Paper 2 Elizabeth Revision Resources

JAMES CALVERT SPENCE COLLEGE

Queen, Government and Religion 1558-1569

Elizabethan England relied upon a clear social structure where everyone knew their place and had a role. This meant that society was not very fair, and because there were no police forces, society relied on this hierarchy for order. The Christian religion of this time meant that it was very difficult for women to be accepted as rulers – Elizabeth's sister Mary had faced many challenges and Elizabeth had a lot of opposition, because many saw her father's marriage to her mother, Anne Boleyn, as illegitimate. This period is marked by Elizabeth consolidating her power and proving herself to be a strong ruler. When Elizabeth came to power, the government and crown was in debt because of wars and England was under threat of invasion from the French.

Year	Key dates
1533	Elizabeth is born to Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.
1536	Anne Boleyn executed for treason.
1544	Elizabeth is held as a prisoner in the Tower of London by her half-sister, Mary I.
1558	Elizabeth becomes queen.
1559	Elizabeth passed the Act of Supremacy, the Act of Uniformity and the Royal Injunctions.
1563	Elizabeth passed the Labourers' Act
1568	Mary, Queen of Scots, flees to England, seeking Elizabeth I's help.
1569	Revolt in the north, led by earls of Northumberland and Westmorland (religious/political).

Big questions
Why was England difficult for Elizabeth to govern? (gender/politics/foreign policy)
How did the Elizabethan religious settlement differ from religion in England before Elizabeth's reign?
Why did the Catholic threat to Elizabeth I increase after 1566?

Hierarchy	Overview of importance
Elizabethan England	Vagrants & homeless/Landless & labouring poor/Tenant farmers/Yeomen/Gentry/Nobility
Elizabethan Towns	Unskilled workers & unemployed/Skilled craftsmen/Business owners/Professionals/ Merchants

Case study – The Virgin Queen	
Pros of Marriage	**Cons of Marriage**
A husband could fill the role of a war leader.	A husband who was a foreign prince would put his country's needs before England's.
Having children will ensure that the crown is secure.	Wives are expected the be obedient to their husbands.

Key word	Definition
Courtiers	Were usually members of the nobility & spent much of their lives with Elizabeth.
Clergy	Religious leaders, such as bishops and priests.
Divine Right	Belief that the monarch's right to rule came from God.
Diocese	An area looked after by a Bishop.
Ecclesiastical	An adjective used to describe things to do with the church.
Extraordinary taxation	Occasional, additional taxation to pay for unexpected expenses, especially war.
German States	Germany did not exist in the 16th Century, instead there were many small states where German was spoken but they were controlled independently.
Heretics	People who have controversial beliefs at odds with the rest of society.
Holy Roman Empire	A large grouping of states covering a large area of central Europe.
Justices of the Peace	Large landowners who kept law and order in their local areas. Unpaid work.
Lord Lieutenant	Chosen by the monarch as they were crucial to maintain control of county's.
Martyr	Someone who is killed for their beliefs, especially religious beliefs.
Militia	A military force of ordinary people, usually raised in an emergency.
Papacy	The system of Church government ruled by the pope.
Patron	Someone who gives encouragement or financial support to a person/cause.
Parliament	Made up of the House of Lords and House of Commons, only called by the Queen. Elections were held before each parliament but very few could vote.
Privy Council	Made up of leading advisers and nobles, had meetings with the Queen.
Queen regnant	Elizabeth was a Queen regnant because she ruled in her own right.
Recusants	Catholics who were unwilling to attend church services laid down by Elizabeth.
The Reformation	A challenge to the teachings and power of the Roman Catholic Church.
Succession	Decision of who was going to take the throne after the existing monarch died.

Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad
1569-1588

In this period, Elizabeth faced many serious threats, both at home and abroad. As well as many Catholics in England supported Mary, Queen of Scots, Elizabeth also had a deteriorating relationship with Spain. This was due to Catholic uprisings receiving support from Philip II of Spain and because of trade and political rivalry between the two countries. Since 1492, Europeans had been aware of the existence of the Americas, known as the New World, and by the time Elizabeth came to power, Spain had established colonies. Elizabeth rewarded those who attacked Spanish ships, such as Sir Francis Drake, but this did nothing to repair the relationship between England and Spain. Eventually, Philip II of Spain decided to try and invade England, replacing Elizabeth with a Catholic government.

Year	Key dates
1569	Revolt in the north, led by earls of Northumberland and Westmorland (religious/political).
1570	Pope issues a papal bull excommunicating Elizabeth and calling on Catholics to depose her.
1571	Elizabeth passed Acts that widened the definition of treason.
1572	The Earl of Huntingdon sent to rule of Council of the North. He is a committed Protestant.
1583	**The Throckmorton Plot** – invade England, free Mary Queen of Scots, restore Catholicism.
1586	**The Babington Plot** – invade England, murder Elizabeth and put Mary on the throne. Pope supported this plot.
1587	Mary, Queen of Scots is executed.
1588	Philip II of Spain launches his Armada to attack England.

Big questions
Why was Mary, Queen of Scots, executed in 1587 and not earlier?
What was the greatest turning point in the deterioration of Anglo-Spanish relations?
Why did the Spanish Armada fail to invade England?

Who?	Overview of importance
Thomas Percy, Earl of Northumberland	Was Catholic and had lost a lot of influence under Elizabeth. Involved in the Revolt of Northern Earls.
Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk	Planned to revolt because he did not like the newcomers in court – was going to marry Mary, Queen of Scots. Backed down and urged others to call off Northern rebellion.
Mary, Queen of Scots	She supported the Northern rebellions and felt she had a claim to the English throne.
Charles Neville, Earl of Westmorland	Part of an important Catholic family in the north of England. He was also the Duke of Norfolk's brother-in-law.
Sir Francis Walsingham	Elizabeth I's Secretary of State. He developed a network of spies and informers to uncover plots against Elizabeth I.
Francis Drake	English merchant who made his fortune trading in the New World. Elizabeth hired him as a privateer in 1572 – captured Spanish ships for their cargo.

Key word	Definition
Autonomy	The right to self-government, so people of one country can manage its own affairs.
Civil War	A war between people of the same country.
Conspiracy	A secret plan with the aim of doing something against the law.
Council of the North	Used to implement Elizabeth's laws in the north as it was often under threat from Scotland.
Expeditionary Force	An armed force sent to a foreign country to achieve a specific objective.
Fireships	Empty ships set on fire and sent in the direction of the enemy to cause damage.
Foreign Policy	The aims that guide relations with other states, often to benefit the nation.
Mercenary	A soldier who fights for money rather than a cause.
New World	North and South America, discovered in the late c1400.
Papal Bull	A written order issued by the pope.
Privateer	Individuals with their own ships that capture other ships & cargo, usually supported by the government.
Propaganda	Biased information used to promote a point-of-view.

Case study – Elizabeth's Foreign Policy	
The Netherlands – controlled by Spain since the 15th Century.	Elizabeth was reluctant to support Dutch Protestant rebels so tried to pressure Spain to allow the country some autonomy. Elizabeth ended up supporting the Pacification of Ghent.
Spain	Spain wanted the English to protect their ships going to the Netherlands in the English channel. Eventually, they allied with France in a bid to rid France of Protestants.
Treaty of Nonsuch – Elizabeth agreed to intervene directly in the Netherlands.	Not a great success. Elizabeth lacked commitment to the cause. Put Spain and England at war.

Elizabethan society in the Age of Exploration 1558-88

Elizabeth's reign was a time of growth, especially as the New World had been discovered, opening up new opportunities for trade and wealth. Francis Drake was one of the main explorers of this period, circumnavigating the globe over a three year period, from 1577-1580, the second crew ever to sail around the world. Walter Raleigh was a similar figure and organised a colony in Virginia. Expansion was not just geographical, however, as there was expansion in different ways of thinking and entertainment, including poetry, drama, philosophy and science, affecting education. However, this period is also a time of poverty, due to population growth and economic problems.

Year	Key dates
1563	Statute of Artificers is passed – aimed to ensure poor relief was collected.
1567	The Red Lion theatre is constructed in Whitechapel.
1569	Mercator map is developed by cartographer Gerardus Mercator.
1572	The Vagabonds act is passed – aimed to stop vagrancy.
1576	Poor Relief Act is passed – aimed to distinguish able bodied poor and help them find work.
1577	Drake sets out on his circumnavigation of the globe which takes 3 years.
1584	Walter Raleigh organises an expedition to North America to establish a colony. Was not a success – remaining colonists returned to England in 1586.
1587	Raleigh plans another attempt at colonising Virginia. The colony disappears.

List of Elizabethan pastimes	
Spectator sports	Wrestling or tennis, for example. Depended upon class.
Baiting	Bear chained to a post and dogs unleashed against it.
Cock-fighting	Cockerels made to attack each other.
Literature	History was an important subject, as were accounts of discovery. Included poetry and plays.
Theatre	Secular plays became very popular, especially comedies.
Music and dancing	Many people played instruments and new music was being composed to accompany the new secular plays.

Why were there so many people in poverty?	
Population growth	Rising prices
Sheep farming – changes to countryside	Enclosure – changes to countryside
What did the government do?	
1563 – Statute of Artificers	1572 – Vagabonds Act
1576 – Poor Relief Act	

Key Question – who had access to education?

Key word	Definition
Apprentice	Someone learning a trade or a skill. In Elizabethan times, apprentices were not paid. In fact, it cost money to be an apprentice.
Arable farming	Growing crops on farm land.
Astrolabe	An instrument used by sailors to help with navigation at sea. It was circular.
Barter	Exchanging goods for other goods, instead of paying for something outright.
Economic recession	When a fall in demand leads to falling prices and businesses losing money and failing. This means a rise in unemployment.
Quadrant	Used by sailors to help with navigation at sea. It was the shape of a quarter circle.
Rural depopulation	When the population of the countryside falls and people move away in search of a better life.
Social mobility	Being able to change your position in society.
Subsistence farming	Growing just enough to feed the family but not to sell.
Vagabonds	Homeless people without jobs, who roamed the countryside begging for money, perhaps stealing or committing other crimes in order to survive.

Big Questions

What caused Elizabethans to explore? – trade, adventure, new technology, ship design.
What was the significance of Drake's circumnavigation?
Why was Raleigh's colonisation of Virginia significant?
Why did the attempts to colonise Virginia fail?

The Question of Religion I

	Catholics	Protestants	Puritans (strict Protestants)
Beliefs	Pope is head of the Church helped by cardinals, bishops and priests	No Pope, it may be necessary to have bishops or Archbishops.	No Popes, cardinals or bishops
	Church is the intermediary between God and people, they can forgive sins	Personal relationship with God via prayer and the bible. Only God can forgive sins.	Personal relationship with God via prayer and the bible. Only God can forgive sins.
	During Mass, bread and wine become the actual body and blood of Christ.	Bread and wine only represent the body and blood of Christ. There is no miracle.	Bread and wine only represent the body and blood of Christ. No miracle.
	7 Sacraments (ceremonies)	2 Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.	
	Priests are Celibate	Priests can marry	Priests can marry
Practices	Services in Latin	Services in English	Services in English
	Priests wear vestments	Priests wear simple vestments	Priests wear simple vestments
	Church highly decorated	Churches plain and simple	Whitewashed, no decoration
Support	Catholics the majority in the North and West of England.	Mostly south-east England (London, Kent, East-Anglia)	Mostly in London and East-Anglia

The Northern Rebellion 1569-70

Why did the Northern Earls rebel?

- They wanted to make England Catholic again. They especially resented the appointment of James Pilkington, a Protestant, as Bishop of Durham in 1561.
- They had lost much of their influence at court. They did not like the 'new men' such as William Cecil and Robert Dudley.
- Elizabeth's refusal to name an heir or have a child created uncertainty. The earls feared civil war and loss of power and wealth under a future Protestant monarch.

Who were the key players?

- **Thomas Percy**, Earl of Northumberland – a major Catholic northern landowner.
- **Charles Neville**, Earl of Westmorland – a major catholic northern landowner.
- **Jane Neville**, wife of Charles Neville and the Duke of Norfolk's sister.
- **Thomas Howard**, Duke of Norfolk. A senior noble man who was raised as a Protestant, with family links to old Catholic families. He planned to marry **Mary Queen of Scots** – Elizabeth's Catholic cousin with a claim to the throne who posed a threat to Elizabeth.

The Marriage Plan:

Mary would marry the Duke of Norfolk, remove Elizabeth and become queen herself. She told the Spanish Ambassador in 1569 that she would be queen within a few months and that Catholic Mass would be said across the country. Robert Dudley told Elizabeth of this plan leading to Norfolk's arrest and imprisonment in the Tower of London.

Progress of the Revolt:

Northumberland and Westmorland continued with the revolt. They took control of Durham Cathedral and held a Catholic mass, they then continued south. Elizabeth moved Mary to Coventry to stop her escaping and joining the rebels. Though the rebels were able to capture Hartlepool, support from Spain never arrived.

Why did the Revolt Fail?

Support from Spain never arrived. Many northern land owners, particularly in Lancashire and Cheshire, were still loyal to Elizabeth. On top of this many landowners did not wish to lose their wealth gained from dissolving the monasteries by backing a revolt that looked destined to fail.

The Revolts Significance:

Though Mary was not directly involved the revolt showed that she could not be trusted. The Pope excommunicated Elizabeth and called other Catholics to try and remove her. Because of this the government took steps to punish Catholics as it was seen that they could not be trusted. However, due to the failure Elizabeth strengthened her grip on the north of England.

Catholic Plots II

The Throckmorton Plot, 1583

- The French Duke of Guise, cousin of Mary QoS, plotted to invade England and overthrow Elizabeth to make England Catholic.
- Philip II offered to help pay for the revolt and the Pope approved of it.
- Francis Throckmorton, a young Englishman, passed letters between Mary and the plotters.
- Sir Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth's Secretary of State, discovered the plot in May 1583.
- In November, Walsingham's spies found papers at Throckmorton's house. He confessed after torture and was executed in May 1584.

Significance of the plot

- The plot revealed the extent of the Catholic threat from foreign Catholic powers such as France and Spain, English Catholics and Mary Queen of Scots.
- Throckmorton's papers included a list of Catholic sympathisers in England. The government now treated English Catholics with greater suspicion. Many left England, others were imprisoned, watched or kept under house arrest. An act of Parliament in 1581 made helping Catholic priests punishable by death.

The Babington Plot, 1586

- The Duke of Guise once again planned to invade England, murder Elizabeth and put Mary on the throne. Again, Philip II and the Pope supported this.
- Anthony Babington, a Catholic, wrote to Mary in July 1586 about this.
- Walsingham intercepted and read the letters clearly showing Mary's involvement in the plot.
- Babington and the plotters were arrested and sentenced to death. They were hung, drawn and quartered.
- In October 1586, Mary was sentenced to death for treason. Elizabeth delayed as she did not wish to kill her cousin but signed her death warrant in February 1587.

Significance of the plot

- The plot was more dangerous than others. England and Spain were already close to war. Because of the Treaty of Joinville, England could no longer rely on France as an ally and this plot involved both French and Spanish Catholics.
- Elizabeth's government became determined to crush the Catholic threat and persecution intensified. In 1585, 11,000 Catholics were placed under house arrest. In 1586, 31 Catholic priests were executed.
- The execution of Mary QoS ended all hopes of replacing Elizabeth with a Catholic queen.

Consequences of the plots

- Government suspicion of Catholics deepened. No Catholic could be loyal if their religion told them not to.
- Laws passed against Catholics became stricter. Heavier fines and increased levels of punishments.
- Catholics became very secretive. By the 1580s Catholics had to hide priests and conduct worship in secret.
- Catholic conspiracies were dealt with severely. The threat posed by Catholics to Elizabeth and her religious settlement of 1559 was serious. Catholics were plotting with foreign powers to overthrow the queen. This was high treason.

Attitudes to Poverty

Traditional attitudes to poverty

- Elizabethans distinguished between the **deserving/impotent poor** (those who could not help themselves e.g. old or sick) and the **undeserving/idle poor** (those who could work but chose not to.
- It was felt that the poor should be given a chance to better themselves but if they chose not to they should be punished.
- Many remained suspicious of the poor and demonised them as criminals. Vagrants and vagabonds who deceived or threatened the public were dealt with severely. They could be whipped, imprisoned, enslaved or even hanged if caught begging.

Reasons why attitudes were changing

Attitudes towards the poor changed during these times, there were various reasons for this:

- The fear that poverty led to disorder and was a potential cause of rebellion.
- The cost of dealing with the poor.
- Population changes and enclosure meant the poor were an increasingly visible presence in Elizabethan England.
- Changing economic circumstances, including problems with the wool trade, bad harvests and enclosure, forced the authorities to develop a more constructive attitude towards poverty.

Action	Type of change	Detail
Poor Rate	**Continuity** – These measures existed before Elizabeth and continued throughout.	A local tax organised by justices of the peace. Proceeds spent on improving the lives of the poor.
Charity		Often funded by local wealthy people who gave their name to the charitable organisation.
Statute of Artificers, 1563	**Progressive** – Government response to unemployment caused by the wool trade.	Those refusing to pay poor rates would be imprisoned. Failure to organise poor relief was fineable.
1576 Poor Relief Act		JPs were required to provide the poor with wool + raw materials to make and sell things. The poor who refused were sent to special prisons called the house of correction.
1572 Vagabonds Act	**Repressive** – Parliament felt vagrants posed a threat to the public and had to be dealt with using harsh punishments. The act did however recognise the need to help the poor.	Vagrants were whipped and had a hole drilled through each ear as a mark of shame. If they continued begging they would be imprisoned. On their third offence they were sentenced to death. The act introduced a national poor rate, to provide support, including money and work, for the impotent poor. JPs had to keep a register of the poor and those in authority (JPs, parish councils, etc.) were tasked with finding work for the able bodied poor.
1601 Elizabethan Poor Law	**Administrative** change that standardised the treatment of the poor across England.	Impotent poor were cared for in almshouses/poorhouses. The able bodied poor were to work in a house of industry (workhouse). The idle poor were sent to a house of correction. Poor children were given the opportunity to become apprentices.

Hawkins and Drake

English Sailors 16

John Hawkins

John Hawkins was England's first slave trader. In1562 he sailed from Plymouth wih three ships and kidnapped about 400 West Africans, later selling them on as slaves in the West Indies. Between 1562 and 1567 Hawkins and his cousin Francis Drake made three voyages to West Africa and enslaved between 1200 and 1400 Africans. They kidnapped villagers, sometimes with the help of other African natives. Hawkins would then cross the Atlantic and sell these people to the Spanish. Many would die on the voyage due to the conditions they were kept in.

Francis Drake

Drake was an English sea captain, privateer, navigator, slave trader and politician. He is most famous for being the second person to circumnavigate the world between 1577 and 1580. He began an era of privateering and piracy on the western coast of the Americas – an area that had previously been free of piracy. He gained the nickname 'El Draco' from the Spanish as he had stolen so much gold from their ships.

Why were exploration voyages made?

The development of standardised maps such as the Mercator Map of 1569 meant sailors and traders could be confident in where they were going again leading to longer voyages.

Private investment. Private investors, including Elizabeth I and her courtiers funded many of the voyages of discovery. This was risky but rewards could be significant.

Expanding Territory. Voyages of exploration enabled explorers to claim territory for Elizabeth's government, especially in the New World (America), leading to settlement and colonisation.

Trade. English merchants needed new trading opportunities, as war with Spain and the Netherlands had severely damaged the wool and cloth trades.

Improvements in ship design. Ships had bigger sails, were faster and easier to move and had greater firepower. They also were more stable and could take more supplies encouraging longer journeys.

Adventure. Some young Elizabethan men such as Francis Drake set off on voyages of discovery and exploration. Their published accounts of these voyages, though often inaccurate, persuaded others to venture into the unknown to find their fortune.

New Technology. The development of devices such as quadrants and astrolabes made navigation more precise, so voyages were safer and faster, leading to more exploration and trade.

Circumnavigation, 1577-1580

English Sailors

Between December 1577 and September 1580 Francis Drake became the second man to ever circumnavigate the globe (Ferdinand Magellan was the first). After his voyage he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth.

Why Circumnavigate the globe?

- ✓ **He was attacking Spain**. Drake did not aim to sail around the world. His main purpose was to raid Spanish colonies in the Pacific.
- ✓ **Revenge**. The Spanish had attacked Drake's fleet at St Juan de Ulua and most of his men had been killed.
- ✓ **Profit**. Loot, booty and trade meant there were huge profits to be made from Drake's proposed journey to the Americas and beyond, so people were willing to invest in the expedition, including the Queen.

Benefits of Drake's Circumnavigation

England's reputation as a seafaring power increased. In spite of the fact that only one of Drake's 5 ships survived the journey. England's reputation was significantly improved.

England's naval power increased as a way of defending the country from invasion and protecting trading interests.

Drake's achievement boosted the income of Elizabeth and her government. This made England more powerful and made her an ally for other European states who saw Spain as a threat.

English ships began to trade elsewhere – in China, West Africa and India. This established England as a major trading power.

Drake's expedition led to Nova Albion, an area near San Francisco, becoming English territory. This encouraged trade and exploration, especially to the New World, where England established colonies in the 16th and 17th century.

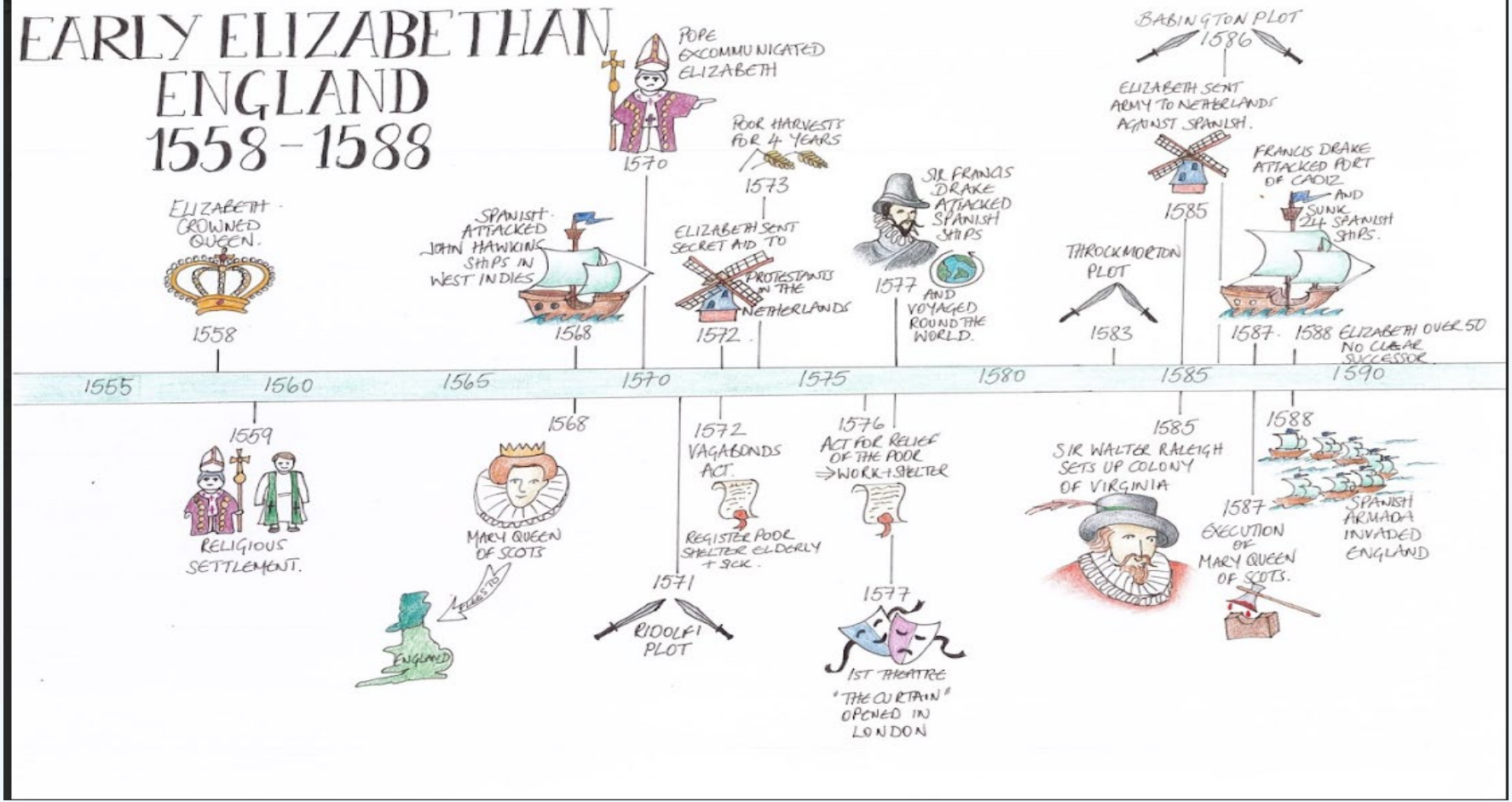
12 mark planning

Question	Paragraph 1	Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3
Explain why the Catholic threat to Elizabeth I increased after 1566 • You may use the following in your answer: • The Dutch Revolt • Mary, Queen of Scots' arrival in England in 1568 • You must also use information of your own -	Factor:	Factor:	Factor:
Explain why the attempt to colonise Virginia in 1585-86 was a failure You may use the following in your answer: • The colonists • Wingina • You must also use information of you own	Factor:	Factor:	Factor:
Explain why Philip II launched the Armada against England in 1588 You may use the following in your answer: • England's involvement in the Netherlands • Drake's attacks on Spain's colonies in America • You must also use information of your own	Factor:	Factor:	Factor:
Explain why the Throckmorton Plot (1583) was a threat to Elizabeth I **You may use the following in you answer:** • Mary, Queen of Scots • Foreign threat • You must also use information of your own **ENSURE YOU CAN DO THIS WITH THREAT OF THE NORTHERN EARLS/RIDOLFI AND BABINGTON PLOT**	Factor:	Factor:	Factor:

16 mark planning

Question	Introduction	Argument/s for	Argument/s against	Conclusion
Religion was Elizabeth's main problem in the years 1558-69'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer You may use the following in your answer: • The Religious Settlement • Mary, Queen of Scots arrival in England in 1568 • You must also use information of your own	Factor:	Factor:	Factor:	
The decline in Anglo-Spanish relations in the years 1569-85 caused by Elizabeth I'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer • You may use the following in your answer: • Drake's voyages to the New World • The Netherlands • You must also use information of your own	Factor:	Factor:	Factor:	
'The main reason that voyages of exploration were undertaken during Elizabeth I's reign was to increase England's wealth'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer **You may use the following in your answer:** • Anglo-Spanish relations • Developing trade • You must also use information of your own	Factor:	Factor:	Factor:	
Population growth was the main reason why vagabondage increased in Elizabeth England'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer • You may use the following in your answer: • Sheep farming • Rising prices **You must also use information of your own**	Factor:	Factor:	Factor:	

EARLY ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND 1558-1588



REVISE ALL OF GCSE HISTORY ELIZABETH 1568–1603 IN 37 MINUTES

THE PLOTS

ONE DOES NOT
SIMPLY
KILL OUR QUEEN

Early Elizabethan England

The Problem of Elizabeth's Legitimacy

Early Elizabethan England

Government and Society

Early Elizabethan England

The Religious Settlement