

Part 1: Elizabeth's court and Parliament

Elizabeth and her court

i. Background and character of Elizabeth I

- Elizabeth became queen at the age of 25. It was very rare for a woman to be a monarch.
- Most people expected her to marry very quickly. For many years, her courtiers and ministers urged to marry.
- Elizabeth had had a very difficult life. Her mother, Anne Boleyn, had been executed in 1536 and she had been declared illegitimate.
- She was brought up as a Protestant and was looked after by Henry VIII's last wife, Catherine Parr, who died in 1549.
- Her half brother, Edward VI, a Protestant, was king from 1547 to 1553, but he was succeeded by Mary, Elizabeth's elder half-sister.
- Mary was a Catholic and wanted to restore Catholicism in England. She married Philip II of Spain and executed about 300 Protestants who refused to go back to the Catholic Church.
- Elizabeth was imprisoned in The Tower for several years and her life was in danger. She was at Hatfield House when news came of Mary's death.
- Elizabeth had been very well educated on her father's orders. She spoke four or five languages, including Welsh, which she learned from her nurse.
- She was quick-witted, clever and able to use feminine wiles to get her own way.
- Elizabeth could be as ruthless and calculating as any king before her, but, at the same time, she was vain, sentimental and easily swayed by flattery.
- She liked to surround herself with attractive people and her portraits were carefully vetted to make sure that no physical flaws were ever revealed.
- She encouraged people to buy copies of her portraits as a sign of loyalty.
- Portraits were approved by Elizabeth. They usually showed her looking to the left (her right).
- Elizabeth was vain and proud. She wore heavy make-up throughout her life, partly to hide small pox scars, but also to disguise the signs of ageing.
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The coronation

- Elizabeth was crowned on 15 January 1559. She made every effort to be popular. Instead of ordering expensive new clothing, she wore the same dress as Mary and had it altered to fit her.
- During her coronation procession, she charmed the crowd, smiling warmly at people, joking and replying to their good wishes.
- As Elizabeth walked along the carpet laid out for her journey to Westminster Abbey, the crowds rushed forward to cut out pieces as souvenirs.
- Elizabeth made sure that everyone, down to the lowliest beggar, played a part, pausing to listen to congratulations from ordinary people on the street.

The Royal Court

- The Court was wherever the Queen happened to be. Elizabeth liked to keep on the move.
- Elizabeth went on progresses each year, visiting the great houses of her courtiers and favourites.
- These progresses lasted for three months and covered many parts of southern England and the Midlands.
- She stayed at the homes of courtiers to save money and moved on when resources and food were exhausted. It was said that it took seven years to recover from a visit by the Queen.
- Progresses were also intended to let people see her and maintain her authority.
- Elizabeth liked ceremony and was always called 'Your Majesty'; Henry VIII had been called 'Your Grace' at times. Elizabeth wanted to emphasise her importance.
- The most important people at Court were her favourites and her Privy Councillors.
- She liked young attractive people (men in particular); one picture shows her being carried on a platform by a group of men.
- Courtiers were expected to dress very expensively; on occasion, Lord Burghley came dressed in a suit made from silver wire. It must have been very heavy.
- Her childhood friend was Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; they had been in prison together during the reign of Mary.
- Dudley wanted to marry Elizabeth and she probably considered the idea, but decided it would be too dangerous to marry one of her subjects.
- She announced that she was married to England, when he ministers urged her to marry.

ii. Who were Elizabeth's key ministers?

- o **William Cecil**, Lord Burghley, was the most important minister until his death in 1598. He served as Secretary then Lord Treasurer.
- o Although powerful and pragmatic, he was never seen as a favourite and did not dominate government.
- o Elizabeth refused to allow him to retire and when he died he was replaced by his son **Robert Cecil**.

- o **Sir Francis Walsingham** was the spymaster, increasingly important as threats to Elizabeth from Catholics mounted.
- o He uncovered plots which were trying to overthrow Elizabeth in favour of Mary, Queen of Scots.

- o **The Earl of Leicester (Robert Dudley)** was a friend since childhood; they were in The Tower together when Mary became queen in 1553

- o Leicester possibly had ambitions of marrying Elizabeth but his hopes destroyed by mysterious death of his wife Amy Robsart. She was found dead at the foot of stairs in his house in 1560.
- o Other important courtiers and ministers were Sir Christopher Hatton, (Chancellor of the Exchequer) Henry Sidney and the Earl of Sussex (President of Council of the North).
- o Many of these ministers, such as Burghley, Walsingham and Leicester, served for long periods. There was an air of stability at court.
- Burghley, Walsingham and Hatton, all spent large sums in the service of Elizabeth and were never fully repaid. Hatton died penniless and in debt.

iii. What difficulties did Elizabeth face as a female ruler?

- England had two female rulers in succession in the sixteenth century. Elizabeth's half-sister, Mary, reigned from 1553 to 1558.
- Mary had followed the expected path of marrying when she became queen; her husband was Philip II of Spain.
- Philip had not wanted to marry Mary, who was much older, but was forced to do so by his father the Emperor Charles V.
- It was widely expected that Elizabeth would marry soon after she acceded; it was difficult for a woman to rule, because monarchs were expected to lead their forces into battle.
- There was also the problem of the succession. Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII had divorced one wife and executed another, (Elizabeth's mother Anne Boleyn), in an effort to produce a son and heir.
- Edward VI had died at the age of 15 in 1553 and Mary had died childless in 1558. If Elizabeth did not marry, she would not be able to produce a legitimate heir to the throne.
- Almost as soon as she became queen, Elizabeth received suggestions from her ministers and Parliament asking her to marry.

Local government

- There were no local authorities in Elizabethan England. Law and order was in the hands of Justices of the Peace (JPs), who sent reports to London.
- JPs also became responsible for supervising the growing number of laws dealing with wages, prices, and road and bridge repairs.
- They also had to supervise and enforce the vagrancy and poor laws.
- The only local body was the Parish, which was responsible for looking after roads and helping the poor.

Parliament

- The House of Commons was important for two reasons: to pass laws and to vote taxes.
- Elizabeth needed to pass laws to sort out the religious problems that had developed during the reigns of Edward VI and Mary. Parliament would have to vote for them.

- Elizabeth was always short of cash. There were no taxes as such and the Queen was expected to pay for herself from her personal wealth.
- Parliament usually only approved taxes in the event of war; this was in the form of a 'fifteenth or tenth', i.e. a fifteenth of everybody's wealth, especially property.
- MPs as a rule were allowed to speak their minds but Elizabeth continued to allow freedom of speech but qualified it as 'liberty of speech for the well debating of matters propounded'.
- She reserved to herself the right to control what the Commons might, or might not, discuss.
- Some MPs, however, notably Peter Wentworth and his brother Paul, challenged this restriction on the grounds that traditionally Parliament had a counselling role.
- Elizabeth kept a check on the Commons through councillors and courtiers who were MPs.

Marriage

- In 1566, Parliament sent a petition to Elizabeth regarding marriage and succession. Her reply was to the point:
 - 'At present it is not convenient; nor never shall be without some peril unto you and certain danger unto me.'
 - One obvious candidate was Philip II of Spain, her former brother-in-law. He wanted to marry Elizabeth and refused to criticise her treatment of Catholics.
 - There were nobles in England whom she could have married, such as Leicester.
 - English nobles would have been beneath Elizabeth in terms of social rank and it is quite possible that Elizabeth had determined not to marry 'beneath her'.
 - It would also have caused rivalry at court if she had married a favourite.
 - Negotiations were carried out with two Archdukes, Ferdinand and Charles; they were both Habsburgs and Catholic.
 - Various French counts and dukes were also considered, including the Duke of Anjou in 1579
 - There does not seem to be any evidence that Elizabeth was keen to marry and that she was merely going through the motions.
 - No marriage and no children raised the whole issue of the succession on her death.

The succession

- Elizabeth was the last of the Tudor line, but there were other possibilities. Henry VII, her grandfather, had had four children who survived to adulthood; two of them had produced offspring.
 - Mary Tudor married Louis XII of France and then Charles Brandon, the Duke of Suffolk.
 - They had two girls, one of whom was the mother of Lady Jane Grey, who had been put on the throne for nine days in 1553.

- Margaret Tudor married James IV of Scotland and was the mother of James V. he had a daughter, who became Mary, Queen of Scots.
- The descendants of Mary Tudor were not suitable because Jane Grey had been executed, but the descendants of Margaret were far more promising.
- There was just one problem, Mary, Queen of Scots was a Catholic and Scotland was a traditional enemy of England.
- Elizabeth was a Protestant and had spent the first ten years of her reign sorting out the religious problems in England.
- Her 'settlement' meant that England was Protestant and all people had to attend Protestant services every week.
- Catholicism was allowed in secret, checks were kept on important Catholic families by spies.
- James IV had been defeated and killed at the Battle of Flodden in 1513 by an English army.
- Elizabeth therefore had one possible successor and she was likely to be unacceptable in England.
- This problem was not settled until 1587.

iv. How strong was Elizabeth's authority at the end of her reign?

- Elizabeth was secure on the throne at the end of her reign; threats to her were quickly snuffed out
- The defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 ended the threat of invasion by Spain. There were other attempts by the Spanish in 1589 and 1591, but they came to nothing.
- Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed 1587, and there were no more attempts to overthrow Elizabeth. Missionary priests were caught successfully.
- In the 1590s, there were few problems with Puritans and no attempts to reform the Church through Parliament.
- Relations between Queen and Parliament/Privy Council were more settled. The succession problem was solved after the execution of Mary.
- The great majority of people accepted the succession of James VI of Scotland.
- Lord Burghley died in 1598, but was replaced by his very competent son, Robert Cecil.
- There was a rebellion in Ireland in 1593, which dragged on for ten years with Spanish support, but both were finally defeated in 1602-3.
- There was a rising in Oxfordshire in November 1596 caused by a bad harvest and poverty.
- A small group of men planned to seize weapons and armour and march on London, hoping to attract support.
- They met on 21 November, but no one came to support them and they were quickly arrested and tortured.
- A year later two of the men were hanged, drawn and quartered for treason.
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Essex's rebellion

- **Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex**, was one of Elizabeth's favourites and may have imagined that she would marry him.
- He was appointed to command the English army that was sent to Ireland in 1599 to deal with the rebellion.
- He spent most of his time waiting for more soldiers and transport and little to deal with the rebels
- Essex returned from Ireland in disgrace. He was deprived of his offices in June 1600 and promptly placed under house arrest.
- Essex wrote several letters of submission to the Queen, and by August of 1600 he was able to move freely, but to return to court.
- He sent further letters in an attempt to gain permission to do so.
- In November 1600, Queen Elizabeth refused to renew his monopoly on wine.
- A monopoly was the right to be the sole source of a product; the owner could then charge what he liked
- This put him serious financial difficulties. He began to create plans to seize the court by force.
- In February 1601, Essex formed a small group of men dissatisfied with Elizabeth and planned to kidnap her and seize power.
- The coup was a complete flop and Essex was arrested and tried for treason. He was beheaded on 25 February 1601.

Conclusions

- By 1603, the realm was united politically.
- The ruling classes united in accepting James VI of Scotland as next king.
- The succession was no longer a problem.
- Religious divisions were still there but were neutralised.

Part 2: Life in Elizabethan times

A 'Golden Age'

i. How far did living standards improve in Elizabethan England?

- For most of the reign of Elizabeth, living standards were constant; there had been high inflation in the first half of the sixteenth century, but this fell after the 1550s.
- In the 1550s, there had been a series of bad harvests; this happened again in the 1590s and resulted in the passage of the Poor Laws.

The rich

- At the top of society was the nobility. In 1500, there were 28 peers of the realm, but, by 1558, the number had increased to 55.

- Most of these were very wealthy and owned large landed estates. In the second half of the century, estates were consolidated, i.e. they were brought together in one place.
- The nobility 'governed' England and all major posts in government, the army and the navy were held by nobles.
- In cities and among the nobility rapidly increasing wealth had increased a taste for luxuries.
- Dwellings, furniture, and dress, felt its influence. Elegant and substantial houses were built.
- These were often built in the shape of a capital 'E' as a tribute to Elizabeth.
- Furniture was elaborately carved and inlaid; glass mirrors had been introduced from France early in the reign of Elizabeth.
- Carpets from Turkey, which English weavers soon imitated, took the place on floors of rushes and mats on which royalty had before trodden.

Growing prosperity

- For many people, the second half of the sixteenth century was time when they became better off.
- Trading companies such as Merchants Adventurers were doing well. Eastland Company had monopoly of Baltic Trade.
- The Russia Company was founded 1555. The Levant Company was founded in 1581. The East India Company began trading in Indian Ocean in 1581.
- These companies were given monopolies over the trade in their area. Only the East India Company (1600) made a real contribution to trade.
- Colonies in America, such as Virginia were founded in New World but there were patchy beginnings and tobacco and economic success only came after Elizabeth's death.
- Granting of monopolies helped to stimulate trade. Earl of Cumberland had the monopoly on export of undyed cloth. At other times monopolies may have undermined trade and put up prices.
- Rivalry with Spain offered the opportunity for privateering; many voyages were joint-stock ventures that shared the risk and the profits.

New draperies

- Economic hardship and war forced many people to leave the Low Countries. Between 50,000 and 300,000 refugees sought religious freedom elsewhere.
- Many came to Protestant England, settling in towns such as London and Southampton, as well as Norwich.
- The main exodus was in the late sixteenth century, but the effects were felt throughout the seventeenth century.
- The 'strangers' brought with them 'new draperies', which were worsteds made from long staple wool, as opposed to broadcloths.
- These were lighter, more varied and cheaper. They became an important element in the growing English export trade.
- By the second half of the century, they accounted for 50% of exports of textiles.

The rise of the Gentry

- Below the nobility were the gentry. Knights, baronets and esquires; they were classed as 'gentlemen'. They did not work, but were financially independent.
- Their numbers grew and they became more important. Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh were both members of the gentry.
- The rise of the gentry was one of the dominant features of Elizabethan society. A major reason was the dissolution of the monasteries in 1530s by Henry VIII.
- The lands belonging to monasteries were sold off and often bought by the gentry.
- Increased landholdings meant increased social standing. Gentry families came to dominate counties and served as Knights of the Shire (MPs).
- They served as JPs, who were the only form of local government apart from the Parish.
- Elizabeth preferred to use the gentry as government officials. Parliament was increasingly made up of the gentry.

Yeomen

- The big divide in society came between gentlemen and the rest. Below them were yeomen, farmers who owned their own land.
- Yeomen were comfortably off but they often worked alongside their men. Some could become landless if times were hard.
- Below them came the mass of the population, craftsmen, tenant farmers and labourers.
- According to one writer at the end of the century, about 50% of the people were wealthy or at least reasonably well off.
- At the end of the sixteenth century, it was estimated that half the population could afford to eat meat every day.
- Below them about 30% of the population could afford to eat meat between 2 and 6 times a week.

The Poor

- They were 'poor'. The bottom 20% could only eat meat once a week, if at all. They were **very poor**; at least part of the time they had to rely on poor relief.

Social mobility

- There were many examples of individual social mobility, but there were no changes in the basic structure of society.
- Society became increasingly split between the 'respectable classes' and the rest.
- The main change was in the development of a 'respectable' middle class; this was largely brought about by the growth of commerce.

Merchants

- During the sixteenth century the status of merchants improved. People saw that trade was an increasingly important part of the country's wealth so merchants became more respected.
- Trade and the development of towns and cities produced a growing middle class. This was recognised in the increased numbers of MPs during the century. The House of Commons increased in size by 50%
- Trade required bankers, lawyers and other professions; the nobility and gentry did not work and therefore this became an emerging middle class.
- London merchants could be worth £50,000 - £100,000. Sir John Spencer was probably the richest man in the country with £300,000.
- During the reign of Elizabeth, a middle class emerged for the first time and was treated with respect.

The Theatre

- The first proper theatre was 'The Theatre', built at Shoreditch in 1576.
- The design of The Theatre was possibly adapted from the inn-yards that had served as playing spaces for actors and/or bear baiting pits.
- The building was a polygonal wooden building with three galleries that surrounded an open yard.
- The open yard in front of the stage was cobbled and provided standing room for those paying a penny.
- For another penny, the audience were allowed into the galleries where they either stood or, for a third penny, could procure a stool.
- One of the galleries was divided into small compartments that could be used by the wealthy and aristocrats. A stage jutted out into the open yard. The Theatre is said to have cost £700 to construct, a considerable sum for the age. After the Theatre, further open air playhouses opened in the London area, including the Rose (1587), and the Hope (1613).
- The most famous playhouse was the Globe (1599) built by the company in which Shakespeare had a stake.
- The original Globe was an Elizabethan theatre which opened in autumn 1599 in Southwark, on the south bank of the Thames.
- Most of Shakespeare's post-1599 plays were staged at the Globe, including Julius Caesar, Macbeth, Othello, King Lear and Hamlet.
- The Globe was built in 1599 using timber from The Theatre. The owners originally had a 20-year lease of the site on which the Theatre was built.
- When the lease ran out, they dismantled The Theatre beam by beam and transported it over the Thames to reconstruct it as The Globe.

Layout of the Globe

- The Globe's actual dimensions are unknown, but evidence suggests that it was a three-story, open-air amphitheatre between 97 and 102 feet (29.6 - 31.1M) in diameter that could house up to 3,000 spectators.
- At the base of the stage, there was an area called the pit, where, for a penny, people (the 'groundlings') would stand to watch the performance.
- Around the yard were three levels of stadium-style seats, which were more expensive than standing room.

- A rectangular stage platform, also known as an 'apron stage', thrust out into the middle of the open-air yard.
- The stage measured approximately 43 feet (13.1m) in width, 27 feet (8.2m) in depth and was raised about 5 feet (1.52m) off the ground.
- On this stage, there was a trap door for use by performers to enter from the 'cellarage' area beneath the stage. There may have been other trap doors around the stage.
- The Globe was only in use until 1613, when a cannon fired during a performance of *Henry VIII* caught the roof on fire and the building burned to the ground.
- The site of the theatre was rediscovered in the 20th century and a reconstruction built near the spot.
- These theatres could hold several thousand people; most stood in the open pit before the stage, though rich nobles could watch the play from a chair set on the side of the stage itself.
- Theatre performances were held in the afternoon, because, of course, there was no artificial lighting.
- Women attended plays, though often the prosperous woman would wear a mask to disguise her identity.
- No women performed in the plays. Female roles were generally performed by young boys.
- Plays were performed by companies of actors. The earl of Leicester had a company, which may have built The Theatre.
- Other companies were 'The Lord Chamberlain's Men' and 'The Admiral's Men'.
- Companies had to be careful about the plays that were written and performed.
- Anything that was controversial or political was likely to get them in trouble with the crown.
- William Shakespeare wrote a series of plays about Queen Elizabeth's ancestors which were intended as propaganda.
- Richard III was portrayed as a deformed villain and her grandfather, Henry VII as a hero who killed him.
- Puritans did not like the theatre; they believed that it was immoral. Consequently most theatres were built in Southwark on the south bank of the Thames.

ii. How did the poor fare in Elizabethan England?

- **Reasons for the increase in poverty**
- The population of England increased from about 2,500,000 to about 4,000,000 during the sixteenth century.
- The population was far more mobile than at any time in the past. Young men and women left their villages for agricultural work or domestic service.
- As rural areas were depopulated, towns grew. London grew from about 50,000 in 1500 to 200,000 in 1600. York, Exeter and Norwich all grew to about 20,000.

- The growth was largely brought about by migration. The percentage of people living in towns rose by about 50% during the sixteenth century.
- A major reason for the change was the Dissolution of the Monasteries. This removed an important source of local relief.
- In times of hardship, monasteries had provided medical aid, food and even shelter
- Dissolution increased the numbers of vagrants, as did the final breakdown of feudal control.
- The numbers of vagrants rose steadily during the century and led to the passing of several Poor Laws.
- The first attempt to pass a Poor Law was in 1536. Thomas Cromwell, the king's chief minister put forward a plan to put the able-bodied to work on repairing roads.
- The sick and needy would be supported through charity or local rates. Parliament did not approve the legislation.
- These were attempts to prevent people moving around the country by making relief available in parishes.
- A second factor was the extension of enclosure, particularly in the North of England.
- Many areas had been enclosed before 1500, but there was an increase during the century.
- Sheep farming was more profitable than arable and involved less work. It supplied the cloth trade
- There were many complaints in the first half of the century about the enclosing of fields for pasture.
- The worst affected areas were the Midlands, but the South and East were also enclosed
- Enclosure improved productivity, but despite that, agricultural price began to rise, at times quite steeply.
- There were two periods of very bad harvests, in the 1550s and 1590s.

Attitudes and responses to poverty

Government legislation

- Between 1531 and 1598, various laws were passed which set down the punishments for vagrancy; these included whipping, being branded with the letter 'V' on their forehead, or being sent into slavery for two years.
- Anyone convicted of a second offence of vagrancy could be executed, or sold into slavery for life. Later, some of these punishments were repealed as being too harsh.
- Eventually, the authorities realised there were genuine cases of poverty. They tried to distinguish between 'impotent poor', who could not help themselves, and 'idle vagabonds'.
- In 1572, JPs were given powers to collect a weekly poor-rate (tax) from each parish to help provide for poor people who were genuinely ill, disabled or too old to work.

- In 1598, a system of 'overseers of the poor' in each parish was introduced. However, special institutions - houses of correction - were set up to deal with the 'sturdy' poor.
- In 1601, the Great Poor Law Act brought together all previous measures to help the poor, and ordered local councils to collect a poor rate to provide workhouses and hospitals.

Why did the government take action?

- Increases in the number of vagrants were very worrying for the government.
- The government preferred people to stay in one place; that had been the way of life before 1500.
- Society was a pyramid and each level took responsibility for the people below.

Why did this change?

- Most working people had worked on the land and could not move. They were often bound by ties to the local lord or their employer.
- Enclosures, the creation of compact farms with fences, had taken place in the first half of the sixteenth century.
- Landowners switched from arable to pasture to produce wool for export. This was England's main trade.
- Enclosure meant fewer workers were needed; the unemployed wandered looking for work.
- The situation was made worse by the dissolution of the monasteries. Many employed large numbers of lay workers. These all lost their jobs. They often joined the search for work
- Great Lords sometimes kept bodies of retainers to act as a private army, but that had been stopped by Henry VII.
- The number of great lords dropped at the end of the fifteenth century because many had been killed in the Wars of the Roses.
- This produced even more people without work; many turned to begging. A popular song went:
 - 'Hark, hark, the dog do bark, the beggars are coming to town.'
- These changes produced large numbers of beggars who wandered around, often in large groups.
- There was no police for, apart from JPs, who were responsible for law and order, so beggars were seen as a threat.
- The punishments for begging were made very severe to try to deter people from begging.
- The Poor Laws were partly aimed at providing relief; they were also intended to keep people in one place.
- A series of laws was passed from the 1530s to solve the problem, but it gradually got worse.
- In 1601, the Great Poor Law amalgamated all the previous laws and became known as the Elizabethan Poor Law.

- Eventually, relief was only available in the person's home town or village; if they left, they could not get any help

iii. Who were the English explorers?

Sir John Hawkins

- From 1562, Hawkins made three voyages to Africa to exploit the fast growing slave trade.
- The voyages were financed by City merchants and financiers while the second one had an added incentive to succeed as Elizabeth invested some of her money into it.
- The third voyage was a complete failure. Hawkins fleet had to take shelter in San Juan in Mexico to repair the Queen's ship 'Jesus of Lubeck'.
- This was Spanish territory and Hawkins had to get permission from the Spanish Viceroy to be there.
- Despite that, Spanish troops attacked him in September 1568. Only two ships in his fleet got away.
- After his return to England, Hawkins became a MP in 1571 and in 1577 he succeeded his father-in-law as Treasurer of the Navy.
- Hawkins was important in creating the navy that was to defeat the Spanish Armada in 1588.
- Hawkins was determined to create a modern navy. He wanted ships that were fast and streamlined yet well-armed with cannon.
- Hawkins wanted guns to be the determining factor in battle as opposed to crews relying on boarding parties.
- Hawkins also made life in the Royal Navy more attractive by increasing the wages paid to the crews.
- He attacked corruption within the navy that accounted for too much money going astray.
- Hawkins was third in command of the English fleet that fought the Spanish in 1588.
- He was given command of the 'Victory' and knighted for his leadership on July 26 1588.
- Hawkins was keen to adopt a strong anti-Spanish foreign policy. He sent out the navy to attack Spanish silver fleets off the West Indies and the Azores.

Sir Francis Drake

- Francis Drake was born in Tavistock, Devon in around 1540 and went to sea at an early age.
- In 1567, Drake made one of the first English slaving voyages as part of a fleet led by his cousin John Hawkins, bringing African slaves to work in the 'New World'.
- The Spanish became a lifelong enemy for Drake and they in turn considered him a pirate.
- In 1570 and 1571, Drake made two profitable trading voyages to the West Indies.

- In 1572, he commanded two vessels in a marauding expedition against Spanish ports in the Caribbean.
- He saw the Pacific Ocean and captured the port of Nombre de Dios on the Isthmus of Panama.
- He returned to England with a cargo of Spanish treasure and a reputation as a brilliant privateer.
- In 1577, Drake was secretly commissioned by Elizabeth I to set off on an expedition against the Spanish colonies on the American Pacific coast.
- He sailed with five ships, but by the time he reached the Pacific Ocean in October 1578 only one was left, Drake's flagship the Pelican, renamed the Golden Hind.
- To reach the Pacific, Drake became the first Englishman to navigate the Straits of Magellan.
- He travelled up the west coast of South America, plundering Spanish ports. He continued north, hoping to find a route across to the Atlantic.
- In July 1579, he turned west across the Pacific. He visited the Moluccas, Celebes, Java and then sailed round the Cape of Good Hope.
- He arrived back in England in September 1580 with a rich cargo of spices and Spanish treasure and the distinction of being the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe.
- Seven months later, Elizabeth knighted him aboard the Golden Hind, to the annoyance of the King of Spain.
- In 1585, Drake sailed to the West Indies and the coast of Florida where he sacked and plundered Spanish cities.
- On his return voyage, he picked up the unsuccessful colonists of Roanoke Island off the coast of the Carolinas, which was the first English colony in the New World.
- In 1587, war with Spain was imminent and Drake entered the port of Cadiz and destroyed 30 of the ships the Spanish were assembling against the British.
- In 1588, he was a vice admiral in the fleet that defeated the Armada.
- Drake's last expedition, with John Hawkins, was to the West Indies. The Spanish were prepared for him this time, and the venture was a disaster.
- Drake died on 28 January 1596 of dysentery off the coast of Portobelo, Panama. Hawkins died at the same time, and their bodies were buried at sea.

Sir Walter Raleigh

- In 1578, Raleigh sailed to America with explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert, his half brother.
- In 1585, he sponsored the first English colony in America in Virginia. The colony failed
- Another attempt at colonisation on Roanoke Island also failed in 1587.
- Raleigh has been credited with bringing potatoes and tobacco back to Britain, although both of these were already known via the Spanish. Raleigh did help to make smoking popular at court.
- Raleigh first came to the attention of Elizabeth I in 1580, when he went to Ireland to help suppress an uprising in Munster.

- He soon became a favourite of the queen, and was knighted and appointed captain of the Queen's Guard (1587).
- He became a member of parliament in 1584 and received extensive estates in Ireland.
- In 1592, the queen discovered Raleigh's secret marriage to one of her maids of honour, Elizabeth (Bessie) Throckmorton.
- This discovery threw Elizabeth into a jealous rage and Raleigh and his wife were imprisoned in the Tower.
- On his release, in an attempt to find favour with the queen, he set off on an unsuccessful expedition to find El Dorado, the fabled 'Golden Land'.
- It was supposed to be situated somewhere beyond the mouth of the Orinoco river in Guiana (now Venezuela).

Part 3: Troubles at home and abroad

i. How did religious matters trouble Elizabeth?

- There had been many changes in religion for thirty years, when Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558.
- Her most important task was to find a way of bringing people together. She called this the 'Middle Way'.
- Although not fervently religious, Elizabeth, as the daughter of the reformer Anne Boleyn was clearly Protestant.
- She had been imprisoned in the Tower for failure to conform to Catholicism during Mary's reign.
- However, to some Catholics, Elizabeth was illegitimate and therefore could not be queen. The real queen was her cousin the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots.
- Many leading English Protestants (perhaps 800 or so) had fled abroad during Mary's reign.
- They returned in 1558/9 convinced that God had granted them the opportunity to build a new Protestant Church of England.

The Elizabethan Settlement 1559-66

- The Settlement was made up of several parts, which were meant to establish the new English Protestant Church and suggest that there would be no further changes to the Church Settlement.

1559 Act of Supremacy

- Repealed the authority of the Pope
- Replaced it with a royal Supremacy, except that Elizabeth was made Supreme Governor NOT Supreme Head as her father (Henry VIII) had been.
- This was because, as a woman, she could not be a priest. So her power over the English Church was not as great as Henry VIII's had been.

- 1559 Act of Uniformity

- Authorised the use of a new English Prayer Book based on the Edwardian Book of 1552.

- However the changes made to the 1552 book show that Elizabeth and her advisers were aiming at a moderate statement of doctrine, which would appeal to moderate Catholics as well as Protestants.

- 1559 Royal Injunctions (orders)

- Preaching was controlled by a system of licences issued by the local bishop. At least four sermons a year had to be preached in support of the Royal Supremacy.
- Every Church had to have an English Bible.
- Most sermons to come from the official Book of Homilies originally written by Thomas Cranmer (executed under Queen Mary).
- Parish clergy to instruct young people in 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer and Catechism.
- Shrines, images and all other items in church, which might foster idolatry and superstition to be removed.
- All books and pamphlets on religion to be licensed by Commissioners, Royal Councillors or bishops.
- Clergy to wear vestments worn during Edward's reign.
- No more altars to be destroyed but are to be called communion tables.

1563 The 39 Articles of Religion

- These were passed by Convocation (Church Assembly) not Parliament and explained key areas of religious doctrine in a Protestant way.
- They were based heavily on the 42 Articles drawn up by Archbishop Cranmer in the last year of Edward VI's reign. Stressed the following ideas:
 - Importance of the Bible – it contains all things necessary to salvation.
 - Predestination asserted – God had already determined who was to be saved
 - Justification (salvation) is through Faith only in Jesus Christ, not via good works.

Enforcement

- All the bishops appointed by Mary except one resigned rather than conform to the new settlement.
- This allowed Elizabeth to bring in a new bench of Protestant Bishops led by Matthew Parker who was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury
- Many priests from Mary's reign conformed to the Settlement (only some 200 were officially dismissed).
- Elizabeth regime did not attempt to enforce the Settlement too rigidly. Elizabeth would not 'make windows into men's souls'.

Success of the Settlement

- **The Settlement was broadly successful because:**
- It allowed quite a lot of scope for variety in religious belief and practice. Moderate Catholics and moderate Protestants found it acceptable.

- It was not enforced too rigidly. In the early years of the reign there was very little persecution.
- Penalty for refusing the oath to the Act of Supremacy a second time was death. Elizabeth told Parker not to offer it a second time!

Reactions to the settlement

In England

- Protestantism had become quite well established in the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, particularly amongst landowners in the South and South-East of England.
- Catholicism remained strongest in the North of England. Elizabeth made it clear that noble families could continue to worship as Catholics in private.
- Everyone had to attend Protestant services on Sunday; there was a fine of 1shilling (5p) otherwise.
- The new Settlement was established by the authority of the monarch. Loyalty to the Crown was largely unquestioned.
- When England faced invasion by Catholic Spain from 1587, the great Catholic families all loyally supported Elizabeth. They might be Catholic, but they were English.
- The involvement of Parliament in the Settlement increased the sense of legality. It was the law of the land and Parliament could be seen to represent the political nation.
- Elizabeth and her advisers were anxious that there should be no further changes to the Settlement.
- The strongest opposition to the Settlement came from younger and more extreme Catholics.
- They started a series of plots aimed at killing Elizabeth and replacing her with Mary, Queen of Scots.
- Puritans also opposed the Settlement; they wanted a stricter form of Protestantism, with no vestments and simpler services
- Puritans
 - o The Puritans were all those Protestants who were unhappy with the Elizabethan Religious Settlement and wished to see it altered.
 - o Most Puritans were fiercely opposed to the Roman Catholic Church. They believed that the Pope was in fact the Anti-Christ and so all Catholics were heretics and traitors.
 - o They therefore wanted to see the Church take a tougher line on Catholics with stiffer penalties imposed on those who failed to attend church and/or conducted Catholic services in their private chapels.
 - o The issue of the wearing of coloured vestments, for example, was very important to Puritans.
 - o They believed that people should wear black and white clothing and nothing else
 - o Puritans wished to see a new Prayer Book, which would have a less ambiguous interpretation of the doctrine of the mass.

- o Many Puritans wished to see the bishops wielding less power, while pastors and congregations should have more power.
- o Some believed that bishops (government of the Church by bishops) as a whole should be abolished because this was the system of Church government used by the Catholic Church.
- o Most puritans wanted to improve the quality and condition of the lower clergy.
- o Lower clergy needed to be better educated; they needed to be better paid to put an end to abuses such as absenteeism and pluralism.
- o Most wanted to see more emphasis on 'preaching the word' and a relaxation on the licensing of preachers.
- o There were meetings of clergy and laymen, designed to improve the learning and quality of lower clergy.
- o These sprang up largely spontaneously but seen as dangerous meetings of Puritans critical of the religious Settlement.

Why was the government concerned about Puritans?

- They wanted to change the 'Settlement'; Elizabeth and her ministers had intended it to be permanent.
- They wanted to reduce influence of the government on the English Church. The government used the Church as a way of controlling people.
- Sermons were intended to be propaganda for Elizabeth and the government. Prayer books and services contained the ideas that the government wanted people to have.
- There was no police force and virtually no local government; the Church was a unifying and controlling force in England.
- Elizabeth was Supreme Governor' of the English Church and saw attacks on the Church as attacks on herself.
- The Settlement had been set up by Parliament and was therefore the law of the land. Changes were seen as dangerous and revolutionary.
- In 1573, a Puritan fanatic attempted to kill a leading councillor, Sir Christopher Hatton, thinking he was a secret Catholic.

How did the Puritans attempt to change the Settlement?

- **Vestiarian (vestments) Controversy**
 - o Puritan ministers refused to conform to the dress code of the Settlement.
 - o The London clergy were summoned to Lambeth Palace and told to conform fully or face suspension. Several were dismissed but the vast majority conformed.
 - o Attempts were made to introduce reforms through Parliament. Many MPs, especially from London, were sympathetic to Puritanism
 - o In 1566, 6 religious bills suggesting puritan reforms were introduced but not debated.
 - o In 1571, an attempt was made to reintroduce the 6 bills of 1566.

- o A Bill was introduced in House of Commons for reform of Prayer Book. It would have abolished kneeling at Communion and wearing of surplices.

- Government response to Puritans

- o Archbishop Parker made the clergy conform. He was loyal to Elizabeth and was Archbishop for a long period 1559-75.
- o All attempts to reform Prayer Book were dismissed by Elizabeth.
- o In 1572, she announced that no new religious bills to be introduced without approval of the bishops.
- o Nevertheless, in 1572, Puritans managed to give two readings to a bill to make the Act of Uniformity enforceable only on Catholics.
- o In 1576 and 1581, Parliaments made requests for moderate reforms. Many of them were backed by leading members of the Council such as Burghley, Leicester and Walsingham.
- o Walsingham in particular was sympathetic to Puritanism as a way of breaking Catholic influence in England

Presbyterianism

- To Elizabeth and her ministers, Presbyterians were the most dangerous Puritans.
- They not only wanted to change prayer books and vestments, but to destroy the structure of the English Church.
- Presbyterian churches were governed by Assemblies of Elders and were usually completely independent of each other.
- Elders would be able to appoint ministers and decide how services would be run.

How did the government react?

- o In 1574, the Queen told the Bishop of Norwich to suppress them in his diocese.
- o In 1576, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Grindal, was told by Queen to limit the number of licensed preachers.
- o Grindal, who was sympathetic to Puritans, refused and was suspended until his death in 1583.
- o Archbishop Whitgift (1583-1604) was tough on Puritans. He introduced Three (Lambeth) Articles.
- o All clergy to swear an oath for:
- o Strict observance of the Prayer Book
- o Full acceptance of Royal Supremacy,
- o Acceptance of the Prayer Book and 39 Articles.
- o In 1584, 24 questions were written; these could be put to Puritans to incriminate them.

Catholicism

- o The Catholic threat was in some ways more serious than the Puritan threat.
- o Although most English Catholics were moderates who hoped for a Catholic Restoration in time, more extreme Catholics plotted to replace Elizabeth with Mary Queen of Scots.
- o Queen Mary had successfully restored the Catholic Church during her five-year reign. No signs that Catholic Church was seriously opposed or under threat by the time of her death in 1558.
- o The English Church under Henry VIII had retained Catholic theology and liturgy. Edwardian Reformation (1547-53) had been too short-lived to bring in Protestant doctrine.
- o Many of the gentry and perhaps half the nobility at first continued as Catholics after the passing of the Elizabethan Settlement. Even by the late 1580s one third of the peerage was Catholic.
- o All of Mary's Catholic bishops except one resigned rather than subscribe to the new Settlement.
- o Many parish priests were still Catholic or at least conservative and unenthusiastic about the Settlement.
- o While South and East of England were more susceptible to Protestant advances, North and West were more Catholic.
- o The North had seen great opposition to the Reformation in 1536 (Pilgrimage of Grace), while Devon and Cornwall had witnessed rebellion against moderate English Prayer Book in 1549.
- o Catholicism was still strong in more agrarian, rural areas of the country. In Lancashire there were probably more Catholics than Protestants in the first years of the reign.
- o Some Catholics believed that Mary Queen of Scots was the real Queen of England, since Elizabeth was a bastard, whose mother (Anne Boleyn) had been executed by Henry VIII.
- o Elizabeth never married and so her heir, until 1587, was Mary, Queen of Scots.

Abroad

- The threat from Catholic powers was weak in the period up to 1570. So the Church of England had a decade or more to become established.
- Peace made with France in 1559, which meant there was no immediate threat from across the Channel.
- Philip II of Spain, who had been Elizabeth's brother-in-law, was keen to be on good terms with Elizabeth because he wished to retain an English alliance against France.
- The Papacy was slow to condemn Protestant Elizabeth.
- Elizabeth was not excommunicated until 1570 and when she was, Philip II disapproved.

The Northern Rebellion

- In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, was forced to abdicate as queen.

- o In 1568, she was forced to leave Scotland, after the mysterious death of her second husband, Lord Darnley and her sudden marriage to the Earl Of Bothwell.
- o Mary, Queen of Scots was the daughter of James V of Scotland and was the great-granddaughter of Henry VII.
- o Her grandmother was Margaret. The daughter of Henry VIII. She was next in line to the English throne after Elizabeth.
- o Mary had hoped Queen Elizabeth would support her cause but her arrival in England put her cousin in a difficult position.
- o The Catholic Mary had a strong claim to the English throne so Elizabeth had her imprisoned and kept under surveillance.
- o Mary was kept in captivity in England for 19 years BUT there was no real support backing for her claim to English throne from France or Scotland.
- o In 1569, the rising of the Northern Earls was an attempt to replace Elizabeth with Mary and marry her to the Catholic Duke of Norfolk.
- The North was the most staunchly Catholic area of Britain. In 1569, the Catholic Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland began to recruit an army.
- The Duke of Norfolk would raise East Anglia and join the other rebels. Philip of Spain offered military help.
- The Rising was a complete flop. There was little support for the earls in the North.
- They advanced into Yorkshire and surrounded York, but when royal forces approached the rebels fled.
- Norfolk's nerve failed him and rising disintegrated as it failed to liberate Mary.
- In 1570, Parliament called for Mary, Queen of Scots, to be executed and for Elizabeth to marry and produce an heir.

Why did the Rising fail?

- Cecil and Elizabeth knew the details of the Rising almost from the first days. Elizabeth did not panic and took firm actions.
- Norfolk received very little support in East Anglia. He was summoned to Windsor and arrested on his way. The Earls only raised about 2,500 men.
- Mary was moved south to Coventry, where she could not be reached by the rebels.
- The rebels realised that they had no chance of success and found themselves faced by a royal army of 28,000 men.
- About 700 rebels were hanged and 200 gentry had their lands seized and given to loyal supporters of the Queen.
- The most serious aspect of the rising was the readiness of Philip II to support the rebels.

Missionaries

- o 1568, William Allen, a leading English Catholic and Cardinal, founded the English College at Douai in the Low Countries.
- o This was a centre for English Catholic refugees and a seminary for training new Catholic Clergy.
- o It sent some 450 Catholic priests to England from 1574 onwards to prop up the Catholic Faith.
- o These were not missionaries and did not try to convert Protestants; they offered support to catholic families mostly in the North of England. Priest holes, where they hid in houses can still be seen.
- o After 1580, Jesuit missionaries were sent to England, led by Edmund Campion and Robert Parsons.
- o Purpose again was to fortify the faithful rather than to convert Protestant heretics. Some managed to print and circulate Catholic literature.

Catholic plots

- o Catholic plots to free Mary and assassinate Elizabeth came to little thanks to Walsingham's intelligence network and vigilance.
- o Jesuits and Catholic missionaries were arrested and often executed. Some 100 missionaries were executed during the reign.
- o Between 1581 and 1590, 78 priests and 25 laymen were executed for supporting Catholic mission.
- o Edmund Campion, the leading Jesuit missionary, was executed by hanging, drawing and quartering.
- o Young men of in the gentry organised plots around Mary, Queen of Scots.

The plots and Mary, Queen of Scots

- o In 1571, the **Ridolfi Plot** was encouraged by the Spanish Ambassador and the Spanish commander in the Netherlands, the Duke of Alva.
- o The plan was to assassinate Elizabeth. The plot was hatched and planned by Roberto di Ridolfi, an international banker.
- o He believed about 50% of the English nobility were Catholic and could raise 40,000 men.
- o The Duke of Norfolk was involved and was intended to marry Mary. He was arrested and executed.
- o Walsingham's spies were able to uncover everything about the plot
- o 1583 **Throckmorton Plot**. Francis Throckmorton was an English Catholic in league with the Spanish ambassador.
- o Again the plan was essentially to liberate Mary from captivity in the North and kill Elizabeth.
- o In 1584, Throckmorton executed and Mendoza, the Spanish ambassador, was expelled.
- o 1586 **Babington Plot**. Similar to the others but this time Walsingham convinced Elizabeth that Mary was directly involved.

- o The long-term goal of the plot was the invasion of England by the Spanish forces of Philip II and the Catholic League in France.
- o The plot was discovered by Walsingham and used to trap Mary for the purpose of removing her as a claimant to the English throne.
- o He trapped her by opening her correspondence. As a result Mary put on trial and executed in Fotheringhay Castle.
- o Elizabeth allowed Mary to be executed only after long deliberation. She realised that she was her closest heir and also hesitated to order the execution of another monarch.

Elizabeth and her government's responses and policies towards religious matters

- o In 1571, an Act made it high treason to declare that Elizabeth was a heretic.
 - o It was also high treason to bring papal bulls into England.
 - o Catholics who had fled abroad could be deprived of goods and income from lands.
 - o In 1581, heavy fines could be imposed for hearing the Catholic Mass, £20 fine per month for recusancy (Catholics refusing to attend Church of England).
 - o A new **Treason Act** that made it a capital offence to convert or be converted to Catholicism.
 - o In 1584, the death penalty was imposed for anyone receiving Jesuits.
 - o In 1584, the **Bond of Association** was drawn up by Protestants in Parliament and spread nationwide.
 - o Members of the association swore to pursue to the death anyone attempting to harm the Queen.
 - o **HOWEVER** some Catholics were still able to evade serious penalties by using their local influence especially in areas like the North where Catholics were still fairly numerous.
 - o Catholic gentry and nobles were allowed unofficially to hold Catholic services in their private chapels.
 - o Catholic landowners were often unreceptive to Jesuit missionaries who were sent to England after 1580. They saw them as un-English.
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- o Most Catholic landowners were loyal to the Elizabethan regime and did not want to attract attention by entertaining catholic missionaries.
 - o There was a split between the Catholic noble families and the missionary priests and Jesuits.
 - o Most Catholic plots to overthrow Elizabeth involved foreign powers usually Spain or at least, Spanish agents. Most influential Catholics saw support for these plots as unpatriotic.
 - o In 1588, at the time of the Spanish Armada, English Catholics were keen to denounce the Spaniards as invaders.
 - o Government persecution in 1570s and 80s meant Catholicism at yeoman level largely died out.

- o Catholicism therefore survived mainly amongst larger landowners who were widely scattered geographically.

ii. How big a threat was Mary, Queen of Scots?

- Mary was born in December 1542 in Linlithgow Palace, the only child of James V of Scotland and his French wife, Mary of Guise.
- At just five years of age Mary was betrothed to Henry VIII's son, Edward.
- Her Catholic guardians were opposed to the match and took the young Mary to Stirling Castle.
- The Scots betrothed the young queen to Francis, the four-year-old heir to the French crown, and sent Mary to be raised at the court of Henry II.
- Francis became king in 1559, but died in 1560. A widow, Mary returned to Scotland, a Catholic in a country that was officially Protestant.
- In 1565, Mary married her cousin the Earl of Darnley. Their relationship quickly broke down. She became attracted to the Earl of Bothwell
- In March 1566 Darnley and a group of Protestant nobles murdered Mary's Italian secretary, David Rizzio.
- They claimed Rizzio was having an affair with Mary and was using this as leverage to gain influence in court.
- Darnley and the nobles burst in upon the heavily-pregnant Mary as she was having supper with Rizzio and five close friends, including Bothwell.
- The group dragged Rizzio from the table into the next room and stabbed him 56 times.
- In February 1567, there was an explosion at the house where Darnley was staying just outside of Edinburgh. His body was found outside.
- Mary married the Earl of Bothwell, a chief suspect in Darnley's murder, three months afterwards.
- This turned the Scottish nobility against her. Bothwell was exiled and Mary forced to abdicate in July 1567.
- She was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle, Kinross-shire and her infant son James was made king.
- Her army was defeated at the Battle of Langside near Glasgow, Mary fled to England to seek refuge from her cousin, Elizabeth I.
- Mary had hoped Queen Elizabeth would support her cause but her arrival in England put her cousin in a difficult position.
- Mary had a strong claim to the English throne; she was a great grand-daughter of Henry VIII. Elizabeth had her imprisoned and kept under surveillance.
- Mary became the focus of numerous Catholic plots to assassinate Elizabeth and put her on the English throne.
- Mary was not directly involved in these plots so Elizabeth was reluctant to act against her.
- In 1586, Mary corresponded with Anthony Babington who was plotting to depose Elizabeth.
- The letters were intercepted by Elizabeth's spymaster Francis Walsingham.

- He had the evidence to convince Elizabeth that, while she lived, Mary would always be a danger. Mary was tried for treason and condemned to death in October 1586.
- Elizabeth dithered over signing the death warrant, but eventually did and Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle, on 8 February 1587 at the age of 44.
- The execution was one reason for the Spanish Armada in 1588.

iii. How dangerous was conflict with Spain for Elizabethan England?

Reasons for conflict

- War between Spain and England effectively started in 1585 and lasted until 1604.
- For many years, English ships had been attacking Spanish colonies in the Americas.
- Elizabeth unofficially supported these attacks, supplied ships and materials and took a share of the profits.
- In 1577-80, Sir Francis Drake had sailed round the world attacking the Spanish on the way.

The Dutch Revolt

- From the late 1560s, there had been a revolt against Spanish rule in the Netherlands.
- The northern provinces of the Netherlands were Protestant and Elizabeth was sympathetic, but tried to avoid annoying the Spanish.
- The Dutch were effective fighters but in 1585 Spanish forces under the victorious Duke of Parma retook the vital city of Antwerp and seemed to be on the brink of final victory.
- In 1585, an English army invaded the Low Countries to assist the Dutch rebels against their sovereign Philip II. This was highly provocative.
- The English were very worried that Philip would defeat the rebels and might launch an invasion of England.
- The English army did nothing to help rebels directly, but persuaded Philip that he should launch an invasion of England.

Why were the English authorities very worried?

- English Catholics might rise to help a Spanish invasion.
- Prolonged warfare would be too expensive for England.
- The English navy was powerful, but might not be a match for new Spanish Armada.
- In 1586, Drake had raided Spanish outposts in the Caribbean. San Domingo was captured and sacked.
- Philip II decided to deal with England; he would send an Armada to ferry the Spanish army in the Netherlands across the Channel and destroy Protestantism.

Naval warfare

- In 1571, the greatest naval battle of the sixteenth century was fought at Lepanto in the Mediterranean. The fleet led by Don John of Austria carried 30,000 soldiers.
- Warships on either side tried to ram the enemy and then capture them by boarding.
- This was the usual way of fighting at sea at the time. Naval battles were very similar to land battles.

Changes in tactics

- Hawkins and Drake changed the way naval battles were fought and introduced new technology. They wanted greater use of artillery.
- Guns in earlier ships were small and were placed in two 'castles' at either end of the ship.
- The Forecastle (fo'c'sle) and the Stern castle; these 'castle' were tall and made the ship unwieldy.
- That was a reason why the 'Mary Rose' sank in 1545 off Portsmouth.
- In Elizabethan ships, guns were placed on a gun-deck in the hull. Drake trained sailors in the use of the broadside; the guns along the hull were fired in a ripple at the enemy.

Changes in the design of guns

- On earlier ships, guns used on land had been taken on board; these had large wheels so that they could be moved easily on muddy ground.
- On board ship, these guns were large and unwieldy. They had to be manhandled when they were reloaded. These guns were still being used in Spanish ships in 1588.
- English sailors invented new guns; they were lower and fitted on to a wooden truck.
- They were fixed to the hull with ropes; when they were fired, they fell back and could be reloaded quickly.
- This meant that the English could fire much faster than the Spanish.

Changes in tactics

- Sea battles were now more about attacking enemy ships with gunfire than boarding them.
- The English ships in 1588 did not carry large numbers of soldiers and did not try to ram the Spanish. They attacked them at with broadside from a distance.
- These new tactics did not result in the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

The events of the Armada

- From 1586-87, the Armada was prepared in Spain. It should have sailed in 1587, but Drake raided Spanish port of Cadiz and destroyed many Spanish ships: the Singeing of the King of Spain's beard.
- 1588 Armada sailed against England. Plan was to link up with the Duke of Parma in the Low Countries and help to transport thousands of Spanish troops to England.

- The English were well aware of the plans and tried to intercept the armada before it reached the Channel, but the weather was too bad.
- The Armada of 122 ships reached the Channel at the end of July and sailed past the English fleet which was at Plymouth. It was unable to sail because the wind was in the wrong direction.
- Lord Howard, the High Admiral, ordered the English ships to follow the Armada and attack from behind.
- The English ships were smaller and more manoeuvrable but could do little to damage the Spanish ships. Only two Spanish ships were lost as the armada sailed up the Channel.
- When the Armada reached Calais, where it was to meet Parma, there were problems.
- There was no harbour at Calais, so the Spanish ships had to moor at sea in 'Calais Roads'.
- Parma was nowhere to be seen. He was delayed dealing with trouble caused by the Dutch.
- Drake decided to attack the Armada on 7 August using fire-ships; eight vessels were filled with gunpowder and sailed into the Spanish fleet.
- They did little damage, but caused panic; many Spanish ships cut their anchor cables and fled.
- On 8 August, the English attacked the Spanish at Gravelines, but again did little damage.
- By now, the English ships had little or no ammunition. Elizabeth had been her usual mean self in refusing to pay for more.
- The south-west wind now forced the Spanish to sail up the North Sea and the English soon gave up the chase.
- The Armada sailed north around Scotland and the west coast of Ireland before returning to Spain. About 40 ships made it back.

Why did the Armada fail?

- Attempted invasion failed, partly because of the skill English navy. Seamanship and gunnery was better on the English ships.
- Many of the crews on the Spanish ships were soldiers and were not used to fighting at sea.
- English tactics proved successful in the end, but could have been disastrous.
- Philip's plan to link his land and sea forces was fatally flawed. He had planned the Armada in his study in his palace outside Madrid. He had no idea of conditions in the Channel.
- There was no way of making contact between the Armada and the Duke of Parma.
- Philip was over optimistic that thousands of English Catholics would rise against Elizabeth's regime.
- The Spanish commander, the **Duke of Medina Sidonia**, was not a sailor; he got the job because he was a duke.
- He rashly decided to moor in Calais Roads, which gave the English an opportunity to attack.

What impact did the Armada have on Elizabeth?

- **_____ Elizabeth came out of the events very well; she refused to panic and stayed in London.**

She went to Tilbury to lead the English army and made the famous ‘Tilbury Speech’.

- “I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field.”
- Elizabeth became even more popular and had yet another picture – the Armada Portrait – painted to glorify her. She became known as ‘Gloriana’.