholic faith would fade away.

What role did the Church of England have in society?

- The Church ran courts and judged people on minor issues, such as bigamy and slander. They also dealt with wills and inheritances.
- The Church helped enforce the settlement through visits and inspections around the country. The first one took place in 1559, and 400 clergy were dismissed.
- The Church gave guidance to local communities. People would turn to the Church in times of hardship and uncertainty.
- The Church preached the government's message, because priests needed a government licence to preach. This ensured the clergy preached Elizabeth's religious and political messages, as those who refused would be denied a licence.
- It legitimised Elizabeth's rule – the Church encouraged people to remain loyal, and to not rebel against their monarch.

Task 2: What compromises did Elizabeth make to appease both sides?

Task 3: Do you think this will last? Explain your answer.

Lesson 5- The problem of marriage

As we have previously discussed, there were many events in Elizabeth's childhood that will have certainly had an impact on her later life and the way she ruled as monarch. She had numerous negative encounters with men and marriage in general, and we would be naïve to assume that these did not influence, in some way, her choice not to marry. However, it is important to note that Elizabeth was not totally against the idea of marriage, and she did consider every proposal she received seriously. For example, she was in marriage negotiations with the Duke of Anjou for over 10 years.

Marriage for monarchs in this time was not a match for love, it was one for political and economic gain. Therefore, if Elizabeth did marry, her suitor would have had to come with significant benefit for England. This was especially important in the case of Elizabeth as a female ruler, as her husband would have power over her and therefore the country. It would have to make absolutely no sense *not* to marry, if Elizabeth was going to give over her country to a man.

The choices:

1. Philip II of Spain- Philip was married to Elizabeth's sister Mary – and on her death, he remained in England for several months in an attempt to woo Elizabeth. Unfortunately for Philip, Elizabeth was a Protestant and had no interest in an alliance with Spain, nor in her half-sister's widower. Parliament was also firmly against the match, which made a diplomatic refusal slightly easier.
2. Robert Dudley- On Elizabeth's accession in 1558, Dudley was appointed Master of the Horse, before rapidly rising up the ranks in Elizabeth's court. The two were close friends during Mary's reign, and by 1559, rumours swirled around court that Elizabeth was in love with Dudley. Notwithstanding the fact that Dudley was already married, marrying an Englishman would have proven difficult for Elizabeth in several respects.
Firstly, she would be denying England the chance to make an important political alliance with a neighbouring European monarchy. Secondly, marrying within her own court would almost certainly help generate factions and rivalries. Dudley's wife Amy died in mysterious circumstances in 1560, and Dudley was tainted enough as a result that Elizabeth could not consider him as a serious marriage prospect any longer.
However, the pair continued to remain extremely close: Dudley was made Earl of Leicester in 1563, and became one of the wealthiest landowners in England. The historian Susan Doran described Dudley as being 'at the centre of [Elizabeth's] emotional life', and Elizabeth fiercely disliked Dudley's second wife, Lettice Knollys.
3. King Eric of Sweden- Sweden was a Protestant nation, and therefore attempts to make an alliance with the newly Protestant England were politically sensible. Prince Eric negotiated for Elizabeth's hand in marriage for several years, but in 1560 she eventually wrote him a letter in which she expressed regret at not being able to reciprocate his feelings, and firmly rejected his advances.
Eric tried to marry various other European princesses, before eventually marrying his mistress. Increasingly, he began to show signs of insanity and was eventually imprisoned and dethroned by his own brother.
4. Archduke Charles of Austria- In 1567, Elizabeth began to consider Archduke Charles of Austria, son of the Emperor Ferdinand. Again, religion stood in the way: as a Protestant, Elizabeth and her councillors were somewhat wary of creating alliances with Catholic countries.
As with many of her suitors, Elizabeth kept Charles dangling for well over a year, before finally rebuffing his advances.

5. Francis, Duke of Anjou- The Duke of Anjou was one of Elizabeth's most persistent suitors, and perhaps one of those she considered the most carefully. Heir to the French throne, a marriage to Francois could be extremely advantageous politically, although it seems the people would not have been best pleased by a Frenchman becoming king. Some of Elizabeth's advisors – including Walsingham – were convinced there would be religious riots on the scale of the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre (1572) in France should she make such a match. Unlike many of her suitors, Francois courted Elizabeth in person, and the two became close – she called him her 'frog', and many believe Elizabeth knew he would be her last serious suitor: there was already a 22 year age gap between the two.

Task 1: Complete the table below with the advantages and disadvantages of each suitor.

Suitor	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Philip of Spain		
2. Robert Dudley		
3. Eric of Sweden		
4. Archduke Charles of Austria		
5. Francis, Duke of Anjou		

Exam technique

Question 1

How convincing is Interpretation A about _____?

Tips

- This question is 8 marks. You should spend 10 minutes on it and write 2 paragraphs.
- Convincing= accurate.
- **DO NOT TALK ABOUT THE PROVENANCE.**
- You need to use the source to lead to your contextual knowledge.
- Find two ways in which the interpretation **is** convincing- don't focus on negatives.

Example questions and answers

Interpretation A An interpretation of Queen Elizabeth, her marriage and the succession.

Adapted from an article by Penry Williams, in 'History Review', 1998.

A serious criticism of Elizabeth was her failure to settle the succession. Despite pressure from her Council and marriage negotiations with several suitors, all were rejected. Her death before 1587 would probably have led to civil war. It seems unlikely that she had a deep-seated personal dislike of marriage but choosing a husband was difficult. Some suitors, like Leicester, were unacceptable to many councillors. The Catholic religion of suitors, such as Anjou, ruled them out. Elizabeth was lucky that she lived long enough for the problem to solve itself.

0 1

Study **Interpretation A** in the Interpretations Booklet.

How convincing is **Interpretation A** about Queen Elizabeth and marriage?

Explain your answer using **Interpretation A** and your contextual knowledge.

[8 marks]

Plan

Point 1
What the source says:
Your contextual knowledge to agree with it:
Point 2
What the source says:
Your contextual knowledge to agree with it:

Level 1 response

It is convincing because Elizabeth didn't get married, even though she loved Robert Dudley.

Level 2 response

The interpretation is convincing because it mentions pressure from the council to get married. The important men in England wanted Elizabeth to get married because she didn't have an heir so she needed to have a child. They didn't want another catholic on the throne.

Level 3 response

The interpretation is convincing because it mentions pressure from the council to get married. The English nobles wanted Elizabeth to get married to secure an heir. They didn't want another catholic on the throne, and the next in line was Elizabeth's cousin, Mary Queen of Scots.

Another reason it is convincing because it says that all suitors were rejected. Elizabeth never married partly because no one was right. An English noble would have no political advantage and would create competition, and powerful catholic suitors would have changed the religion.

Level 4 response

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing is because it mentions pressure from the council to get married. The English nobles needed Elizabeth to get married in order to secure the succession. They didn't want another catholic on the throne, and the next in line was Elizabeth's cousin, Mary Queen of Scots. There was a succession crisis in 1562 when Elizabeth contracted smallpox and could have died. After this the council increased the pressure on Elizabeth as the country came perilously close to a civil war.

Another way in which the interpretation is convincing as it states that many suitors were unacceptable. Though Elizabeth clearly had feelings for Leicester, the English noble held no political advantage and was surrounded by scandal with his family reputation as traitors, and the fact that his wife had died in suspicious circumstances. Other powerful foreign suitors, such as Philip of Spain, brought with them the catholic faith and this was unacceptable in protestant England.

The interpretation is convincing as it shows that there was a myriad of different reasons why Elizabeth did not marry.

Mark scheme

Level 4: Complex evaluation of interpretation with sustained judgement based on contextual knowledge/understanding 7-8

Extends Level 3.

Students may progress from a developed evaluation of interpretation by complex analysis of the interpretation supported by factual knowledge and understanding.

For example, the interpretation is convincing because chance is mentioned and Elizabeth was lucky not to die of smallpox in 1562. The interpretation is also convincing because it suggests there would have been civil war if Elizabeth had died before 1587. This is the year that Mary Queen of Scots was executed. She was a ready-made replacement but a Catholic and that would have probably caused civil war and foreign involvement to support her. When Elizabeth considered marrying Anjou she was 46 and unlikely to have successfully had children. The interpretation is convincing because it suggests there were different combinations of reasons why Elizabeth chose not to marry or avoided it at different times in her reign.

Level 3: Developed evaluation of interpretation based on contextual knowledge/understanding 5-6

Extends Level 2.

Students may progress from a simple evaluation of the interpretation by extended reasoning supported by factual knowledge and understanding of more than one aspect of the interpretation.

For example, it is convincing because it says that the religion of the suitors was a problem. The nobility of England would not accept a Catholic like Philip II of Spain who was Elizabeth's brother-in-law and proposed to her when Mary, her sister, died. Similarly Anjou was Catholic he would have put England under French control but Leicester whom the Queen liked might have killed his own wife which created a scandal. If she married him other councillors like Cecil would have been worried.

Level 2: Simple evaluation of interpretation based on contextual knowledge/understanding 3-4

Students may progress from a basic analysis of interpretation by reasoning supported with factual knowledge and understanding based on one aspect of the interpretation.

For example, it is convincing because Elizabeth used marriage as a bargaining tool with other European countries to keep the peace. If she chose a foreign Catholic husband it would have upset people in England. Some might have rebelled. Had she married a Protestant Englishman it would have upset Catholic countries abroad.

Level 1: Basic analysis of interpretation based on contextual knowledge/understanding 1-2

Answers show understanding/support for interpretation but the case is made by assertion/recognition of agreement.

For example, it is convincing because Elizabeth did not marry. Elizabeth said she was married to England.

Students either submit no evidence or fail to address the question

Lesson 6- The Northern Rebellion

Task 1: Complete the dual coding exercise below.

	During this period the Northern Earls were very powerful. When Elizabeth came to the throne she tried to limit their power by putting Southern lords in charge of some of their lands.
	The Northern Earls were also strong Catholics and were upset at the interference of Elizabeth in their affairs from distant London. These factors, and the arrival of Mary, Queen of Scots in England in 1568, pushed them to the brink of rebellion .
	In 1569, Charles Neville (6th Earl of Westmoreland) and Thomas Percy (7th Earl of Northumberland) began to gather their forces. In November they rode into the fortress city of Durham with over 4,500 men, stormed the cathedral and destroyed the English Bible and Protestant communion table. A Catholic Mass was then celebrated – an act that was illegal in England and Wales.
	However, they lacked a coherent plan, whilst in comparison Elizabeth's reaction to the rebellion was swift. Most of the rebels retreated as soon as they heard that the Earl of Sussex and several thousand troops were marching north. Prisoners were severely punished with over 800 <i>rebels</i> being executed in a warning to other potential rebels.
	The Earls fled to Scotland, and although Westmoreland managed to evade capture by escaping to Flanders, Northumberland was captured, handed back to the English in 1572, and executed. Rebel lands, and those of other Catholic families, were confiscated, and the power of the Northern Earls was broken.

They say I'm complex
 Try to stay cool
 I like to play the field
 Don't want to find someone to commit to
 And that would be okay
 For me to do
 If only I had made
 An heir so they could be the boss for you

I am a fearless leader
 If not an alpha type
 I could raise an army
 If you like

I'm so sick of eating as fast as I can
Wondering if they'll kill me
Cause I'm not a man
And I'm so sick of them trying to invade us again
Cause if I was a man
Catholics I'd ban

I'd say I'd hustled
Put in the work
I always shake their hands
Don't question how much of this I deserve
Look what I'm wearing
Envy my shoes
Just don't separate it from
My good ideas and power moves
Raise a toast to me, oh, let the players play
Maybe some Shakespeare, I hear he's okay

I'm so sick of eating
As fast as I can
Wondering if they'll kill me
Cause I'm not a man
And I'm so sick of them trying to invade us again
Cause if I was a man
Catholics I'd ban

Got Drake to brag about raking in dollars
And I got new fashion models
And it's all good that I'm bad
As long as Philip ain't mad

I'm so sick of eating
As fast as I can
Wondering if they'll kill me
Cause I'm not a man
And I'm so sick of them
Trying to invade us again
Cause if I was a man
Catholics I'd ban

And I'm so sick of eating
As fast as I can
Wondering if they'll kill me
Cause I'm not a man
And I'm so sick of them trying to invade us again
Cause if I was a man
Catholics I'd ban