

4 The Elizabethans, 1580–1603

Page 87: Spot the mistakes

As her Secretary of State all correspondence passed through Cecil and he controlled access to the queen. [1] He always did what she wanted and never questioned her judgement because he was so loyal. Like Elizabeth he was very cautious and wanted to avoid expensive foreign wars. Cecil was a strong Puritan who worked hard as [2] Elizabeth's spymaster to stamp out Catholic plots. [3] He pushed her into signing the death warrant for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots and she never saw him again. But when he died she was devastated. [4] His son Robert Devereux took over as Secretary of State.

[1] Mistake: 'He always did what she wanted'

Correction: He was never a 'yes' man he was loyal but prepared to challenge her and knew how to manage the queen.

[2] Mistake: 'He worked hard as Elizabeth's Spymaster'

Correction: Walsingham was spymaster

[3] Mistake: 'He pushed her into signing the death warrant for Mary Queen of Scots and she never saw him again'

Correction: Davison was seen as expendable, he was the scapegoat who was imprisoned in the tower.

[4] Mistake: 'his son Robert Devereux'

Correction: His son was Robert Cecil

Page 87: Test yourself

- 1 The Royal Court was the centre of political life.
- 2 Patronage was when Elizabeth gave particular men important duties or privileges.
- 3 The Privy Council was Elizabeth's small, close group of key ministers.
The Privy Chamber was the queen's private room where she met with her servants and ladies-in-waiting.

Page 89: Support or Challenge

Examples	Support	Challenge
During 1584 and 1586, Puritan MPs demanded there should be more reform of the Church. Elizabeth banned the debate		X
If the queen did not like a law passed by Parliament she could simply refuse to sign it and it would not become law	X	
Between 1580 and 1603, Elizabeth had to call Parliament more often because she needed laws and financial support to deal with religious threats and war with Spain		X
In 1586, MPs demanded the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth gave a		X

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vague answer but agreed to the execution three months later		
Most of the time Elizabeth ruled by royal proclamation. But if she wanted new laws, new punishments or new taxes these had to be approved by Parliament		X
The queen's Privy Council decided what Parliament should debate	X	
Puritan MP Peter Wentworth demanded that Elizabeth name a Protestant successor. Elizabeth put him in the Tower of London	X	
The queen decided when Parliament would meet. She could dissolve it when she wished	X	
The queen set strict limits on what Parliament could discuss. Foreign policy, succession, her marriage and religion were forbidden topics	X	
Even privy councillors such as Cecil and Walsingham stirred up 'off limits' issues such as foreign policy or the succession, which they wanted the queen to confront		X
MPs were not elected but instead were chosen by local lords.	X	
Some MPs grew in confidence and decided to discuss sensitive topics		X
In 1601 MPs complained forcefully about the issue of monopolies. Elizabeth realised she needed to compromise and made a 'Golden Speech' to Parliament cancelling some monopolies and promising to look into others.		X

Page 89: Test yourself

- 1 Religion, marriage, foreign affairs and the succession.
- 2 John Stubbes wrote a pamphlet criticising Elizabeth and he had his right hand cut off.
- 3 Freedom of speech, reform of the church, naming of a successor.
- 4 The exclusive right to make or sell a product.

Page 91: Eliminate irrelevance

Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558. She had a troubled past but that made her tough. In the interpretation, Tracy Borman focuses on Elizabeth's obsession with clothes. She tells the story that as she got older Elizabeth boosted her own image by making her servants wear black and white so her own dresses would look more spectacular. She had 500 courtiers who were always trying to get one up on each other by getting her attention. You can tell how important clothes and jewellery were to Elizabeth's image from her portraits because she was always shown wearing spectacular dresses full of coded symbols. One example is the Armada Portrait. Painters were told what to paint and portraits that were not approved might be destroyed.

Page 91: Test yourself

- 1 a) Local law abiding, reporting issues to the Privy Council, providing the queen with part-time soldiers if needed.
b) Collecting taxes, overseeing poor laws, organising road repairs.
- 2 a) Progresses, publications and portraits were all used to present a positive and powerful image of the queen.
b) Elizabeth saw plays in advance and so could censor what she didn't approve of. There were only 60 printing presses in England, so publications could easily be censored. Portraits were officially approved so the queen's image was carefully controlled.

Page 92: Test yourself

- 1 a) The Act of Supremacy established that the Church of England was independent – not ruled by the Pope in Rome. It made Elizabeth Supreme Governor of this independent Church of England.
b) The Act of Supremacy made attendance at Anglican services compulsory. You could be fined for not attending; Bible and services should be in English; clergy could marry. Catholic practices such as pilgrimages and saints' days banned. Altars replaced with communion tables. But, as a compromise to Catholics, candles and vestments (colourful robes) were allowed.
c) The Act of Persuasions in 1581 raised recusancy fines by 10,000 per cent! This meant that only the wealthiest could afford to pay.
- 2 A Church papist was a Catholic who conformed and went to Elizabeth's Anglican Church. A recusant refused to attend Elizabeth's Church services.
- 3 It meant that Elizabeth's subjects did not have to remain loyal to her. It led to the arrival of seminary priests and Jesuits. Recusancy became more common in the short term. Catholic Europe now viewed England differently.

Page 93: Getting from A to B

<p>1580</p> <p>Missionary priests arrived</p> <p>Over 100 came and they tried to keep the Catholic faith alive. They hid in priest holes in houses of wealthy Catholics.</p>	<p>1581</p> <p>Act of Persuasions</p> <p>This increased recusancy fines by 10,000 per cent! This meant that only the wealthiest could afford to pay.</p>	<p>Campion executed</p> <p>This meant attitudes hardened, more priests came and a propaganda war followed between Catholics and the Elizabethan authorities.</p>	<p>1583</p> <p>Throckmorton Plot</p> <p>In 1583 Philip II of Spain, the Pope and a French Catholic army devised a plan with Francis Throckmorton to place Mary Queen of Scots on the throne. Walsingham's spies uncovered the plot, Throckmorton was arrested, but Mary was spared because they could not prove her involvement. It led to the Bond of Association whereby anyone who plotted against Elizabeth or stood to gain because of a plot could be executed.</p>	<p>1585</p> <p>Act against Priests</p> <p>Aimed to break down Catholic resistance. Those who offered shelter or aid to priests could face the death penalty.</p>
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1586 Babington Plot Provided the evidence needed to put Mary Queen of Scots on trial.	1587 Recusancy Act Two thirds of the land owned by a recusant could be seized. This was very effective even the wealthiest Catholics were now forced into debt.	1587 Mary Queen of Scots executed When Mary Queen of Scots was executed, Philip of Spain was even more determined to succeed in his crusade against England	1588 Defeat of the Spanish Armada The Armada was defeated.	1593 Act Restraining Recusants Catholics had to stay within five miles of their homes and not hold large gatherings. This meant that the authorities could keep a closer watch on potentially disloyal subjects and Catholics became isolated from one another.	1603 Elizabeth died Elizabeth's reign ended and King James VI of Scotland (James I of England) succeeded her.
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Page 95: Test yourself

- 1 A concealed space in the house of a wealthy Catholic where priests could hide to avoid detection by the Elizabethan authorities.
- 2 Campion was the first Jesuit priest to arrive in 1580. He was caught hiding in a priest hole and executed as a traitor in 1581.
- 3 There were too few of them, they arguably concentrated on the wrong place in the south east of England whereas recusancy was greatest in the remote north west. They had conflicting tactics and didn't agree on a clear strategy.

Page 95: Suggest a line of enquiry

Who was Nicholas Owen?	What is this person on the bottom left doing?
Why were Catholic priests in hiding? Causation	When was Owen busiest? Continuity and Change
Was he the only priest-hole maker? Typicality	What's the sculpture made of?
Why did they make this monument in 1825? Significance	Why was Owen tortured? Diversity & Causation

The enquiry I have chosen is; Why were Catholic priests in hiding? The very fact that priests had to conceal themselves and move around in secret reveals that the Elizabethan authorities were attempting to track down Jesuits and seminary priests and punish them. Penal laws became increasingly severe in Elizabeth's reign and recusancy fines unaffordable. Wealthy Catholics in the north west of England provided a network to shelter priests. The Catholics became gradually marginalised due to persecution by the authorities.

Page 96: Test yourself

- 1 Throckmorton Plot in 1583; Philip II of Spain, the Pope, and a French Catholic army devised a plan with Francis Throckmorton, to place Mary Queen of Scots on the throne. Walsingham's spies uncovered the plot, Throckmorton was arrested, but Mary was spared because they could not prove her involvement.

Babington Plot in 1586; Anthony Babington communicated with Mary Queen of Scots, using coded messages, about a plot to kill Elizabeth. They were both unaware that their correspondence was being intercepted by one of Walsingham's spies. This provided evidence of Mary's guilt and led to her trial and execution.

- 2 Bad planning, bad luck, skilful English tactics.
- 3 1605 the Gunpowder Plot.

Page 97: Develop the detail

General statement	Supporting detail
Mary Queen of Scots was a problem for Elizabeth	As an alternative queen, already living in England, with a clear claim to the throne, she was a focus for Catholic plotters.
Elizabeth was called a heretic	Attacking England could now be justified. In 1580, the Pope sent specially trained priests to help spread the Catholic faith.
The Armada was badly planned	The Armada was supposed to pick up troops in the Netherlands and take them to invade England. But communication between Armada and troops was impossible, so this never happened. Luck: strong winds drove the Armada northwards so the English could attack. Tactics: English vessels changed direction more easily. Fireships drove the Spanish ships into open sea. At the Battle of Gravelines, English guns were reloaded more quickly.
The Babington Plot trapped Mary	They were both unaware that their correspondence was being intercepted by one of Walsingham's spies. This provided evidence of Mary's guilt.
Elizabeth was indecisive	She had to think carefully about what best to do with Mary so kept her in captivity but on the move. Elizabeth had signed Mary's death warrant but had asked for it not to be sealed. She was furious that the execution had gone ahead anyway.

Page 97: Support or challenge?

Evidence	Support	Challenge
By 1603, there were very few Catholics in England		X
Elizabeth was seen as a heretic by Catholic Europe	X	
Mary was a ready-made Catholic queen in England	X	
Mary was kept in comfortable captivity as a prisoner		X
Most people were happy to go along with Elizabeth's religious changes		X
The Armada was aiming to invade England with 30,000 Spanish troops	X	
The leader of the Dutch Protestants was killed by a Catholic assassin	X	
The Pope and Spain supported Throckmorton's plot to make Mary queen	X	
There were about 200 people involved in Catholic plots. They all failed		X
Walsingham had spies all over the country to inform on Catholic plots		X
The Pope excommunicated Elizabeth which meant that Catholics didn't have to be loyal to her.	X	
Catholic missionaries and priests were trained abroad and then sent to England to keep the faith alive	X	
Margaret Clitherow became the first female Catholic martyr (someone who dies for their beliefs). She died under torture when she was accused of sheltering priests in York in 1586.	X	

Page 99: Sorting into a table

	Gentry	Middling sort	Labourers
Houses	5 Magnificent Renaissance-inspired buildings with 50 rooms	8 Oak-framed houses with five to ten rooms and chimneys to channel away the smoke	4 Hard to know due to little evidence remaining. Small and poorly built houses.
Food	2 Choice of meats, fish and sweets. Imported French and Italian wines	1 Ate meat. Drank beer and mead. Could not afford luxuries like grapes	6 Mainly ate bread and pottage, a thick soup made from vegetables in the garden.

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Work	7 Managed their estate and acted as MPs and JPs. Servants did the housework	9 Men were tradesmen, craftsmen or merchants. Women helped the men. Some had servants.	3 Didn't own land. Men and women did manual work. Women did household chores.
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Page 99: Test yourself

- 1 Magnificent properties.
- 2 Beer and mead.
- 3 Bread and pottage, a thick soup.
- 4 Small, poorly built, smoky.

Page 101: Test yourself

- 1 Because the church forbade sex outside marriage and pregnancy prompted marriage.
- 2 Rich children went to school at age seven.
- 3 It was not easy so informal separations were more common.

Page 101: Comparing interpretations

Content	Interpretation C	Interpretation D
Detail of the house	Straw mattress, rush flooring	Basic, just one room
Detail of the family	Modern-looking nuclear family	7-8 people
Familiar or strange?	Drinking beer	Smoky, dark, earth floor, few possessions
Provenance	Interpretation C	Interpretation D
Authorship	Papp and Kirkland	Mortimer
Date	2003	2013
Purpose	To educate American school children	General TV entertainment

There are similarities between the two interpretations which both outline home life for families in Elizabethan England. There are clear relationships and daily rhythms that both share, and we would recognise. But Interpretation C focuses on more spacious accommodation with an upstairs and downstairs the home of a 'middling sort' of family. It is aimed at American school children so appeals to their imagination. On the other hand, interpretation D factually outlines the smoky one-room accommodation characteristic of poorer families in a BBC series aimed at a general, primarily adult, audience.

Page 103: Support or challenge?

Support – it was a period of crisis	Challenge – it was not a period of crisis
Famine hit large parts of England in the 1590s	The rich were building magnificent new houses around the country
Plague was a recurring issue	JPs were increasing recruitment to assist the poor
Central government was slow to respond, and help was piecemeal and localised	The Elizabethan Poor Law 1601 passed measures to alleviate suffering and support deserving cases

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Many of the labouring poor had no regular income and suffered periods of tremendous poverty and hardship	The rich became richer, ate well, lived well and could afford to marry younger
Vagrant poor might be forced to resort to stealing or begging	There were harsh laws against vagrancy

Page 103: Test yourself

- Those who could not move around in search of other opportunities; they had to stay where they were and make do. They were typically women with children or elderly people.
- Rising population, rising prices, low wages.
- Famine caused by harvest failure, plague and a downturn in the cloth market from the early 1580s.
- Appointed overseers of the poor to collect the poor rate.
 - Begging was forbidden.
 - Vagrants were whipped and sent back to the parish where they were born.
 - The impotent poor were looked after in alms houses.
 - Work was provided for the able-bodied poor.
 - Anyone refusing to work was forced to do hard labour
 - Taking care of the poor was the responsibility of the state; it should be paid for through local taxation.

Page 104: Test yourself

- 1576
- Outside the city walls in Shoreditch and Bankside.
- Comedy, tragedy, history.
- Fear of crime, spread of plague, encouraging sinful behaviour.

Page 105: Analyse the interpretation

INTERPRETATION E From the website www.elizabethan-era.org.uk by Linda Alchin, which describes and celebrates all aspects of Elizabethan England.

Elizabethan theatre was a booming business. People loved the theatre. The Elizabethan plays and theatres were as popular as the movies and cinemas of the early 20th century. Vast amounts of money could be made. The inn-keepers increased their profits by allowing plays to be shown on temporary stages erected in the yards of their inns (inn-yards). Soon purpose-built playhouses and great open theatres were being constructed.

Page 105: Suggest a line of enquiry

I would investigate ...	The design, location and financing of Elizabethan theatres
I would want to know ...	Who paid for them and gave permission for them to be built. I know there was opposition from the London authorities in terms of the spread of crime and disease, so they had to be built outside the city walls.
This would help us ...	Analyse and understand attitudes towards theatre going and the conflicting interests to consider in Elizabethan England.

Page 106: Test yourself

- 1 Festivals to celebrate the saint of the local parish church.
- 2 Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign.
- 3 By preaching against them in preaching and pamphlets. By working with JPs to ban such events.
- 4 Because they wanted people to lead 'Godly' lives. They feared merrymaking led to disorderly behaviour; interruptions to virtuous behaviour on the Sabbath; to minimise any similarity to Catholic or Pagan practices; to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Page 107: Looking at the question

Feature	What this shows
Maypole: carefully decorated with blossom and ribbons	People have put a lot of effort in. Shows it's important to them
Environment: idyllic springtime scene. Birds in the sky. Lush grass	That this is the perfect pastime. The conditions are conducive to a lovely springtime experience.
People: all ages. Men and women. Rich and poor. Gentry and minister watch approvingly. Finely dressed	May Day was universally enjoyed. A calendar custom that appealed to all.
Activity: dancing. Games in background. People dressed as horses – mock jousting	It's a time for merriment and participation. Sociability is the key. People have made an effort to maximise the occasion.
Composition: people sitting or standing neatly	Orderly and balanced. Shows it's not a rowdy or drunken occasion

I would investigate **the sites of Maypoles.**

I would want to know **how many villages enjoyed this calendar custom, are there records surviving or evidence of May Day events?**

This would help me **to work out how widespread these events were. Were there regional differences or specific customs? Did they continue every year or was there any reason why they may have been interruptions?**

Page 109: Comparing interpretations

Content	Interpretation G	Interpretation H
	The suggested reason for witchcraft prosecutions is linked to inequality and female disempowerment. Like H, the interpretation suggests some women took control and actively used the idea of magic to take action.	The suggested reason for witchcraft accusations is more simplistic than G and due to breakdown in relationships. The interpretation suggests some people actually pretended to be a witch to frighten away opposition.
	Focus is on women as witches	Focus is on women as witches
Provenance	Interpretation G	Interpretation H
Authorship	Ian Mortimer	John D Clare

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Date	2013	2004
Purpose	To inform general BBC audience, primarily adults. Wider contextual themes of equality are tackled based on evidence. This is produced later than H when equality was a growing worldwide issue so perhaps something more likely to be considered in 2013 than previously.	To inform 11-14-year olds about why belief in witches persisted in the sixteenth century. It is therefore more simplistic than G. Looking at immediate explanations and not examining the wider context.

Page 109: Support or challenge?

Elizabeth's reign saw the first permanent theatres established which proved very popular with both rich and poor. Puritanism was increasingly widespread in Elizabeth's reign and many Puritans wished to curb the excesses of merrymaking to save people's immortal souls. There was a cultural 'golden age' with significant developments in art, literature and especially theatre. Playwrights like William Shakespeare wrote plays that were immensely popular.	The London authorities did not approve of the new theatres because they feared they would create disorder; they petitioned the Privy Council to close them.
Alehouses, the centre of many people's social lives, increased in number after 1580.	Many traditional pastimes like 'parish ales' were in decline in Elizabeth's reign because of the increasing influence of Puritanism.
Parish feasts (or 'parish ales') were widespread; these were festival celebrations for local saints involving processions, plays, Morris dancing, drinking and sport.	Old practices like May Day festivals or saints' feast days had their origins in Catholic superstition and pagan beliefs, so Puritans tried to stop them.
Various calendar customs marked important dates throughout the year with merrymaking, for example Shrove Tuesday, May Day and the twelve days of Christmas.	Many Puritans gained control of local government, acting as JPs or constables. This meant they could stop popular festivals happening.
People enjoyed participating in various sports, many of them violent or cruel by today's standards, such as bare-knuckle boxing or bear-baiting.	Puritan ministers denounced merrymaking in preaching and pamphlets and worked with local gentry to stop the practices.
Although accusations of witchcraft increased, the witch craze was much less extreme than in continental Europe, so in some ways England escaped the worst of the craze.	Fear of witchcraft grew considerably in Elizabeth's reign, with accusations and prosecutions peaking in 1580s. People lost trust in their neighbours.

Page 109: Test yourself

- 1 Wise women were thought to have magical powers and specialist knowledge that could be useful in daily life. Witches were considered dangerous people believed they used harmful magic to bring misfortune to people and possessions.
- 2 A small animal witches used to commit their evil acts
- 3 A law was passed making witchcraft a criminal offence.
- 4 Essex

Page 111: Develop the detail

General statement	Supporting detail
England and Spain were rivals	Spain had a huge empire and Elizabeth's advisers wanted to act to explore new routes to establish colonies for England.
Francis Drake became famous	He was a national hero who sailed around the world 1577-80.
John Dee was clever	He was an adviser to the queen on astrology and science and developed the vision of a 'British Empire'.
Elizabethan England's horizons were broadening	Adventurers were taking risks and exploring unknown parts of the globe. North America, China, East Indies were all within the sights of explorers and Drake circumnavigated the globe.

Page 111: Practice question

In Interpretation I, the illustrator shows Sir Francis Drake as a hero. Identify and explain one way in which the illustrator does this. (3 marks)

Drake takes centre stage. He is on horseback riding above those around him and flanked by supporters who follow behind. Crowds lift their hats and bow down in his presence.

If you were asked to do further research on one aspect of Interpretation I, what would you choose to investigate? Explain how this would help us to analyse and understand attitudes towards Elizabethan adventurers. (5 marks)

Investigate? What else Francis Drake went on to do

Know? Did he continue to undertake daring adventures to help make England great and rival Spanish ambitions?

How would this help? We could understand the wider links to trade, discovery, seafaring, the balance of world power and ultimately warfare?

Page 111: Test yourself

- Dee proposed that English adventurers should seek out new trade routes to the East and establish English colonies to rival the imperial ambitions of Spain.
- Drake and his crew were the first Englishmen to do this
 - He landed in California and claimed the territory for Elizabeth calling it New Albion
 - He raided native South American settlements and attacked Spanish treasure ships which meant that he returned with vast amounts of pillaged treasure for investors, the queen and himself.

Page 112: Test yourself

- He claimed land in Newfoundland and later explorers learned from his ventures.
- The availability of new goods that could be bought and sold; potential for missionary work; opportunities to attack Spanish treasure ships.
- Walter Raleigh.
- The colonists were short of supplies from the outset. Raleigh did not go and Grenville had to return, so arguably a successful leadership figure was lacking. The colonists knew they

would have to rely on the Algonquian people if they were to survive the first winter; Wingina, the Algonquian chief, initially supplied corn, but later became wary of the colonists. Lane, who had stayed on as governor, learned Wingina was planning to attack the colony so he attacked first. Wingina was killed. The Algonquians became hostile and Drake came to the rescue of the colonists in June 1586.

Page 113: Practice question

Interpretation J has a simplistic, storybook style; the language is unsophisticated. It is very different to K in that it is aimed at children and it gives a romantic impression of Raleigh who is 'very clever and very brave'; it is uncomplicated. K is written by Latham, an academic for Encyclopaedia Britannica. This is a trusted, authoritative and detailed reference resource and a more nuanced version of Raleigh's character is put forward. Similarly, both interpretations outline how Raleigh was very much in favour with and close to the queen, and at the centre of events. In K he is said to criticise policies and others are said to criticise him, whereas in J Raleigh is portrayed as entirely heroic and without fault.

Page 114: Test yourself

- 1 Because the upper echelons of society were growing in wealth and wanted to display their status.
- 2 Portugal.
- 3 The Turkey Company sent Ralph Fitch to research trade opportunities in India, South East Asia and China. Fitch established England's first direct links with the Mughal Empire.
- 4 His expedition established England's first trading post in the east, in Java, in 1602.

Page 115: Essay plan

1 Reasons to agree:

- John Dee encouraged the Queen to have a vision for a British Empire. This was a strategic plan to rival Spain and shift the global power balance in England's favour.
- The idea was to establish colonies or British power bases and seek out new trading routes with China and the East Indies to tap into new found sources of wealth to secure long lasting prosperity.

Reasons to disagree:

- Gilbert failed in his attempts to colonise Newfoundland in 1583 due to a lack of resources which meant his efforts were not sustained.
- In Roanoke the attempts of Raleigh, Grenville and Lane were not sustained due to the colonists' failure to collaborate with the Algonquian people, meaning that the potential for power and prosperity was not realised.

2 I agree/disagree to a large/small extent because...

3 Conclusion

British explorers did travel widely, though not to every corner of the world; this overstates the case. But they did extensively embark upon expeditions. Their motives and successes were varied. Broadly speaking, they went with the intention of forming the foundation of power and prosperity, but success was mixed. In Roanoke for instance the colonisation plans failed, and the 1585-6 venture ended very quickly. Later in Elizabeth's reign, however, John Lancaster did succeed in establishing the East India Company and successful long-lasting trading links with Java in 1602.