

Name.....

Elizabeth

1558-1601

Key Ideas

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TOPIC 1

Elizabeth's Court and Parliament

THE ANSWERS

TOPIC 1 – ELIZABETH'S COURT AND PARLIAMENT

A. WHO WAS IN ELIZABETH'S COURT?

Christopher Hatton

In 1571, Hatton became Member of Parliament for Higham Ferrers. By this time he was seen as a rival to Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester.

Hatton told Queen Elizabeth that he desired some land owned by Richard Fox, the Bishop of Ely, she approached him about it. When he initially refused Elizabeth wrote him a letter stating: "You know what you were before I made you what you are now. If you do not immediately comply with my request, I will unfrock you, by God. Elizabeth."

In 1572 Hatton was made one of the Gentlemen Pensioners, the fifty picked men who were chosen, among other attributes, for height and appearance, and formed the Queen's ceremonial bodyguard. Hatton sent love notes and poems to Elizabeth. In one letter he wrote, "Your heart is full of rare and royal faith, the writings of your hand do raise me to a joy unspeakable." Elizabeth was now romantically linked with two men. Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester, was nicknamed her "eyes" and Hatton her "lids".



Walter Raleigh

Walter Raleigh became deputy vice-admiral in the south-west under Queen Mary from 1555 to 1558.

According to his own account in *History of the World* (1614) he served served as a volunteer in France with the Huguenot armies during the wars of religion and took part in the battle of Moncontour, in October, 1569. It appears that he returned to England after the peace of Saint-Germain-en-Laye was concluded in 1570.

The records show that Raleigh got involved in many disputes. For example, he had a tennis-court quarrel with Philip Sidney in August 1579. The following year he was sent to Fleet Prison after a fight with Sir Thomas Perrot. In March 1580 he was in Marshalsea Prison after being involved in another brawl. On his release he agreed to serve in Ireland and took part in the bombardment of Smerwick where a force of Italian and Spanish adventurers had landed in support of the rebels. "After four days the besieged garrison sought mercy, surrendered, were disarmed, and then methodically slaughtered, Raleigh overseeing the butchery".

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Francis Walsingham

The only son of William Walsingham, a prosperous London merchant, was born in about 1532. Although he did not have any brothers he did have five sisters. His uncle was Sir Edmund Walsingham, lieutenant of the Tower of London from 1521 to 1550).

William Cecil arranged for Walsingham to obtain a seat in the House of Commons. In 1563 he was elected to represent the people of Lyme Regis. He rarely spoke in Parliament but it soon became clear that he disagreed with Elizabeth about religious *tolerance*.



Walsingham was given government money to set-up Britain's first *counter-intelligence* network. Walsingham was given responsibility for the security of the monarch. To protect Elizabeth he created a network of spies in Europe. Walsingham was supplied by regular information by his spies in Europe. It was claimed that his spying system was so efficient that secret messages sent from Rome were known in London before they reached Spain.



Robert Devereux, the son of Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex and Lettice Knollys, was born in 1566. His mother was related to Anne Boleyn

On his return to England, Robert Dudley, arranged for his stepson to meet Queen Elizabeth. It is believed he was hoping his advancement would weaken the position of his main rival, Sir Walter Raleigh. According to Robert Lacey, Dudley could not "hope to compete with Raleigh on his own terms, and so he brought to Court his stepson Robert, whose youth and good looks could jostle with the attractions of other young rivals".

Elizabeth was greatly impressed with Devereux. It has been claimed that "captivated within a few weeks by his gaiety, wit and high spirits, she became besotted with him" and "they were soon inseparable". One of his servants recorded that "nobody near her but my Lord of Essex, and at night my Lord is at cards or one game or another with her, that he cometh not to his own lodging till the birds sing in the morning."

The Queen, who was now in her early fifties, demanded his constant attendance and "would dance with no one else" and insisted he went hunting with her. "Elizabeth's dislike of retiring to bed before dawn exhausted her entourage, but the young earl tirelessly kept her company. After an evening at the theatre they would return to the palace and play interminable hands of cards."

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Robert Dudley, the fifth son of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland was born on 24th June 1532. John Dudley was a loyal supporter of Henry VIII. "By 1530 Dudley was an active and successful courtier, but he always seems to have been guided by his own reading of Henry's mind rather than by allegiance to any particular court party. This had its risks, but avoided dependence upon intermediaries for favour."



Lettice Knollys, the eldest of the sixteen children of Sir Francis Knollys and Katherine Carey, was born at Rotherfield Greys, near Henley-on-Thames, on 8th November, 1543. Her grandmother was Mary Boleyn, a mistress of Henry VIII.

In 1560 Lettice Knollys married Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex. Over the next four years she gave birth to Penelope (1563) and Dorothy (1564). In 1565, the Spanish ambassador, Diego Guzmán de Silva, reported that Lettice had become romantically linked with Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. He described her as one of the best-looking women in England but believed that Dudley's attentions was intended to persuade Elizabeth to marry him. This

failed but it did develop in Elizabeth a strong hostility to Lettice.

By September 1578, two years after her husband's death, Lettice was unmistakably pregnant. Sir Francis Knollys was furious and had a meeting with Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, the man responsible for her condition. On 21st September, Knollys arranged for a brief marriage service to take place. All those involved were sworn to secrecy but thirteen months later, one of Dudley's enemies, told Queen Elizabeth about the marriage.

Elizabeth Jenkins, the author of *Elizabeth the Great* (1958) has commented: "Elizabeth's rage was shattering. That she had repeatedly refused to marry Leicester herself was, as anyone would foresee, a straw against the torrential force of wounded affection, betrayed confidence, jealousy and anger." At first she considered sending him to the Tower of London but she eventually banished him to his house in Wanstead and Lettice was exiled from court for ever.

TOPIC 1 – ELIZABETH'S COURT AND PARLIAMENT

B. WHAT WAS HER CHARACTER?



The queen could choose who would help her govern.

The Divine Right of Kings gave the monarch the image of a Demigod. This strengthened authority made going against the monarch considered a sin. Not obeying the queen was considered treason and was punishable by death. The queen had the power to send one to prison and order executions.

All laws required her consent to be passed. Generally, she could not pass laws herself – she had to draw up a Bill and put it forward to Parliament. However, she could make Royal Proclamations without Parliament's consent.

Even with this much power, the monarch was not above the law, and she could be brought to court.

C. WHAT WAS HER RELATIONSHIP WITH PARLIAMENT?

The group of representatives, called Parliament, was divided into the House of Lords (or the Upper House), which consisted of nobility and higher clergy such as bishops and archbishops, and the House of Commons (or the Lower House), which consisted of common people.

Unlike the modern British Parliament, it had much less power, no Prime Minister or cabinet, and elections occurred only for the House of Commons. Who was in Parliament depended mainly on who was supported by the important local people. Only those that were male and received a certain annual income could vote.

The monarch decided when Parliament was to be called. In total, Elizabeth only called Parliament thirteen times, 11 of which were to ask for money.

Parliament had three main functions - **legislation, advice, and taxation.**

The first of these, legislation, required the consent of Queen, Lords, and Commons. 438 public and private Acts were passed by Elizabeth's parliaments, and many more were considered.

The official summons to Parliament called on the Members to advise the monarch, but in practice Elizabeth was rarely interested in the opinions of her Members of Parliament. One exception was in 1586, when Elizabeth summoned Parliament to ask its view of whether she should execute Mary, Queen of Scots.

The main purpose of Parliament so far as Elizabeth I was concerned was to **vote taxation.** (Of thirteen sessions of Parliament, she asked all but one for money).

In fact Parliamentary taxation never supplied enough to cover Elizabeth's military expenditures, and so she was forced to sell land and resort to (dubiously legal) schemes.

D. HOW WAS ENGLAND RAN UNDER ELIZABETH?

Privy Council

The Privy Council was Elizabeth’s group of advisers. Its main purpose was to give numerous different opinions and the monarch decided on the issue at hand. (However, the advice was often ignored; the Council still carried out her wishes.)

Routine administration was usually left to the Council. It was involved in matters of religion, military, the queen’s security, economics, and the welfare of the citizens. It dealt with both matters of national and individual interest, issued statements in the queen’s name, and supervised law and enforcement.

The Council could make decisions, but the monarch could veto anything without question.

At first, they met only thrice a week; by the end of Elizabeth’s reign, they met almost every day.

Parliament

The main function of Parliament was dealing with financial matters (taxation and granting the queen money). Generally, the monarch paid for daily administration with ordinary revenues (customs, feudal dues, and sales of land) while Parliament covered extraordinary expenditures (such as war) with taxation. Parliament was also used for passing laws. 438 laws were passed under Elizabeth’s reign. The queen could make Royal Proclamations without Parliament’s consent. Another purpose of Parliament was to advise. Nonetheless, Elizabeth was almost never interested in Parliament’s advice.

The monarch decided when Parliament was to be called. In total, Elizabeth only called Parliament thirteen times, 11 of which were to ask for money.

Courts

The most important courts were the Great Sessions Courts or the Assizes, which were held twice a year in each county, and the Quarter Sessions Courts, which were held four times in a year. These two dealt with most crimes. The Assizes was famous for its power to inflict harsh punishments.

Civil cases were dealt with by various courts, depending on the person’s monetary status; the wealthy were tried by the Star Chamber. The Court of Chancery also judged criminal cases, the Exchequer of Pleas dealt with financial problems, the Court of Requests with the poor. Church Courts with religious and moral cases, and other specific courts with other specific matters.

Local governments

Royal representatives (Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, and Lords Lieutenant) were appointed in every county; they ensured that the queen’s commands and laws were obeyed. They would deal with conflict between people in the countryside such as a dispute over how much rent to pay.

Manors were run by nobility and gentry. Land was power at the time; those with land received payments from the tenants on their land and from their workers. Thus they had significant wealth and influence. They also had responsibilities, for they were meant to aid the monarch by governing their land. Local grievances were taken to the lord of the manor; on the other hand, tenants were loyal to him – if called upon, they were obliged to go to war. The lord's views tended to greatly influence those of his largely uneducated tenants.

Each city and town had its own government, headed by a mayor as well.

E. WHO WERE THE KEY MINISTERS?

Sir William Cecil, Lord Burghley, was one of the major political figures in the reign of Elizabeth I. Burghley held all the major political posts in the land and was to all intents the most powerful non-royal in England and Wales.

Cecil impressed his colleagues with his ability to hold a seemingly vast amount of information. He worked very long hours, was tactful and all his decisions were based on sound judgement. He was also a very patient man who knew that Elizabeth always wanted to have the last word in any arguments. He had known Elizabeth when she was a princess. In 1550, he was appointed her surveyor of estates. Cecil was appointed her Secretary when Elizabeth became Queen in 1558. He remained in royal employment until his death.



Cecil was given a number of important positions other than Principal Secretary. In 1561, he was appointed Master of the Court of Wards and Liveries – a position that had great responsibility for the collection of royal revenue. It was a post that also allowed Cecil to build up his own personal fortune. In 1572, now Baron Burghley, Cecil was also appointed Lord Treasurer.

His rise to power made him enemies. The old noble families, such as the Norfolk’s, disliked the fact that Cecil came from a ‘lesser’ family. The likes of the Earl of Leicester disliked the fact that Elizabeth could see no fault in him while the Earl of Essex, Robert Devereux, saw him as a rival for power. Cecil dealt with the likes of these men with discretion, humbleness and tact. Above anything else, Cecil knew how to handle the Queen.



Francis Walsingham

Walsingham studied at Cambridge University where he became a strong supporter of Protestantism. He is suspected of being involved in the plot to make Lady Jane Grey queen of England. In danger of being arrested and burnt as a heretic, Walsingham escaped to Europe and studied law at Padua. It is believed that he was involved in several plots against Queen Mary until her death in 1558.

Walsingham returned to London when Elizabeth, a Protestant, became queen of England. William Cecil arranged for Walsingham to obtain a seat in the House of Commons. In 1563 he was elected to represent the people of Lyme Regis. He rarely spoke in Parliament but it soon became clear that he disagreed with Elizabeth about religious tolerance.

Walsingham was given government money to set-up Britain's first counter-intelligence network. Walsingham was given responsible for the security of the monarch. To protect Elizabeth he created a network of spies in Europe. He received regular reports from twelve locations in France, nine in Germany, four in Italy, four in Spain, and three others in Europe. He also had informants in Constantinople, Algiers and Tripoli. Walsingham was supplied by regular information by his spies in Europe. It was claimed that his spying system was so efficient that secret messages sent from Rome was known in London before it reached Spain.

TOPIC 1 – ELIZABETH’S COURT AND PARLIAMENT

F. WHO WERE ELIZABETH’S SUITORS?

Name	Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester
How were they linked to Elizabeth I	Favourite and suitor. Robert Dudley was Elizabeth’s friend and close confidante from before she was crowned Queen. On her accession he was made “Master of the Horse” and later became a privy councillor. There was scandal over the death of Dudley’s wife, Amy Robsart, who fell down stairs – people talked of murder but there was no evidence of this. Dudley did not remarry for many years, leaving himself available for the Queen. Elizabeth called him “Bonny Sweet Robin” and her “eyes”.
What happened to them?	Dudley was banished from court when he secretly married Lettice Knollys in 1578 and never regained the Queen’s favour.
Death	He died on 4th September 1588. Elizabeth I was devastated by his death and locked herself away for days, only coming out when her door was broken down by Lord Burghley. She kept the farewell letter he wrote her in a special treasure box which she kept at the side of her bed and it was found still in the box when Elizabeth died in 1603.
Marriages and Children	1550 Amy Robsart, daughter of a farmer. It was said to be a “love match”. 1578 Lettice Knollys, widow of Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex. Children: 1574 – Illegitimate son Robert Dudley by Lady Douglas Sheffield, 1581 – Son, Robert Dudley, by Lettice Knollys, who only lived until 1584.

Name	King Philip II of Spain
How was he linked to Elizabeth I	Suitor Philip wanted to keep his link with England so, when Mary died, he sent a marriage proposal to Elizabeth. Elizabeth did not answer straight away and was considering other offers of marriage.
What happened to him?	Philip died in 1598 and was succeeded by one of his sons, Philip III of Spain. The Philippines are named after Philip II.
Death	He died of fever, gout and dropsy at the age of 71.
Marriages and Children	Philip married four times:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maria Manuela, Princess of Portugal• Mary I of England• Elisabeth of Valois• Anna of Austria

TOPIC 1 – ELIZABETH’S COURT AND PARLIAMENT

Name	Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex
How was he linked to Elizabeth I	Royal favourite. Robert Devereux became a favourite of the Queen in around 1587, the year he replaced Robert Dudley as Elizabeth I’s “Master of the Horse”. Elizabeth famously cuffed the Earl’s ears when he was insolent during a heated debate, and he responded by drawing his sword!
What happened to him?	Essex got into trouble with the Queen when he returned from his campaigns in Ireland in September 1599 without the Queen’s permission. He was interrogated by Council for 5 hours.
Death	Essex was beheaded at the Tower of London. He was aged 34 or 35.
Marriages and Children	Married Frances Walsingham, daughter of Sir Francis Walsingham and widow of Sir Philip Sidney in 1590. The couple had at least 3 children, including Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex.

Name	Prince Eric (Erik) of Sweden, later King Eric XIV of Sweden
How was he linked to Elizabeth I	Suitor Eric pursued Elizabeth I for many years, against his father’s wishes but gave up in 1560 when he had to return to Sweden, from a trip to England, because his father had died.
What happened to him?	He returned to Sweden in 1560 to become King and in 1561 he also became King of Estonia, after conquering it. During his reign, he became mentally unstable and eventually became insane. After his insanity worsened, King Eric was deposed and imprisoned by John III of Sweden (his half brother).
Death	He died in prison after being given a bowl of pea soup which was laced with arsenic.
Marriages and Children	Eric married Karin Mansdotter in 1568 and had 4 children with her.

Name	Charles II Archduke of Austria
How was he linked to Elizabeth I	Suitor. Elizabeth had previously rejected Archduke Ferdinand so the Holy Roman Emperor put forward his son, Charles as a marriage candidate. Negotiations lasted many years as Elizabeth played suitors off against each other and tried to keep everyone happy!
Death	Died on 10th July 1590
Marriages and Children	Charles eventually married his niece, Maria Anna of Bavaria and had 15 children with her, including.

TOPIC 1 – ELIZABETH'S COURT AND PARLIAMENT

G. HOW WAS SHE CHALLENGED AT THE END OF HER REIGN? WHY WAS THIS CHALLENGE IMPORTANT?

After failing against Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, Ireland, Robert Devereux returned to England against orders to try and overthrow the Cecils at the top of Elizabeth's Court. Elizabeth's fondness for her young favourite turned swiftly to anger. She had sent him to Ireland to put down the rebellion but the rebels were still in the field. Essex was kept under house arrest for nearly a year as he had fled his Irish command. He was then deprived of his offices. The final impetus for rebellion came strangely enough when Elizabeth refused to renew Essex's patent for sweet wines, a considerable 50,000 pound source of income, and took the patent herself.

Soon after the Sunday sermon on 8th February 1601 at St Paul's Cross, Essex led a 300-strong band of noble followers and their armed men from Essex House through Ludgate and into the City, shouting, '*Murder, murder, God save the Queen!*' and '*For the Queen. For the Queen!*'. Claiming that England is being sold to the Spanish, Essex hoped that Londoners would rally to help him in his bid to restore himself to royal favour. He was wearing his normal clothes rather than armour, to signify his peaceful intentions.

Around two o'clock in the afternoon, realising that they were overcome without fighting, Essex abandoned his remaining followers and fled to Queenhithe, where he took a barge to his house. Realising his predicament, Essex burned dozens of incriminating papers.

The Earl of Nottingham led the forces that defeated the rebellion at Essex's House. They surrounded the house and trained their cannon upon it, demanding he give himself up. Essex clambered up on to the roof and brandished his sword, '*I would sooner fly to heaven!*', cried. Nottingham replied he would blow the house up then. Essex had no choice but to come out, just after ten in the evening, and surrender his sword. Before long, eighty-five rebels had been rounded up and taken into custody.

Within ten days he was condemned for treason and within another week, he was beheaded. There was a great sympathy for him but the people knew he deserved his fate.

H. HOW WAS THE SUCCESSION CRISIS SOLVED?

Elizabeth failed to find a decent suitor who would not challenge her power, avoiding challenges from Phillip, Robert Devereux and others.

Unmarried, Elizabeth had few legitimate choices for the next ruler of England. She knew they would have to be a Protestant and related to her through her father Henry VIII. Elizabeth followed her family tree and saw there were two potential choices; one, James I of Scotland and the son of Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth's cousin related to her through Henry VIII's sister Margaret, the other Arbella Stuart, the granddaughter of the formidable Bess of Hardwick and related to Elizabeth through Henry VIII's sister Mary.

After considering her cousin Arbella for the throne, Elizabeth settled on James I. Despite James being related to Mary Queen of Scots he was a more sensible and less tempestuous choice. Arbella had been imprisoned twice by Elizabeth for failing to follow her orders in the way of her marriages and had frequently been defiant of the court, Arbella was also not politically minded and found herself involved in scandals frequently.

TOPIC 2

Life in Elizabethan times

THE ANSWERS

TOPIC 2 – LIFE IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES

A. HOW WAS CLASS STRUCTURED?

Social classes are expressions of status in society, thought to be established by God himself. During the Elizabethan Era, there were six social classes:

The Monarch

The Monarch was the ruler of a nation (usually a king or queen), and therefore the highest rank one could have.

The Nobility

This was one of the highest social classes, second only to the monarch. The nobility included whole families. The heads of these families were dukes, earls or barons. The class contained all of the lords and ladies of the monarch's land. To be in this class, one must be born into it or appointed by the monarch.

The Gentry

The knights, gentlemen, gentlewomen and squires of the kingdom belonged to this class. People of this class rarely worked with their hands. One of the lower classes achieved rank by obtaining great amounts of wealth. This class grew greatly in the Elizabethan Era. From this class came Justices of the Peace and members of Parliament.

The Merchants

The merchants were prosperous people in this era. They commonly made their wealth through sales of wool, exotic goods, and other items of commerce. As they gained reputation, they were capable of drastically increasing the prices of the products that they would sell, claiming that it was all for the benefit of the

The Yeomen

This class is composed of common citizens, with just enough money to support their families, but any misfortune would potentially cause them to plummet into poverty.

The Labourers

This is the class containing carpenters, peasants, those who do not own land, shoemakers and other similar positions. These citizens usually did not have enough money to support a family. During the Elizabethan era, one of the first government sponsored welfare programmes were implemented to attempt to aid the labourers.

B. HOW FAR WAS IT A GOLDEN AGE?

Elizabeth reigned for 45 years and during this reign England experienced a blossoming of culture – theatre, art, architecture, literature and music. This period of time has been referred to as the 'Golden Age'. How far Elizabeth was responsible for this has been debatable. It is also sometimes argued that the 'Golden Age' was a myth, created by the government in an effort to strengthen a weak regime.

TOPIC 2 – LIFE IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES

C. HOW DID THE GENTRY RISE?

Although the gentry did not work with their hands for a living, they did not belong to the titled nobility. Their status and power was purely based on their wealth. The gentry class grew massively in Elizabeth's reign due to:

- **The Tudor's suspicion of the 'old' nobility:** the Tudors had deliberately marginalised the nobles, who they saw as a threat, by granting very few new titles and excluding them from the government. This left a vacuum which the gentry filled and they became very powerful politically. Of course, many of the key councillors promoted by Elizabeth came from the gentry's class. The gentry dominated the House of Commons and they gained power locally through their work as Justices of the Peace.
- **The dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII:** the monasteries had owned about a quarter of all land in England. Their dissolution had made more land available to buy than ever before
- **Increasing wealth:** growth in trade and exploration, together with population growth, rising prices and enclosure, all helped many gentry families to make their fortunes. They were therefore able to use their money to establish estates, to build grand houses and to educate themselves.

D. WHAT WAS FASHIONABLE?

Male fashions	Female fashions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doublet (long-sleeved silk or satin shirt with ruffles at the end)• Woollen / silk stockings• Trunk-hose (padded out with horse hair to make bulges and cut in strips to give a two-tone effect)• Jerkin (a colourful velvet jacket decorated with embroidery, fastened up the front with buttons)• Ruff (a narrow strip of starched linen ironed into pleats and worn around the neck as a collar)• Shoes (leather with cork soles)• Hat• Cloak• Sword• Beard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farthingale (a petticoat with wooden hoops sewn into it)• Ruff (a lace collar on a wire frame, worn around the neck)• Undergown (made of silk or satin and heavily patterned and embroidered, with wide sleeves with ruffles at the end)• Gown (satin or velvet, sleeveless, and slashed to show the undergown through it)• An over-gown (a cape with armholes for cold weather or going outside)• Dyed hair with false hair piled on top• Heavy white make-up (lead-based and highly poisonous, but made fashionable by the Queen)• Blackened teeth (also made fashionable by Elizabeth, whose teeth were rotten because of sugar consumption)• Shoes (embroidered silk or velvet or light Spanish leather)• A small hat (designed to show off as much hair as possible)

TOPIC 2 – LIFE IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES

E. WHAT WAS THE THEATRE LIKE?

- When Elizabeth became Queen, there were no theatres in the country. So-called mystery and miracle plays, based on Bible stories and the lives of saints had been popular since the Middle Ages, but they were performed on temporary platforms in open places such as market squares and inn yards, not in permanent theatres. Groups of actors would tour the country to perform, but the government did not like them. Actors were thought to be a threat to law and order, and acting was not considered to be a respectable profession.
- In 1572, Parliament passed a law that said that actors were to be punished as vagabonds (beggars). Puritans also strongly disapproved of the theatre on religious grounds, associating it with the Ancient Romans and thinking it was the work of the Devil.
- A new law in 1572 required all bands of actors to be licensed and as a result it encouraged the actor companies to organise themselves and four years later the first purpose-built theatre opened. Simply named the Theatre, it was a success and this inspired others to copy: ***The Curtain 1577, The Rose 1587, The Swan 1596*** and most famously ***The Globe in 1599***. By the end of Elizabeth's reign there were seven major theatres in London and 40 companies of actors.
- However, many still didn't like them so theatres were located outside the city walls. Most were in the Bankside district in Southwark. This area had a bad reputation with lots of taverns, bear-baiting rings, pickpockets and brothels. Although crime was common in the area, the performances were exciting, and a visit to the theatre was not just about the play. Theatre-goers could also purchase refreshments, such as meat pies, fruit, nuts, beer and wine.

F. WHAT WAS ARCHITECTURE LIKE AT THE TIME?

- The building boom and development of new ideas in architecture during Elizabeth's reign led to a period known as the 'Great Rebuilding'. Ironically, Elizabeth did not have the money to be a great builder herself, but many of her subjects were.
- Many new extravagant country houses were built that reflect the wealth and stability of the era. New houses were often built to impress and host Elizabeth while she was on progress. Strong government had an impact on design and meant that residences no longer had to include defensive features, such as moats, drawbridges, and decorative gardens were planted.
- The leading architect was Robert Smythson, who was responsible for designing and building some of the most famous Elizabethan houses, such as Longleat House in Wiltshire and Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire.
- Buildings varied from area to area, depending on the materials that were available locally. Often, these new buildings were either built of stone or brick, and they were designed to amaze all who saw them in terms of their size and scale.

TOPIC 2 – LIFE IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES

- Elizabethan houses were very different from previous Gothic styles, with the latest and most fashionable designs being heavily influenced by Italian Renaissance architecture from places such as Florence. Architects focused on symmetry and size. Many houses had intricate chimney stacks and expensive leaded glass in large **mullioned windows**.
- However, many manor houses continued to be less classically influenced and built in a more functional style, such as the timber-framed **wattle-and-daub** Speke Hall near Liverpool and Churches' mansion in Cheshire. Often, houses were built with an 'E' shaped floor plan, perhaps in honour of the Queen.
- Internally, the new houses were also quite different from earlier designs. The rooms were now very light, because of the extensive use of glass. Bedrooms were placed upstairs for the first time. The medieval Great Hall was no longer popular. Instead, Elizabethan houses often had a long gallery on an upper floor, which was used for entertainment and to display art collections. Downstairs, although there were still no corridors, the area was divided into separate rooms with their own windows and fireplaces, which gave families more privacy than they previously had. The houses were far more comfortable than before, with decorative plasterwork ceilings, oak-panelled walls, impressive fireplaces, tapestries and libraries of books.
- Examples of Elizabethan Houses: Burghley House, Longleat, Hardwick Hall
- Examples of Tudor Homes: Speke Hall

G. HOW FAR WAS HARDWICK HALL A TYPICAL ELIZABETHAN BUILDING?

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The leading building designer of the day, Robert Smythson, almost certainly drew the initial layout.• The turrets themselves, a feature of Bess had used at Chatsworth and Hardwick Old Hall, fulfilled another Elizabethan – that there should be some mystery device built into everyday objects. These towers are symmetrical, but they form an ever changing pattern as you walk around the building, their grouping appearing to move through each turn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hardwick shows Elizabethan ideals of symmetry but used radical interior design to achieve perfection.• Medieval and Tudor tradition dictated that the Great Hall should lie along the entrance front, but here it has been turned ninety degrees, so that it is exactly central, running from front to back through two storeys. On either side of the Hall the building takes the shape of two matching Greek crosses. At the top of the house the 'arms' of these crosses at roof level from the base of the six turrets, which are the crowning glory of Hardwick. On the west front, the space between the turrets is emphasised by colonnade. The same decoration is used on the east side.

TOPIC 2 – LIFE IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES

H. HOW FAR DOES HARDWICK HALL REPRESENT THE GREATER PROSPERITY OF ELIZABETHAN OWNERS?

Elizabethan manor houses not only reflected how the country had become more prosperous, but the main change was how they demonstrated the new status of their owners. Owners like Elizabeth Talbot wanted to show her new status and marriage and they used Hardwick Hall to announce this change in fortune. Design aspects at Hardwick portray a wealthy family, keeping up to date with the latest Italian fashions.

Design aspects reflect a change in prosperity and the rise of the gentry class, showing that they were different from their servants, who were accommodated separately and on the ground floor. This meant that Cavendish could enjoy a more private life. She and her family could afford to break away from the medieval practice of all the servants sleeping in the Great Hall. This change happened at Hardwick Hall when, the owner Elizabeth Cavendish, build Hardwick Hall as a way to show off her wealth. Her intention was for it to be visited by Queen Elizabeth. As a result, Cavendish ensured that the house was luxurious and fit for a queen, especially as she herself had royal ties with the throne through her granddaughter Arbella Stuart. Elizabeth Cavendish not only built grand bedrooms for her family but for the queen too. This bedroom, of course, was most luxurious and was found on the second floor, furthest away from the servant's quarters, showing wealth, power and prestige.

Another change that demonstrated wealth of the Shrewsbury family was the fireplaces and coats of arms in most rooms. These both became central focuses in the room and the fireplaces were no longer used for cooking on. Above most fireplaces lie the Shrewsbury coat of arms of which shows off lots of generations in Elizabeth's family, dependent on the room you were in. The High Great Chamber shows the Royal Coat of Arms, portraying Elizabeth's allegiance to the queen. The other rooms contain different coats of arms representing different elements of Elizabeth's family. The Coat of Arms on the outside of the building represents Elizabeth's marriage to George Talbot, her last husband whom she loved dearly. The Coat of Arms was an important part of a wealthy Elizabethan house showing their power and prestige.

Another change that showed how the status of Elizabeth had improved was the number of glass windows at Hardwick. The saying 'Hardwick Hall more glass than wall' came about as a result. The use of glass, which was extremely expensive, not only showed Bess' family were wealthy, but it also showed their standing in society. For example, they changed their size of the glass windows to represent where you were in the social pecking order. The further up you go in Hardwick Hall, the larger the glass windows were providing more light into the room and of course more status.

The owners of Hardwick Hall showed their wealth had increased by being able to build a second property to rival that of the Queens palace. Their initial building (next door) showed great wealth but with Elizabeth's grand-daughter having a claim to the throne, Elizabeth knew she wanted something bigger and more powerful.

The building had lots of chimneys which showed that the owners could not afford lots of heating. This house has smaller rooms than usual to create more privacy for the families and as a result more lighting – again showing they can afford it.

TOPIC 2 – LIFE IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES

I. TO WHAT EXTENT WAS POVERTY A PROBLEM IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES?

Before the Reformation, it was considered to be a religious duty for all Christians to undertake the seven corporal works of mercy. People were to

- feed the hungry
- give drink to the thirsty
- welcome the stranger
- clothe the naked
- visit the sick
- visit the prisoner
- bury the dead

After the Reformation and the establishment of the Church of England, many of the old values and moral expectations disappeared so it became necessary to regulate the relief of poverty by law. During the reign of Elizabeth I, a spate of legislation was passed to deal with the increasing problem of raising and administering poor relief.

1552 — Parish registers of the poor were introduced so that there was an official record of those who fell into the category of 'poor'

1563 — Justices of the Peace were authorised and empowered to raise compulsory funds for the relief of the poor and, for the first time, the poor were put into different categories.

1572 — the first compulsory local poor law tax was imposed making the alleviation of poverty a local responsibility

1576 — the idea of a deterrent workhouse was first suggested although nothing was done at this point

1597 — Justices of the Peace once more were authorised and empowered to raise compulsory funds for the relief of the poor and the post of 'Overseer of the Poor' was created.

The Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601

Elizabeth consolidated all the previous legislation into one massive law and made provision for

- a compulsory poor rate to be levied on every parish
- the creation of 'Overseers' of relief
- the 'setting the poor on work'
- the collection of a poor relief rate from property owners

The Elizabethan legislation was intended to help the 'settled' poor who found themselves out of work (for example) because of illness, or during a hard winter or a trade depression. It was assumed that these people would accept whatever work or relief the parish offered, whether that was indoor or outdoor relief.

J. HOW DID SAILORS CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE GLOBE?

The main reason for the increase in exploration was new technology. Ships built at this time were of higher quality, with new **lateen** (triangular) sails making them faster and easier to steer. Improved defences and weapons made sailing through hostile waters much safer. Advances in navigation also played a significant role. The **astrolabe** allowed sailors to judge how far north or south they were and better compasses made navigation more accurate. But voyages remained dangerous. Drake's circumnavigation, for example, began with 5 ships and 164 men but ended with just one ship and 58 men. However, men like Drake embarked on them knowing that success would bring wealth, influence and respect for themselves and for England

TOPIC 2 – LIFE IN ELIZABETHAN TIMES

K. WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, JOHN HAWKINS AND MARTIN FROBISHER?

One of the most famous figures of the Elizabethan age is Sir Francis Drake, an explorer, adventurer and military leader. The reign of Elizabeth is often described as the 'Golden Age' and a major reason for this was the exploration of new lands and the great discoveries that were made during the era.

Several European countries, most notably Spain, played a major role in this time of discovery. At the forefront of exploration was Francis Drake, who circumnavigated the world between 1577 and 1580. The discoveries of Drake and other led to a completely new understanding of the world.

Drake and his cousin, John Hawkins, made one of the first voyages to Africa to capture people as slaves to sell in the 'New World' of America. They sold slaves at a Spanish port (San Juan de Ulua) and made lots of money, but were betrayed. Spanish's warships attacked them and destroyed many ships. Drake and Hawkins escaped but wanted revenge on the Spanish. Drake became a **privateer**, attacking the enemy ships and taking their cargo (mostly on the Spanish). This made Queen Elizabeth a fortune.

John Hawkins was England's first slave trader. In 1562 he sailed from The Barbican in Plymouth with three ships and violently kidnapped about 400 Africans in Guinea, later trading them in the West Indies. Between 1562 and 1567 Hawkins and his cousin Francis Drake made three voyages to Guinea and Sierra Leone and enslaved between 1,200 and 1,400 Africans. Hawkins' personal profit from selling slaves was so huge that Queen Elizabeth I granted him a special coat of arms. Hawkins was appointed as Treasurer for the Navy in 1577 and knighted in 1588 by the Lord High Admiral, Charles Howard, following the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

Sir Martin Frobisher was an eminent mariner during the reign of Elizabeth I. Frobisher, along with the likes of Raleigh, Hawkins and Drake gained for England a reputation for naval supremacy. Frobisher was one of the chief commanders of the English Navy and also fought against the Spanish in this English victory. Frobisher crewed a number of voyages to African coast in the 1550's. In the 1560's and 1570's he was employed by the likes of Louis, Prince of Condé and William the Silent to fight for the Protestants in the Revolt of the Spanish Netherlands.

TOPIC 3

Troubles at home and abroad

THE ANSWERS

TOPIC 3 – TROUBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD

A. WHAT PROBLEMS DID ELIZABETH FACE?

Religion was one of the thorny issues Elizabeth had to face. During her reign, England was bitterly divided by religion. Protestant extremists and Catholic extremists both posed a huge threat to Elizabeth, and a civil war might erupt. On one hand, Protestant extremists called Puritans wanted to wipe out all traces of the country's Catholic past. On the other hand, Catholic extremists wanted to restore Catholicism in England and place a Catholic monarch on the throne. Also, Catholic countries in Europe could wage war on Elizabeth.

B. HOW DID ELIZABETH SETTLE THE CHURCH?

The first act passed by the House of Commons in February 1559 joined together a bill of supremacy, establishing Queen Elizabeth I as head of the church, with a bill of uniformity, dealing with the type of faith and service.

The bills were roundly rejected and adulterated by the House of Lords, with its Catholic majority. Elizabeth and her pro-reform ministers had to regroup and plan another strategy. The debate quickly descended into name-calling and two of the Catholics were sent to the Tower for contempt.

This made the **Act of Supremacy** – Elizabeth became Supreme Governor (instead of Supreme Head) of the Church of England. Priests and men proceeding to university degrees were required to swear an oath to the royal supremacy or lose their positions.

Action taken to please Catholics

1. Bishops to remain in charge of running the Church
2. The same churches were to be used as before.
3. Services were to remain similar to the old style Catholic ones.
4. The New Prayer Book was changed slightly.

Action taken to please Protestants

1. Cranmer's Prayer Book was re-issued.
2. There were to be no reopening of monasteries.
3. There were to be no relics or shrines.
4. There was to be less decoration in the churches.
5. The English Bible was to be read in church.
6. The Pope was not to be the head of the Church of England.

A first offence against the Act of Supremacy could mean loss of all goods and movable possessions. A second offence could result in life imprisonment and loss of all real estate. A third offence was regarded as high treason and could carry the death penalty.

The Act of Uniformity, introduced heavy penalties for those who refused to conform to Elizabeth's Church. Failure to attend the new Sunday service could attract a fine of one shilling (= £6 today). This was two or three days pay for many of the poorer people. An alternative punishment was excommunication from the Church of England.

Attending the Catholic Mass could attract colossal fines of 100 marks for the first offence (= £8,250 today). A second offence was set at a fine of 400 marks. Offending a third time could mean life imprisonment and the loss of all goods. The same punishments were threatened against those who criticised the Book of Common Prayer. Anyone assisting at Mass was liable to six months imprisonment for the first offence, a year for the second, and life for the third.

TOPIC 3 – TROUBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD

C. WHY DID THE NORTHERN NOBLES REBEL?

The Rising of the North of 1569, also called the Revolt of the Northern Earls or Northern Rebellion, was an unsuccessful attempt by Catholic nobles from Northern England to depose Queen Elizabeth I of England and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots.

Many English Catholics, then a significant portion of the population, supported Mary's claim as a way to restore Catholicism and their dominance over the population. This position was especially strong in Northern England, where several powerful nobles were Catholics. Supporters of Mary hoped for aid from France and possibly Spain. Mary's position was strengthened by the birth of her son, James, in 1566 but weakened again when she was removed as Queen in July 1567.

The rebellion was led by Charles Neville, 6th Earl of Westmorland, and Thomas Percy, 7th Earl of Northumberland, who in November 1569 occupied Durham and celebrated Mass in Durham Cathedral. Such public Catholic worship had been prohibited by the Protestant Queen Elizabeth.

From Durham, the rebels marched south to Bramham Moor, while Elizabeth struggled to raise forces sufficient to confront them. But, hearing of a large force being raised by the Earl of Sussex, the rebels abandoned plans to besiege York, and captured Barnard Castle instead. They proceeded to Clifford Moor, but found little popular support. Sussex marched out from York on 13 December 1569 with 7,000 men against the rebels' 4,600, and was followed by 12,000 men under Baron Clinton. The rebel earls retreated northward and finally dispersed their forces, fleeing into Scotland.

Northumberland was captured by James Douglas, 4th Earl of Morton, and turned over to Elizabeth in 1572, who had him beheaded at York. Westmorland escaped to Flanders, where he died impoverished. His family lost their ancestral homes. The Duke of Norfolk, was first imprisoned, then pardoned. He was imprisoned again following the Ridolfi plot in 1570 and finally executed in 1572. Altogether, 600 supporters of Mary were executed, while many others fled into exile.

D. WHY WAS ELIZABETH EXCOMMUNICATED?

When Elizabeth came to the throne, she saw that it was politically expedient (and perhaps morally preferable) to uphold the reformed church and did so. Like her father before her, she headed the English church through an act of Parliament, although her private chapel services remained more Catholic than Protestant.

On April 27, 1570, Pope Pius V issued a bull against her. He claimed that there was no salvation outside the Roman Church and that the pope alone was successor to Peter and head of the earthly church. The ungodly had grown in power and "Elizabeth, the pretended queen of England and the servant of crime, has assisted in this."

The pope went on to excommunicate Elizabeth. "...we do out of the fullness of our apostolic power declare the foresaid Elizabeth to be a heretic and favourer of heretics." He forbade all nobles, subjects and people to obey Elizabeth on pain of excommunication. This, of course, placed England's Catholics in a trying position. While most were loyal to the throne, some used the papal statement as an excuse to plot against Elizabeth for the purpose of replacing her with a Catholic. Elizabeth cracked down on these opponents with vigour. Innocent Catholics suffered alongside the guilty.

TOPIC 3 – TROUBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD

E. HOW DID CATHOLICS IN ENGLAND THREATEN ELIZABETH? HOW DID SHE DEAL WITH THIS THREAT?

The Ridolfi Plot

By the late 1560s Ridolfi's became obsessed with returning England to Catholicism by means of foreign assistance. He developed contacts by supplying information to the French and Spanish ambassadors in London. He became an official agent when he accepted money for his efforts. In 1566 Ridolfi became a secret envoy for Pope Pius V. He asked Ridolfi to distribute 12,000 crowns to those in the northern regions opposing the rule of Queen Elizabeth.

Sir Francis Walsingham, became suspicious of Ridolfi and in October 1569 he brought him in for questioning. He also carried out a search of his house but nothing incriminating was found and he was released in January 1570. The plan, later to be known as the Ridolfi plot, was soon in place: a Catholic rising was to free Mary and then, with zealous Catholics as well as Spanish forces joining en route, bring her to London, where the queen of Scots would supplant Elizabeth. Mary would then secure her throne by marrying Norfolk.

Ridolfi received through Ross a paper of detailed instructions agreed on by Norfolk and Mary Queen of Scots. This empowered him to ask the Duke of Alva for guns, ammunition, armour and money, and 10,000 men, of whom 4,000, it was suggested, might make a diversion in Ireland. Ridolfi went to Brussels, where he discussed the plan with Alva. He then wrote to Philip II warning against a serious war against England.

When Ridolfi's messenger was arrested at Dover, incriminating letters were seized and Norfolk was arrested, tried for high treason and found guilty. He was executed on Tower Hill on 2 June 1572. Ridolfi was abroad when the plot was uncovered and escaped this fate. Elizabeth was reluctant to authorise the execution of a fellow queen, but Mary was kept under ever-tighter surveillance.

The Throckmorton Plot

In 1579 John Throckmorton, now chief justice of Chester, was suspended from office, fined and disgraced, he died a year later a broken man. This encouraged Francis Throckmorton to get involved in Catholic plots to overthrow Queen Elizabeth. In April 1583 Francis Walsingham received a report from Henry Fagot, his agent inside the French embassy, which Throckmorton had dined with the ambassador. In November 1583, Walsingham ordered the arrest of Throckmorton in his London home. He just had time to destroy a letter he was in the act of writing to Mary Queen of Scots, but among his seized papers was a list of the names of "certain Catholic noblemen and gentlemen" and also details of harbours "suitable for landing foreign forces". At first Throckmorton denied they were his, saying they must have been planted by the government searchers. Under torture he revealed a plot to invade England and place Mary on the throne, naming several allies in his confession. He later admitted that they had been given to him by a man named Nutby who had recently left the country.

Throckmorton was executed and Bernardino de Mendoza, the Spanish ambassador, was sent back to Spain. This conspiracy was one of the reasons the symbolic Bond of Association was devised in 1584 to protect Elizabeth's life against all threats from enemies within the realm and without. Again, Parliament and Council believed the Queen of Scots should be executed. Again, Elizabeth refused to admit that Mary had been plotting against her.

TOPIC 3 – TROUBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD

F. HOW DID CATHOLICS IN EUROPE THREATEN ELIZABETH? HOW DID SHE DEAL WITH THIS THREAT?

- During the captivity of Mary, Queen of Scots, in England, several attempts were made to place her on the English throne. The most significant of these was the Babington Plot, which ultimately led to Mary's trial and execution in 1587.
- The person for whom the plot was named was Anthony Babington. Raised in England as a Catholic, Babington devoted his life to returning England to Catholicism. As a child, Babington served as a page to Mary's jailer, the Earl of Shrewsbury.
- In 1586, Babington met John Ballard, a Catholic priest who also wanted Mary on the throne of England.
- Babington began to write his own letters to Mary. Written in cipher, Babington's letters explained his plans to rescue her and re-establish Catholicism in England.
- The plot did not only include Babington and Ballard. Catholics all over Europe wanted to rescue Mary and remove Elizabeth.
- Philip II promised to send troops when the assassination of Elizabeth had taken place.
- What Babington and Mary did not realize, however, was that their letters were being intercepted by Elizabeth's spies.
- Elizabeth knew of plots to place Mary on the English throne. Walsingham tried to convince Elizabeth that the throne and her life were in danger and it would be necessary to have Mary executed. Elizabeth had always refused to have Mary assassinated.
- Walsingham hired Gilbert Gifford, an exiled English Catholic, as a double agent.
- Gifford was to re-establish contact with Mary. By using Gifford, correspondence could be maintained and intercepted without raising suspicions amongst Mary's supporters.
- While in his possession, Walsingham had the letters deciphered and copied.
- In 1586, Babington wrote a letter outlining the details of the plot to rescue Mary. In the letter, Babington asked for Mary's permission to assassinate Elizabeth.
- Mary responded and agreed with the plans, but did not authorize the assassination. That did not matter however, because Walsingham's spies intercepted the letter. The letter was deciphered and copied but this time a postscript was added. According to the new letter, Mary authorized the assassination. Walsingham had his proof.

TOPIC 3 – TROUBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD

G. WHAT WAS ELIZABETH'S RELATIONSHIP WITH 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. When she was six days old her father died and she became queen.
- As a Catholic in a country that was officially Protestant, she was regarded with suspicion by some of her subjects. Mary accepted the Protestant-led government and initially ruled with moderation.
- In 1565, Mary married her cousin the Earl of Darnley. Their relationship quickly broke down and as the spoiled and petulant Darnley spent less time with Mary, she became increasingly close to her advisor, the Earl of Bothwell.
- After the birth their son, James in June 1566, Darnley and Mary's relationship continued to deteriorate. In February 1567, there was an explosion at the house where Darnley was staying just outside of Edinburgh. His body was found outside, giving rise to speculation that he had escaped the blast but had then been murdered.
- By waiting a mere three months before marrying the Earl of Bothwell the chief suspect in Darnley's murder Mary 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.
- Mary had hoped Queen Elizabeth would support her cause but her arrival in England put her cousin in a difficult position. The Catholic Mary also had a strong claim to the English throne so Elizabeth had her imprisoned and kept under surveillance.

H. HOW DID PURITANS THREATEN ELIZABETH? HOW DID SHE DEAL WITH THIS THREAT?

Puritan opposition and Elizabeth's response

It was not only Catholics who were unhappy with Elizabeth's religious settlement. Puritans were also dissatisfied with the compromise. For them, the old Roman Catholic Church was corrupt and too many of its traditions were based on **superstition**, not the Bible. They found the Catholic parts of Elizabeth's 'Middle Way' offensive. In particular, they were angry about the continued existence of **bishops** and about the vestments worn by the Anglican clergy.

Like the Catholics, they became a particular problem for Elizabeth from the 1570s onwards. There were many senior people at Court, in the Church and in Parliament who were sympathetic to the Puritans. Even Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, was a Puritan. Influenced by CALVINIST ideas, which were becoming popular in Scotland, Thomas Cartwright delivered a series of lectures at the University of Cambridge in 1570. He called for the abolition of bishops. He also made no mention of Elizabeth as 'Supreme Governor'. She was horrified at the suggestion that the Church hierarchy should be removed, seeing the idea as being a dangerous and revolutionary threat to her own authority.

Elizabeth's quarrels

Puritan printing presses were destroyed in 1572 after two pamphlets criticising the structure and beliefs of the Church were published. Puritan ideas were, however, debated in Parliament at this time. This angered the Queen, who rejected any bills proposed by Puritans. Eventually, in 1576, she stated that MPs were no longer allowed to discuss religious matters without her permission. When the Puritan Peter Wentworth challenged this (see Source 13), he was imprisoned. The Puritan threat also led to a serious disagreement between the Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Edmund Grindal (see Source 14). She was concerned about the practice of prophesying. These were prayer meetings where the Bible was discussed and debated and where sermons were said. Essentially, they were training sessions for the clergy. However, Elizabeth was concerned that such meetings were a dangerous opportunity for spreading Puritan ideas around the country. When Grindal refused to close them down, Elizabeth had him placed under house arrest, where he remained for the next seven years, until his death.

Whitgift's repression of Puritanism

Grindal's eventual replacement was John Whitgift. He was a strict Anglican who ended prophesying. He also immediately issued the Three Articles, forcing all members of the clergy to swear absolute acceptance of bishops, the Prayer Book and the Thirty-Nine Articles of 1563. The fact that 300 ministers were suspended as a result of this points to the mixture of opinions which existed within the Elizabethan Church. In the same year as Whitgift's appointment, a Puritan called William Stubbs had his hand cut off for writing a pamphlet criticising Elizabeth.

Archbishop Whitgift's harsh approach pushed a few Puritans into breaking away from the Anglicans altogether to become Separatists or Brownists. They were named after Robert Browne, who was imprisoned after setting up a separate congregation at Norwich. Later, scurrilous Puritan pamphlets appeared, published anonymously in 1589. Their coarse language and disrespectful tone shocked many and turned more people against the Puritans. It also gave the government the excuse it needed to attack the Puritans further. In 1593, the government passed the Act Against Seditious Sectaries, which allowed the authorities to execute anybody suspected of being a Separatist. In the same year, Richard Hooker wrote an influential book called *The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity* that defended the 'Middle Way' and dismissed Puritan criticisms.

TOPIC 3 – TROUBLES AT HOME AND ABROAD

I. HOW WAS ELIZABETH THREATENED BY PHILLIP II? HOW DID SHE DEAL WITH IT?

The build up

The earliest scheme for an invasion of England dates from the summer of 1559, a proposal to Philip that his voyage down the Channel to return to Spain provided an excellent opportunity to make an armed landing. This he rejected as too rash, moreover, given that Elizabeth's treatment of English Catholics during the first decade of her reign was in fact quite moderate, there was every reason not to provoke her into harsher methods.

This assessment changed when full-scale revolt broke out in the Netherlands at the end of the 1560s. The clear priority was bringing the rebellion to an end, but many of Philip's councillors claimed it was instigated from London.

The English perception of the situation was almost a mirror image of the Spanish. Philip's underlying hostility to Elizabeth's government was accepted as given. One of the strongest arguments in favour of assistance to the Dutch was that an independent or friendly Netherlands would effectively prevent a Spanish invasion. On the other hand, there was a counter argument that weighed heavily with Elizabeth: aid to the Dutch rebels would be an act of provocation that would justify Philip aiding English Catholics or Irish rebels.

The Armada

The Armada was delayed by Francis Drake's raid on Spanish ships at Cadiz, which destroyed much of the fleet and their supplies. Undeterred, Phillip prepared 130 ships and 2500 guns. He planned to sail up the Channel and meet the rest of the Spanish army in the Netherlands. Whilst the English had fewer ships controlled directly by the Queen; just 34 to Phillip's 130, Elizabeth was able to call on the support of 200 privately owned vessels, many of which had been designed by John Hawkins to be lighter and faster than the Spanish fleet.

The Armada was further delayed in 1588 and its 122 ships did not arrive off Land's End until late July. Parma, the latest Spanish research has revealed, had given up hope of its arrival and had sent the crews of his own ships to work on canals inland. The Spanish admiral, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, then took the unexpected decision to anchor off Calais on 6 August. Unfortunately, the Duke had been chosen for his rank rather than his experience of successfully navigating a mission at sea. He faced Queen Elizabeth's cousin Lord Howard, an expert captain who was aided by Francis Drake, John Hawkins and Martin Frobisher. His decision enabled the English to disperse his fleet by a fireship attack on the 28th July and strong winds blew it into the North Sea. Four Spanish ships were lost at this point, but the great majority cut their anchor ties and escaped northwards. However, there was now no alternative to the risky voyage home round Scotland and Ireland. In the course of this a further thirty-four or five ships - mostly weaker-built transports - foundered or ran aground.

The ultimate responsibility for launching the Armada and devising its strategy was Philip's, although most of the fleet returned safely, the failure of the Armada also shattered the image of the invincibility of Spanish arms. The efficiency of the English government in the crisis and the queen's public appearance among her troops did much to boost Elizabeth's prestige.