

How convincing is Interpretation A about (8)

Interpretation A

Marriage and motherhood would deprive her temporarily - perhaps permanently - of the authority and power to rule. To share power she would hate. To renounce it she would find it intolerable.

J. Hurstfield, *Elizabeth and the Unity of England*, 1960.

This source is convincing where it says “to share power she would hate”, and this is true as from my own subject knowledge, I know that Elizabeth didn’t like to share power, and this is one of the reasons she didn’t marry. Furthermore, she didn’t like to share power with the parliament too, which she only called 13 times during her 44-year reign. This source is also convincing where it says “to renounce it she would find it intolerable”, from my own subject knowledge, I know that Elizabeth was so strongly against marriage that in 1564 she refused to even discuss the matter, this shows the extent to which she was against marrying and hence some of her power.

Another way in which this source is convincing is where it says “marriage and motherhood would deprive her temporarily perhaps permanently – of the authority and power to rule”. From my own subject knowledge, I know that one reason why Elizabeth was reluctant to marry was that it would impact her monarchy severely, she was already cautious from when Mary II married Philip II and England had to endure an expensive war. Furthermore, “motherhood” if she gave birth to a son would give him more power as the public were seeking a male monarch to take control as they were seen as more efficient.

Interpretation Question

Interpretation A

Elizabeth's experience was very limited. Her life had been led almost exclusively in the seclusion of country houses, with only an occasional short visit to Court.

W. McCaffrey, *Elizabeth I*, 1993.

How convincing is **Interpretation A** about Elizabeth's early life? Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in **Interpretation A**.

One way in which Interpretation A is convincing/unconvincing is because it says/does not say...

From my own subject knowledge, ...

This source is convincing where it states her “experience was very limited”, from my own subject knowledge, I know that this is true as it was unexpected for her to be a monarch, third in line to become Queen. So it is evident she wouldn’t have been trained at all, and during the early parts of her reign she did lack experience therefore it is convincing. Furthermore, this is convincing as it was a

reason why the public didn't deem Elizabeth a fit ruler due to her gender at a time where women were seen as ineffective, experience-lacking leaders.

One way this source is not convincing is where it states she only did an "occasional short visit to court", from my subject knowledge, I know that this is inaccurate as Elizabeth did in fact involve herself with court, giving patronage to the nobility and 1000 courtiers always surrounded her, therefore Elizabeth was quite heavily involved in her court. It is also unconvincing where it says she spent most of her time alone in country houses, from my subject knowledge I know that this is untrue as Elizabeth travelled around the country in for example the Great Procession.

In conclusion, this source is somewhat convincing where it discusses her lack of experience but unconvincing where it talks about her lack of involvement in court.

Interpretation Question

Interpretation A

The Tudor poor law was more impressive on paper than in fact. Careful study of parish accounts for Elizabeth's reign has shown that a poor rate was levied only in times of dire emergency...It was private charity that bore almost the entire burden of poor relief right down to 1660...It has been estimated that down to 1660 only 7% of the money devoted to poor relief was raised by taxation.

Sinclair Atkins, *England and Wales under the Tudors*, 1975.

How convincing is **Interpretation A** about the success of the Elizabethan Poor Law? Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in **Interpretation A**.

I find this source convincing where it states that the "poor law" was more impressive on paper than in fact, this would be unsurprising as at a time of unpopularity with people deeming her illegitimate and unfit to rule, Elizabeth would have wanted to boost her popularity so it is very possible statistics may have been forged.

The source is also convincing where it states that the poor rate was levied in times of dire emergency, from my own contextual knowledge, this is very convincing. In 1597, the poor rate was integrated into the national tax system and this is no surprise considering that in 1590s much of the public had been starving hence it was introduced to counteract this. The source is also convincing where it says that most of the poor relief was not raised by tax, this is convincing as I know that a lot of poor relief was donated by charity, and many people couldn't afford to pay tax hence it is convincing.

In conclusion, I believe that A is very convincing as it accurately discusses the exaggeration of its impact as well as how it was used in emergencies.

Explain the importance of (8)

Explain what was important about Elizabeth's experiences before she became Queen

One way in which Elizabeth's experiences before she became Queen was important was her father divorcing his second wife Anne Boleyn and thus making Elizabeth illegitimate. Illegitimate children couldn't inherit wealth so seemed immoral that Elizabeth became Queen. This is important because Elizabeth's illegitimacy would hurt her during her reign as people tried to overthrow her with Mary, who had a greater right to the throne, such as in the 1576 Throckmorton Plot or 1586 Babington plot.

Another way in which Elizabeth's experience before she became Queen was important was her education. Elizabeth was a highly educated woman who could read and write fluently in languages like Latin. This education and her upbringing meant she was a cautious, responsible monarch who was intelligent, and this is arguably why she was able to sustain a monarchy for a long time and survive plots to overthrow her. Therefore, her education before she became Queen is also important.

A final way in which Elizabeth's experiences before becoming Queen was important was in 1544 when she was accused of conspiring against Mary and thus placed under house arrest for one year. This was important because it would make her understand the risk of Mary on her monarchy and potentially influenced her decision to have her executed in 1587.

Explain what was important about the Privy Council in Elizabeth's reign.

One way the Privy council was important in Elizabeth's reign was its administration of the government. This involved making sure that Elizabeth's policies were enforced and this is particularly important considering the unrest with overthrow plots during her reign. The council oversaw many different areas of government including religion, the economy, the military and foreign policy. This was important as it gave Elizabeth support to rule the country as she was inexperienced and people resented at her for this.

Another way the Privy council was important in Elizabeth's reign was that it was made of around twenty men all chosen by her. This meant that they were the Queen's closest and most trusted advisors, this is particularly important as Elizabeth faced disloyalty from members of her nobility throughout her reign, such as the Earl of Essex who although was seemingly loyal, conducted a rebellion against Elizabeth. Therefore the Privy Council was also important in ensuring loyalty.

Write an account of (8)

Write an account of the ways in which poverty affected Elizabethan England.

One way in which poverty affected Elizabethan England was the integration of the poor rate into a national tax system. The poor rate which was introduced in the 1570s was integrated into the National tax system in 1597 meaning that for the first time there was legislation

passed to care for the poor. And this is particularly important considering that the eviction of subsistence farmers and dissolution of the monasteries had dramatically worsened living conditions for the poor. Therefore, whilst the poor rate did improve living conditions, it also boosted Elizabeth's popularity among the poor and working class who composed the majority.

Another way in which poverty affected Elizabethan England was the way the undeserving poor and vagabonds were treated. They were whipped publicly in streets and forced to return to the countryside, and this is important as it not only prevented overpopulation and crimes in towns, but also reduced the risk of trouble at home as some believed the 1569 Northern rebellion was caused by the vagabonds.

Write an account of the ways in which the Northern Rebellion affected Elizabethan England.

The Northern Rebellion affected Elizabeth England as it created resentment within nobles against Elizabeth. Elizabeth stole the Earl of Northumberland's land and distributed it amongst his protestant rivals, she also claimed the profits from his coal mines. This showed how Elizabeth was mistreating Catholics whilst benefitting Protestants showing her profound impartiality. This would've fuelled further revolts as well such as the 1571 Ridolfi Plot.

Another way that the Northern Rebellion affected Elizabethan England was through the response from the Northern Earls. Firstly, they planned an overthrow attempt which however was revealed. Then they celebrated catholic mass at a cathedral in Durham, showing their religious resentment towards Elizabeth. However Elizabeth's response was also brutal with her having hundreds of Northern Earls killed. This affected Elizabethan England as although Northumberland would've hoped he removed control in the North, the rebellion actually increased it.