

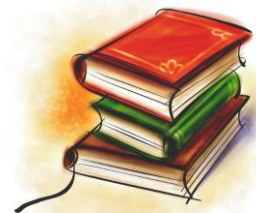
Atherton High School History Department



AQA GCSE History Study Booklet

Name-

Teacher-



Elizabeth and her Government Booklet 1

The exam board expects you to have a knowledge and understanding of the following-

- The background and character of Elizabeth I
- Court Life including Patronage; Key Ministers under Elizabeth
- Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament
- The problem of marriage and the Succession
- Challenges to Elizabeth's authority and her strength by the end of her reign



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Elizabeth's Background and Character

Henry VIII was married to his first wife, the Spanish princess Catherine of Aragon, for more than twenty years. Unfortunately, the marriage failed to produce a surviving male heir. A tragic series of miscarriages, stillbirths and infant deaths had left just one heir to the throne, a daughter, called Mary.

The last time England had a female heir was in the 12th Century and this had caused a long and bloody civil war due to the fact that women were seen as weak and incapable of ruling in medieval times.

Henry had convinced himself that his marriage to Catherine was invalid and that God had punished the royal couple for their sin by denying them any surviving sons. The Tudor dynasty was still quite young and Henry was worried that his family's power might not continue after his death.

Henry had become infatuated with another woman at court called Anne Boleyn. Henry saw her as the solution to all of her problems. She was young and vibrant, the opposite of Catherine, and Henry was confident that Anne could provide him with what he wanted.

Task

Using each paragraph above, list the different reasons behind Henry VIII's decision to divorce Catherine of Aragon

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Henry took the drastic step of breaking with the Catholic Church and creating a new Church in England with himself as the leader to get his divorce. Henry married Anne and she fell pregnant. Much to Henry's anger, Anne gave birth to a baby girl on 7th September 1533 who was named Elizabeth.

Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn quickly broke down after this disappointment of another daughter. In May 1536, when Elizabeth was aged just two, her mother was executed. Elizabeth was declared illegitimate, just like her half-sister Mary had been. This meant that she had been born to parents who were not truly married, and therefore could never become Queen. The birth of a male heir, Edward in 1537 to Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, put Elizabeth back to third in line for the throne - after her half-brother, Edward, and her half-sister, Mary .



The family of Elizabeth I, painted in 1545. Henry VIII is in the centre. His wife Jane Seymour is to the right of Henry and his son Edward to his left, although in reality, Jane actually died giving birth to Edward. Further to the left is Henry's eldest daughter Mary, and further to the right is his younger daughter, Elizabeth.

Task:

Explain why Henry VIII asked for his family to be painted in this way.



A portrait of the teenage Elizabeth (attributed to Guillaume Scrots).

Task:

What impression does this painting give you of a young Elizabeth? (Give evidence from the portrait to back up your ideas).

Although she did not have a normal family life, Elizabeth was not alone in her early years. She lived with her household in lots of royal residences (palaces or stately homes) in the country, such as Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. Elizabeth was originally taught by her governess, Kat Ashley, and then tutored along with her brother Edward by brilliant scholars.

Extract from a letter by Roger Ascham, Elizabeth's tutor, in 1550.

My illustrious mistress, the Lady Elizabeth shines like a star. So much solidity of understanding, such courtesy and dignity, which I have never observed at so early an age. She has such a love for the true religion and the best kind of literature. Her mind is free from female weakness and she is blessed with masculine power for hard work. No memory is more retentive than hers.

Task:

From Roger Ascham's description of Elizabeth as a student, explain what might make her an effective queen in the future.

During Elizabeth's teenage years, Henry's sixth wife, Katherine Parr, acted as a mother figure to Elizabeth. The two women got on well. Katherine very much influenced Elizabeth's Protestant religious views and her education. Elizabeth now visited the Royal Court more often and stayed for long periods with her siblings towards the end of her father's life. In 1544, Elizabeth was made an heir to the throne again - but she could only become queen after her half-brother Edward and then half-sister Mary. Both would be expected to produce children of their own. Although Elizabeth's status had gone up in 1544, it was highly unlikely that she would ever be Queen.

In January 1547, Henry VIII died, and Prince Edward became Edward VI. Elizabeth had been fairly close to Edward at this point, but when he became King, Edward became very arrogant and distant. The two brothers of Jane Seymour (the mother of King Edward) held a lot of power over the young king, particularly the older brother, the Duke of Somerset. Elizabeth found herself in trouble because of the younger brother, Thomas Seymour. He had married Katherine Parr soon after Henry VIII's

death and Elizabeth lived in their house. Thomas began to flirt with the young Elizabeth. There were rumours of an affair and a plot for Thomas Seymour to overthrow the King and marry Elizabeth. Seymour was arrested, and was beheaded in 1549 for treason. Elizabeth was questioned about her involvement: she escaped without any punishment but this was a warning to her about the dangers of involvement with men.

Edward died, childless, when he was 15 after 6 years as king. His Catholic half-sister Mary became Queen in 1553. Mary passionately hated Elizabeth's mother Anne Boleyn for taking the place of her own mother, Catherine of Aragon. Mary therefore hated Elizabeth. She viewed Elizabeth with suspicion as a Protestant even though she made sure she went to Catholic Mass to please Mary. Mary was childless, so Elizabeth was her heir. A rebellion against Mary started in 1554 due to her marriage to King Philip II of Spain. Mary suspected Elizabeth of secretly working with the rebels. Elizabeth was arrested and forced to spend two horrendous months in the Tower of London. Elizabeth wrote a long letter to Mary protesting her innocence and was eventually released when no solid evidence could be found against her. She was kept under house arrest for the rest of Mary's reign until she died in 1558 and Elizabeth became Queen of England, aged 25.

Task: Make a list of three ways in which Elizabeth's early life was difficult:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Explain how Elizabeth's experiences as a young person might affect her approach to ruling England? (e.g. What would she want to avoid? What would she want to do?).

There is a legend (story) that Elizabeth, was sitting underneath an oak tree at Hatfield House, when she was informed of her sister's death and her own accession to the throne by being handed the coronation ring. She is said to have said, 'This is the Lord's doing; and it is marvellous in our eyes!' In a spectacular ceremony, Elizabeth was crowned Queen in Westminster Abbey on the 15th January, 1558.

Task:

Although Elizabeth inherited huge debts of around £300,000, she spent £16,000 on a grand coronation (crowning ceremony). Why do you think she did this?

Elizabeth's Court and Government

The Royal Court

This was made up of all of the people who worked for and lived with the Queen: nobles, ladies-in-waiting, and servants as well as government officials and advisors. There were about 500 of these people.

The Court was Elizabeth's home, as well as the centre of government. There were elaborate banquets (feasts), plays, tournaments and musical performances. Elizabeth understood **propaganda**: she was concerned about her image, and wanted to show off her power and wealth to her subjects, as well as to foreign visitors.



They travelled with Elizabeth as she moved between her different residences. Elizabeth was always short of money. She did not build any new palaces, but inherited many. Each summer, she travelled with her court on royal tours called **Progresses**, visiting the homes of nobles in the South and the Midlands. She

would travel with up to 400 wagons. This allowed her people to see her, whilst the nobles competed to invite her to stay.

Elizabeth gave important political jobs and positions at court to people whose support she needed. The giving of positions in return for loyalty is called **patronage**. Elizabeth was a master of this, and it worked to keep her subjects loyal.

The Privy Council

This was a group of up to 20 advisors, chosen by the Queen. Their job was to advise her, although she was not obliged to follow their advice. They also co-ordinated military affairs, finance, law courts and local officials. They guided discussion in Parliament . Although some of them were nobles, Elizabeth liked to promote men of ability too. They were educated, professional and full-time politicians. These men were from the middle class or 'Gentry'. They met nearly every day at court.

Task: Match the words and meanings:

Propaganda	The group of people who worked for, and lived with, Elizabeth.
Progress	Persuasive information
Privy Council	A large group of people who were invited to discuss government business, and to approve taxes.
Court	A tour made by Elizabeth to meet her people and stay with noble families
Parliament	A small group of advisors to the Queen

Some of the key members of the Privy Council were.

1. **William Cecil (Lord Burghley)**. Cecil was made her Secretary of State twice. He was an MP and her closest advisor. In this role, he encouraged her to take tight control of Ireland and fight other Catholic rivals at home and abroad. He also played a key role in developing the Poor Laws and the new religious policies.
2. **Francis Walsingham** - a close advisor until he died in 1590. He controlled the network of spies responsible for discovering the Essex rebellion and the plots surrounding Mary Queen of Scots. He also

helped make England a powerful force at sea, and helped deal with the threats from Spain, France and the Netherlands.

- 3. Robert Dudley** - a childhood friend and suitor (he wanted to marry her). He was Master of the Horse, which meant he was responsible for keeping Elizabeth safe. He was a Puritan, who argued with Cecil about religion and foreign policy.
- 4. Sir Christopher Hatton** - Captain of the Queen's bodyguard, helped organise the Queen's progresses, as an MP he helped Elizabeth to get the support of other MPs.

Task:

Who controlled the network of spies? _____

Who was Elizabeth's closest advisor? _____

Which childhood friend was responsible for her safety? _____

Who organised the royal progresses? _____

Source 1

I have the judgement of you, that you will not be corrupted with any gift, you will be faithful to the state, and without respect of my private will, you will give me the best advice; if you know anything to be declared to me in secret, you will tell only me and I will keep it confidential.

Elizabeth's comments to Cecil when she appointed him to the Privy Council in November 1558.

Source 2

His labour and care ... were so relentless and his study so great as, in cases of necessity, he turned his head neither for meat, sleep or rest, till his business was brought to some end. This will of his caused all his friends to pity him and his very servants to admire him.

A.G.R Smith on Cecil

Source 3

Her temper was so bad that no Councillor dared to mention business to her and when even Cecil did so, she told him that she had been strong enough to lift him out of the dirt, and she was able to cast him down again.

From a report from a Spanish Ambassador

Source 4

She ruled much by factions and parties, which she made, upheld and weakened as her own great judgement advised.

Robert Naunton, a member of Elizabeth's court, reminisces in the 1630's

Source 5

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

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

Task

Read Sources 1,2,3 and 5. Why do you think Elizabeth chose Cecil as her chief advisor?

Read Source 8. Why might Elizabeth have encouraged rivalries between her councillors?

The members of the Privy Council were ambitious, but Elizabeth was careful to control them. She deliberately appointed men who were hostile towards (did not like) each other. They had to compete for her affection. The group however ran the country efficiently for much of her reign.

The role of Parliament

Parliament was made up of two houses: the House of Lords (around 90 unelected nobles and bishops) and the House of Commons (around 450 MPs, who were elected by the landowners). They+ did not meet regularly. They met 13 times in Elizabeth's long reign. These are the matters discussed at each of their meetings

Date	Main business of Parliament
1559	Royal power over the Protestant Church of England.
1563	Approval of taxes to fund wars against France and Scotland.
1566	Taxes agreed to pay for an army sent to France.
1571	Taxes agreed to help defeat a rebellion in the North. Laws against the Pope and Traitors.
1572	MPs met to discuss the Queen's safety after discovery of a Catholic plot.
1576	MP's agreed to taxes even though the country was at peace.
1581	Taxes approved to pay for an army sent to Ireland. Anti-Catholic laws passed.
1584-85	Laws against Catholic priests passed. More taxes granted.
1586-87	MP's granted taxes for war against Spain.
1589	MPs approved taxes to pay the costs of defeating the Spanish Armada the year before.
1593	Taxes granted for war against Spain and more anti-Catholic laws passed.
1597-98	More taxes granted and laws passed regarding the poor.
1601	Taxes granted to pay for war against Spain and to pay for the army in Ireland.

Task

Study the table of business put in place by Parliament. What are the most common reasons for why Parliament met?

Parliaments were now more powerful than they had been in the Middle Ages, but still the Queen controlled them, using the Privy Council to do most of her business. MPs were now better educated: this meant they became more self-confident in arguing against the Queen. MP's were supposed to have special privileges, allowing them freedom of speech and freedom from arrest. They made complaints such as about Elizabeth's marital status and religious issues. Puritans, in particular, repeatedly used the House of Commons to organise and voice their opposition to the Queen's policies.

Elizabeth made use of her powers to limit the influence of Parliament. She used the force of her own personality and sometimes attended Parliament in person to get her way. The Queen had the right to appoint the Speaker, who controlled and directed the debates. Elizabeth was also able to use her royal veto to block anything proposed by Parliament. She blocked them from discussing her marriage in 1566. Also, Elizabeth was able to end any troublesome Parliament whenever she wished.

Source 1

Elizabeth used a tone of arrogant superiority towards her Parliaments; confident that if she explained things often enough and slowly enough, the little boys would understand. For Elizabeth, parliamentarians were little boys – sometimes unruly and a nuisance, and always a waste of an intelligent woman's time. She did not like Parliaments and it showed.

Task:

Read Source 1. Why did Elizabeth attend Parliament and make speeches there if she had such low opinion of its members?

Members of the Privy Council sat in both the House of Commons and House of Lords. Elizabeth used them to control the affairs of Parliament. MPs were carefully considered by the Privy Council before they were selected and local officials carefully supervised the elections when they took place. As so many MPs owed their seats to the patronage (favour) of the Queen or her councillors, their independence was limited.

Task:

Complete the sentences to show the different ways that Elizabeth attempted to control her MPs.

1. She sometimes attended parliament in _____
2. She appointed the _____, who would control the debates in the way that she wanted.
3. She used her power of _____ to stop MPs discussing certain topics: for example she stopped them from discussing her _____ in 1566.
4. She could _____ parliaments.
5. She chose the members of the _____ Council - as they sat in Parliament, they could influence the debates.
6. Some MPs got their seats through _____ so they had to do what the Queen wanted.

The Difficulties of a female ruler

The great prejudice against female rulers led Elizabeth's father to break from Rome and marry six times. Despite this, Elizabeth's half-sister Mary had been the first official Queen of England. Her reign did not inspire confidence in the people. Mary died enormously unpopular after just a brief reign.

There were examples of women ruling effectively at the time of Elizabeth, for example Isabella of Castile in Spain, and Marie de Guise in Scotland as regent for her daughter, who became known as Mary, Queen of Scots. As Elizabeth got older, she came to see her gender not as a disadvantage but as a useful political weapon. It allowed her to charm and manipulate, to avoid situations she disliked and decisions she did not want to make.

Source 1

William Cecil, speaking in 1566.

Pray God would send our mistress a husband, and by time a son, that we may hope our future shall have a masculine succession.

Source 2

Elizabeth's response to Parliament pressurising her to marry in 1566.

I will never be by violence constrained to do anything. It is monstrous that the feet should direct the head! They are too feeble minded to discuss the issue.

Task: Read the sources above

What did Parliament try to pressure Elizabeth into doing and why?

Did Elizabeth do as Parliament expected?

Source 3

Part of a speech Elizabeth made at Tilbury during the Spanish Armada.

I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England, too.

Task:

Why do you think that Elizabeth decided to include these statements into her Tilbury speech?

The Problem of Marriage and Succession

Elizabeth was 25 when she became queen. By Tudor standards this was old to still be unmarried. She had not married due to her awkward position during her father's and siblings' reigns. Everyone assumed that marriage would be high on Elizabeth's list of priorities. She was the last of Henry VIII's children so if she died without an heir, the Tudor dynasty would die too. Elizabeth hesitated for years and kept people at home and abroad guessing about who she would choose or even choose at all! Her Privy Council and Parliaments all tried to pressure her to marry.

Source A

You will never marry. The Queen of England is too proud to suffer having a commander.

Sir James Melville, Scottish ambassador to England, 1564

Source B

I have already joined myself in marriage to a husband, namely the kingdom of England.

Queen Elizabeth in a letter written to Parliament, 1564.

Interpretation A

If the queen's husband were a foreigner there was no knowing what power he might get over the queen, power which he would very likely use for the good of a foreign country, and not for the good of England. On the other hand, if he was chosen from among the queen's subjects, it was certain that there would be jealousy among all the great nobles when they saw one of them picked out and made king over them.

A History of England (1898)

Interpretation B

Elizabeth did not want to marry any man. The reason could go back to childhood that would have been considered highly dysfunctional even in modern times. Her father had her mother, Anne Boleyn executed when Elizabeth was just three. Her step-mothers didn't fare very well either. At age eight she declared that she would never marry.

From a newspaper interview with Alison Weir who wrote a novel based on Elizabeth's life

Task: What different reasons do the sources give for Elizabeth not getting married?

Who could be worthy of marrying a queen?

Throughout her reign, many men became potential husbands to Elizabeth. Some might be chosen for political reasons, but others would be for more personal reasons.

Marrying a foreigner could create an alliance with a foreign country but marrying a foreign prince or king could lead to England falling under their control. When Mary I had married the Spanish Catholic king, Philip II, this was widely seen as a disaster.

Marrying an English nobleman, on the other hand, would mean that all power stayed within England. However it could create problems with other nobles who might be jealous of whoever married Elizabeth.

Task: Using the information above; write down the reasons **FOR** and **AGAINST** Elizabeth marrying a foreigner or an Englishman.

Reasons for marrying a foreigner	Reasons against marrying a foreigner
Reasons for marrying an Englishman	Reasons against marrying an Englishman

By marrying, Elizabeth could produce an heir to succeed her and continue the Tudor line but giving birth was risky for women at this time, often resulting in the death of the mother. Marriage and children would prevent Mary, Queen of Scots from ruling England after Elizabeth's death. Remaining unmarried meant Elizabeth kept her independence, as legally the husband had authority over the wife and Elizabeth did not want to be controlled by her husband.

There were plenty of men who wanted to marry Elizabeth.
The main suitors (men who wanted to marry her) were:

1. King Philip II of Spain.

He had been married to Elizabeth's half-sister, Mary, and proposed to Elizabeth very early in her reign. Although a union with Spain may help England against their traditional enemies in France, Elizabeth turned him down because he had treated Mary badly, and her marriage to a Catholic had proved very unpopular with her people.



2. Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

He was Elizabeth's close friend since childhood, and remained one of her favourites throughout her reign, and many thought they would marry until Dudley married someone else. His wife, Amy, then died by falling down the stairs. There were suspicions that Dudley himself had planned this, and the scandal meant that Elizabeth would never marry him.



3. Francis, Duke of Alencon

He was the brother of the French King, who had no children, and so was heir to the throne of France. A marriage could lead to influence in France, and was supported by William Cecil and some members of the Privy Council. However, there was also a risk. Elizabeth was 46 at the time their marriage was discussed: it was unlikely she would have a child at this age, and therefore when she died, this marriage might mean that England could fall under the control of Catholic France. The St Bartholomew's Massacre in 1572, when thousands of Protestants were murdered in France, put an end to the negotiations with France.



Task:

Give one possible advantage in marrying each man.

1. King Philip of Spain _____
2. Robert Dudley _____
3. Francis, Duke of Alencon _____

Task: List the different reasons why Elizabeth may not have wanted to get married.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

A solution to the problem of the succession

Elizabeth's cousins, Lady Catherine and Lady Mary Grey, were nominated as heirs to the throne by Henry VIII if his children had no children of their own. They were Protestants, but in fact Elizabeth's other cousin, the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots, had a stronger claim. When she had a baby boy in 1566, the baby James became the obvious heir to Elizabeth. Though his mother was a Catholic, James was brought up as a Protestant. He was soon to become, James VI, King of Scotland, when his mother was forced to leave Scotland for England in 1567. Both James' mother and his father were grandchildren of, Mary Tudor, the sister of Henry VIII and aunt of Elizabeth. James' claim to the throne was supported by the powerful Cecil family. Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, Robert Cecil began to send secret letters to James advising him about English government. James would be king of both Scotland and England on Elizabeth's death which would end a long history of tension and conflict between the two countries.

Task: Explain why James VI of Scotland was the ideal successor

Elizabeth's Other Problems

You have looked at Elizabeth's initial problem of securing her succession and the problem of the Catholic, Mary, Queen of Scots threatening her security as Queen.

Religion



Elizabeth's father had broken with Rome to get his divorce. After his death, Edward continued to establish the Protestant faith. When Mary came to the throne she tried to undo their work and re-establish Catholicism. Elizabeth was a Protestant but she was also pragmatic (practical). She didn't want to make her enemies angry immediately. In 1558, the Elizabethan Religious Settlement allowed Catholics to follow their faith privately. However the Settlement re-established the Church of England's independence from Rome, with Parliament giving Elizabeth the title Supreme Governor of the Church of England. The Act of Uniformity of 1559 outlined what form the English Church should take, including the re-establishment of the Book of Common Prayer which was made law by Edward VI.

Task: Choose the correct words from the brackets.

Elizabeth re-established the (*Catholic / Protestant*) church, but allowed (*Catholics / Protestants*) to practise their faith in private. This meant they were less likely to (*rebel against her / be loyal*). The Act of (*Uniformity/ Succession*) brought back the English Book of Common (*Prayer / Practice*).

Taxation



The government needed money and one of the ways to get this is through taxes. The beginning of Elizabeth's reign was a time of great poverty.

Task: Why could raising taxes become a problem to Elizabeth's security?

Ireland



Elizabeth considered herself to be Queen of Ireland. Unfortunately, many of the Irish disagreed. A major problem was a revolt in Ireland in 1559. She spent thousands of pounds and sent many of her best soldiers to try to limit the Irish rebellion but nothing seemed to work long term.

Task: How does the problems in Ireland link to taxation?

Foreign Policy



Elizabeth had to deal with powerful countries that wanted influence over England. France and Spain, which were both Catholic and had the support of the Pope, saw Protestant England as a target. One major area of disagreement was the Netherlands in 1567. The mainly Protestant population were in conflict with the Catholic Spanish who ruled the area. Elizabeth wanted to help the Dutch financially and did so secretly.

Task: What problems might this lead to if Elizabeth was found out?

Challenges to Elizabeth's Rule

After Elizabeth's coronation, she faced particular opposition from Catholics who felt that she had no right to be Queen. Many believed that her father's marriage to her mother, Anne Boleyn, was illegal because Henry broke sacred laws by divorcing his first wife, the Catholic Catherine of Aragon. Increasingly, these opponents looked to Elizabeth's Catholic cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, as an alternative monarch.

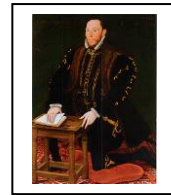
1. The Northern Rebellion (1569)



Duke of Norfolk

Despite the official religious changes, many people in northern England kept their Catholic beliefs and there was support for Mary QoS to replace Elizabeth on the throne. Elizabeth therefore kept Mary under close watch to prevent a possible rebellion while she decided how to deal with her. Elizabeth's cousin, the Duke of Norfolk, who was Lord Lieutenant of the North, wanted to marry Mary. Although

Norfolk was a Protestant, he was from a Catholic family, and Elizabeth felt threatened by a marriage between these two powerful people, who may try to replace her. When Elizabeth refused to give permission for this the marriage, a group of northern lords began a rebellion. They took control of Durham Cathedral and celebrated an illegal Catholic mass. They then began to march south with around 4600 men. Elizabeth struggled to gather an army to resist them but



Earl of Northumberland



Earl of Westmoreland

eventually one of her loyal, the Earl of Sussex, raised an army of around 7000 and the rebels dispersed. The leaders of the rebellion fled to Scotland where Northumberland was quickly captured and executed. Westmoreland escaped to France, where he lived until he died in poverty.

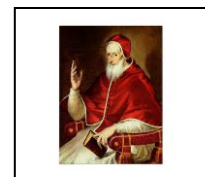
2: The Ridolfi Plot (1571)



Roberto Di Ridolfi

The Duke of Norfolk spent ten months in the Tower of London but was eventually released and kept under house arrest, meaning that he was forced to stay inside his home at all times. He quickly became involved in another plot, this time led by an Italian Catholic banker named Roberto Di Ridolfi.

Pope Pius V



Ridolfi hoped for the backing of the Pope and foreign support. In 1570, Pope Pius V had commanded Catholics in England not to obey Elizabeth. The plan was for the Netherlands to invade England at the same time as another northern rebellion. Elizabeth would be murdered and replaced by Mary, QoS, who would then marry Norfolk.

However, Elizabeth's network of spies discovered the plot when a bag of gold coins with some coded letters in it was discovered on its way north. The code was cracked when the cipher (secret instructions) was discovered under a doormat at Norfolk's house. Norfolk confessed to his involvement and was executed on 2 June 1572.

Task: Study the two plots carefully and complete the table.

The Northern Rebellion (1569)	The Ridolfi Plot (1571)
<p>Who was involved and why?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Who was involved and why?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>What did they do?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>What did they do?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Why did the plot fail?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Why did the plot fail?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>What happened to the rebels?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>What happened to the rebels?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

The rebellions that Elizabeth was forced to deal with in her early reign did not disappear. Towards the end of her reign she faced a rebellion led by a man at one time considered as a potential husband for her, the Earl of Essex. Unlike the other rebellions, this was not about religion. Essex's rebellion was all about power and influence.

Essex's Rebellion (1601)



**Robert
Devereaux,
the Earl of
Essex**

Robert Devereux inherited his title of Earl of Essex in 1573 when his father died. His father had been a loyal and respected member of the royal court who had helped to put down the Northern Rebellion in 1569. Essex was introduced to the Queen in 1587. Elizabeth thought highly of him. Although more than 30 years older, she may have been attracted to his good looks. In 1595 she made him a Privy

Councillor. She then gave him the monopoly of sweet wine in England. This gave him full control of the supply of sweet wine from abroad: anyone who wished to import it would have to pay Essex a tax. This made him rich.



**Robert
Cecil**

Essex was a rival to another young man at court, Robert Cecil. Robert Cecil was the son of the Queen's great friend, William Cecil. He was made Secretary of State after and came to hold much power. Robert Cecil had a crooked back, and was jealous of Essex. The division in the Privy Council became clear. Essex won a military



**Queen
Elizabeth I**

victory against the Spanish in 1596. He returned to England a hero, and the Queen's favourite. He was unpredictable however, and his actions often angered the Queen. He had annoyed her by secretly marrying without her permission.

When she later refused to promote one of his supporters., Essex turned his back on the Queen in a fit of anger.

Elizabeth retaliated by hitting him on the side of his head.

Essex almost drew his sword, but was stopped by the other privy councillors. Elizabeth put him under house arrest. He still refused to admit he had done anything wrong. Elizabeth took no further action against him. Many at the time thought that he had been lucky to escape with his life.

Task:

List what Essex did to get a lot of power by 1596.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Task: List the ways in which Essex's personality caused problems for him by 1596.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



In January 1599, Essex was given another chance as Elizabeth made him the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to defeat a rebellion being led by the Earl of Tyrone. Essex was not keen on this post at first, fearing Cecil would become more powerful whilst he was away. He made peace with Tyrone, against the Queen's orders when he heard that Elizabeth had further promoted Cecil. Sparked by jealousy, on his return to Court, Essex burst into the Queen's bedchamber before she was dressed with her wig on. For Elizabeth, this disrespect was the final straw. He was ordered before the Privy Council, and was interrogated.

He lost his monopoly on sweet wines which caused him massive problems as he had large debts. His career was totally ruined! Furious, Essex was determined to remove his rival, Robert Cecil, from power. In February 1601, he gathered around 300 supporters, made up of a few unsuccessful courtiers and disgruntled, unemployed soldiers. He marched to his mansion in London, Essex House on the Strand. Rumours of treason and rebellion began to spread. Essex refused



Essex on horseback

Elizabeth's demands for him to appear in front of the Privy Council. When four Privy Councillors went to his house to question him, he locked them



up as hostages. He then marched with his men to the centre of London in an effort to capture the Queen. Robert Cecil responded quickly. He labelled Essex a traitor. Most of Essex's supporters quickly deserted him when they were offered a pardon. Essex underestimated Elizabeth and her government and overestimated his own strength. Essex found his route blocked so he returned home, where his house was

Execution Block

surrounded by Elizabeth's forces. The hostages had been released by supporters who had abandoned his cause. He had no choice but to surrender. The rebellion had lasted only twelve hours. Two weeks later, Essex was put on trial for treason. He was executed on 25 February 1601. In exchange for information he gave about the others involved in the ploy, Elizabeth allowed Essex to be executed in private rather than suffer a public beheading. This rebellion showed that Elizabeth's position was never safe.

Task: List the mistakes that Essex makes from 1599 onwards that led to his execution.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Strength of Elizabeth's Authority at the End of her reign

Elizabeth ruled for 45 years. She had used her power and influence to gain huge following from her people. Her progresses, and the image she created of herself through paintings gave her great popularity, as did the religious Settlement and the successes abroad. Noble families competed for her patronage and her favour. She ruled with the help of dedicated, loyal and able advisers. Her position as a female monarch without children was never secure: however, she was able to use her support to defeat the rebellions against her.

Why did plots and rebellions against Elizabeth fail?

Elizabeth had the largest and most effective network of spies and informers that England had ever seen. Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth's Chief Minister, oversaw the spy network. They would pay informers, such as innkeepers and servants, who could overhear talk of plots.

The second reason that the plots failed was that they did not have enough popular support. Most people were happy with Elizabeth's reign. For the first time in many years, people were able to live in relative religious freedom. The brutality of Mary I's reign was something that no one wished to return to and even many Catholics preferred an English queen over Mary, QoS, or a foreign ruler like Philip II of Spain. For many in England, it seemed that they had never had it so good. There simply was not the general appetite for things to change!

Task:

What were the two main reasons for the failure of the plots against Elizabeth?

1. _____
2. _____

Match up these men with their roles.

Francis Walsingham	Elizabeth's close friend, who may have wanted to marry her, but could not after his wife died in suspicious circumstances.
William Cecil	Made Secretary of State when his father became too old. Defeated the Essex rebellion.
Robert Cecil	Elizabeth's trusted advisor, who was known as the "spy-master".
Robert Dudley	Elizabeth's Secretary of State and most trusted advisor for most of her reign.

Points Test

How much can you remember? Try to answer the following questions about Elizabeth and her Government. How many points can you get?

1. What were the 4 main reasons behind Henry's divorce? (4 points)

2. In what year was Elizabeth born? (1 point) _____

3. Which couple did Elizabeth live with after her father's death?

(2 points) _____

4. Where was Elizabeth when she heard she was queen? (1 point) _____

5. List 3 reasons why Elizabeth chose William Cecil as her main advisor?

(3 points) _____

6. What were the two main points Parliament clashed with Elizabeth on?

(2 points) _____

7. List 4 ways Elizabeth was able to influence Parliament? (4 points) _____

8. How old was Elizabeth when she became queen? (1 point)_____

9. Name the 3 main candidates to marry Elizabeth? (3 points)_____

10. Why was James I of Scotland chosen? (1 point)_____

11. What did the Religious Settlement allow Catholics to do? (1 point)___

12. Which Protestant country was owned by Spain? (1 point)_____

13. Who were the 3 main leaders of the Northern Rebellion? (1 point) _

14. What was the name of the Italian banker who plotted against Elizabeth? (1 point)_____

15. Which two men fought for Elizabeth's favour in 1601? (2 points)___

Total number of points=28

I got a total of _____ points

Key Words

Word	Definition (What does the word mean?)
Dynasty	A line of rulers of a country Usually from the same family i.e. Tudors
Church of England	The official religion of England set up by Henry VIII
Protestant	Christians who do not follow the Catholic Church and the authority of the Pope
Catholic Mass	Ceremony where the bread and wine becomes the body and blood of Jesus Christ
Middle Class	A social group in-between working and upper-class. Usually well-educated and professionals
Plot	A plan made in secret usually to do something illegal
MP	A member of Parliament
Veto	The right or ability to be able to block something if you do not like or want it
Patronage	To pay/sponsor someone to do something
Regent	A person who looks after something for a while

Key Words

Word	Definition (What does the word mean?)
Alliance	Making a friendship
Suitor	A man who pursues a woman, usually with the intention to marry
Uniformity	Everybody following
Rebellion	An act of armed resistance
Monopoly	The private control of a trade or service
Civil War	People from the same country fighting against each other
Illegitimate	Not recognised as being born during marriage so cannot inherit any titles/possessions

GCSE History

Abraham Moss High School

