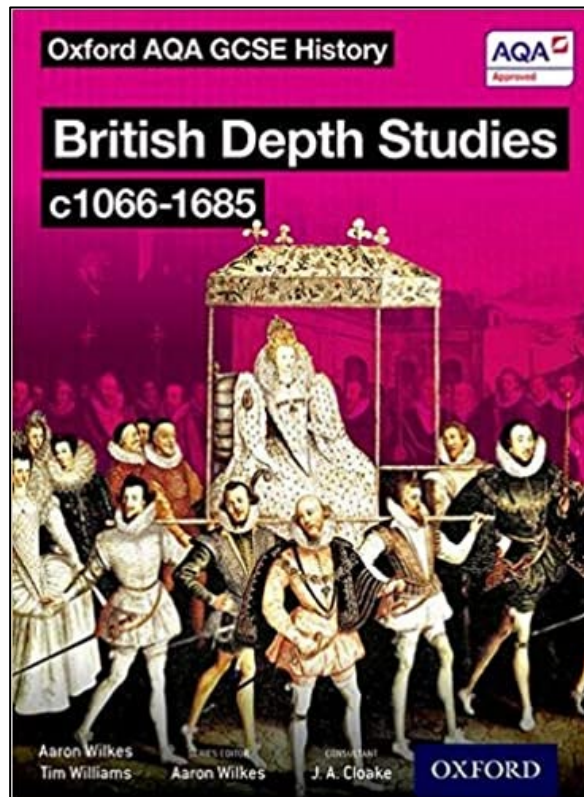


Great Sankey High School

AQA GCSE History



Elizabethan England Work Booklet

Part 1: Elizabeth's Court and Parliament

Name:

Class:

Teacher:

How to use your Elizabeth Booklet Workbook

Use the icons in your work booklet to guide you.



This is information you are being introduced to for the first time, make sure to read this as carefully as possible and highlight any key words or phrases.



These terms or phrases are key to understanding the topic we are studying make sure you know their meanings and that you feel comfortable using them.



This is your chance to work with the new information you are learning about, these short tasks will help develop your understanding of the topic of the lesson.








These short knowledge quizzes provide you with the opportunity to consolidate the key facts and figures from the lesson in one convenient place for revision.






At the conclusion of the lesson you will use this space to consider the enquiry question from the lesson and practice extended writing in your exercise book.

Elizabethan England c1568–1603 Timeline

The colours represent different types of event as follows:

-  **Blue:** economic events  **Red:** political events
 **Black:** international events or foreign policies  **Yellow:** social events
 **Green:** plots and rebellions

- 1558**  **November** – Elizabeth crowned Queen of England at the age of 25
- 1559**  Elizabeth's religious settlement
- 1569**  **November** – The Northern Rebellion
- 1570**  Norwich authorities conducted first survey of the poor, model for Poor Law of 1601
- 1570**  **April** – The Pope issues the *Regnans in Excelsis*, which excommunicates Elizabeth from the Catholic Church
- 1571**  **November** – The Ridolfi Plot
- 1580**  Jesuit priests begin to arrive in England from Europe
- 1580**  **September** – Sir Francis Drake completes the first circumnavigation of the globe
- 1585**  Elizabeth sends troops to the Netherlands to support Dutch Protestant rebels
- 1583**  John Whitgift appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and cracks down on Puritanism
- 1586**  **July** – The Babington Plot is discovered, leading to the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots
- 1587**  Roanoke colony is established in North America
-  **February** – Mary, Queen of Scots is executed
- 1588**  **July–September** – The Spanish Armada
- 1590**  First of several bad harvests leads to food shortages; many country people begin to move to the towns
- 1599**  Opening of the Globe Theatre in London
- 1600**  Establishment of the East India Company
- 1601**  **February** – Essex's rebellion
-  Poor Law introduced
- 1603**  **March** – Elizabeth I dies and is succeeded by James I



Enquiry Question:

Who was Elizabeth I?



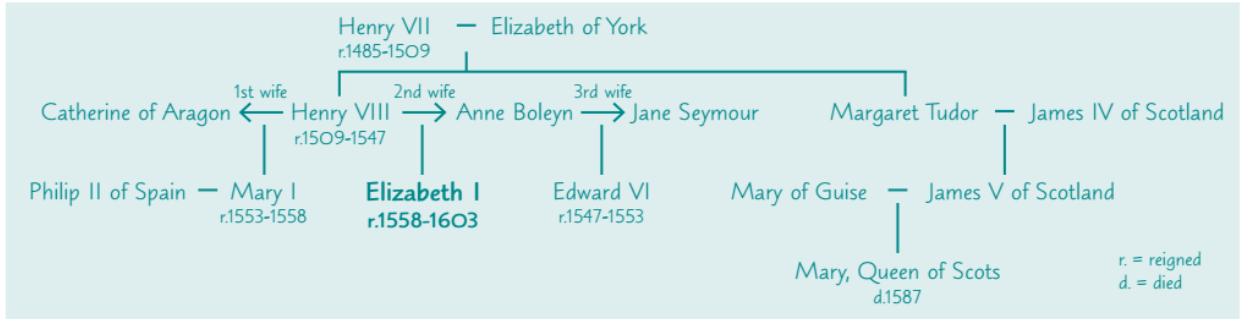
New Info

Elizabeth's Background and Character

Elizabeth I became queen in **1558**. She reigned for **almost 45 years**, until her death in **1603**. She had a rocky start in life and faced some pretty **serious problems** when she first became queen.

Queen Elizabeth I was from the House of Tudor

The **Tudor family** had ruled England since Henry VII became king in 1485. Here's their family tree:



A new princess...

Far from being a cause for celebration, Elizabeth's birth was a disappointment to her father. Henry was desperate to have a son and heir to continue the Tudor line and he had gone to great lengths to try to make this happen. Henry had divorced his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, and married Anne Boleyn, who gave birth to Elizabeth in 1533.

Anne Boleyn was accused of committing adultery with several men in court and was executed for **treason** in 1536, shortly before Elizabeth's third birthday. Henry married Jane Seymour 11 days later and she gave birth to Edward, the male heir that Henry had wanted all along.

▼ **INTERPRETATION A** An illustration of Elizabeth's christening from a children's book published in 1966



Why was it considered unlikely that Elizabeth would ever be Queen?

Elizabeth I was Cautious, Intelligent and Powerful

- 1) Elizabeth was Henry VIII's second child, the daughter of his second wife, Anne Boleyn. As a child, she was third in line to the throne (behind Edward VI and Mary I), so no one really expected her to become queen.
- 2) Elizabeth had a difficult upbringing and sometimes feared for her life. In 1554, she was accused of conspiring against her half-sister, Queen Mary I, and placed under house arrest for almost a year.
- 3) Elizabeth was very cautious and only trusted a few close advisors. She could also be indecisive — she was reluctant to make decisions without carefully considering their possible consequences.
- 4) She was intelligent, confident and very well educated. Despite having had little training in how to govern, she became a powerful and effective leader.



© Mary Evans / iStockphoto

From princess to queen

Edward died in 1553 and Henry's eldest daughter, Mary, became queen. Mary spent much of her reign feeling paranoid about threats and rebellions. She saw her younger sister as a potential symbol or leader for her enemies and even had Elizabeth imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1554 after she was accused of supporting a rebellion. Due to religious differences, many of Mary's enemies wanted Elizabeth to replace her sister on the throne. These five years gave Elizabeth time to

grow as a future leader. She saw the mistakes her sister made and was often surrounded by powerful figures. Elizabeth learned to think and act in a political way. When Mary died in 1558, Henry VIII's youngest daughter became Queen Elizabeth I of England.

When Elizabeth became queen she needed to establish her authority. When she was crowned, at the age of 25, she already had many enemies. She was also surrounded by powerful men, many of whom had served in the court of her father. Elizabeth had a difficult childhood, to say the least. Her mother had been executed on her father's orders and she had seen one stepmother die

in childbirth and another follow her mother to the executioner's block. She then spent years under suspicion. It seems likely that these experiences would have had an impact later on when she made decisions about marriage or how to deal with her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots.

▼ **SOURCE B** A portrait of Elizabeth in 1546, painted by William Scrots



Complete the table below:

Characteristic	How it might have affected Elizabeth's ability to rule
Cautious	_____ _____ _____
Confident	_____ _____ _____
Intelligent	_____ _____ _____

Some people **Didn't** want Elizabeth to be Queen

Gender

- 1) In the 16th century, most people believed the **monarch** should be a **man**. They thought that rule by a **woman** was **unnatural**.
- 2) Most people expected Elizabeth to act as a **figurehead**, without any real power. They thought she should let her **male counsellors** take control or find a **husband** to govern for her (see p.16).
- 3) However, Elizabeth was **determined to rule** in her own right and **refused** to let her counsellors take over.

Illegitimacy

- 1) In 1533, **Henry VIII** had **divorced** his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, and married Anne Boleyn.
- 2) Divorce was **forbidden** in the **Catholic Church**, so many Catholics believed Henry's marriage to Anne was **not valid** and their daughter, Elizabeth, was **illegitimate**.
- 3) Illegitimate children **weren't** usually allowed to **inherit**, so the issue of Elizabeth's legitimacy **weakened** her claim to the throne. Some people thought that **Mary, Queen of Scots** (see p.38) had **more right** to rule.

Interpretation

The interpretation below is about the challenges Elizabeth faced as Queen of England.

For most people in 16th-century England, the idea of being ruled by a woman was unthinkable. But that wasn't the only obstacle Elizabeth had to overcome. There was also the difficult question of whether she had the right to inherit the throne at all. Her father's multiple marriages complicated the issue, as did differences in religion, with Catholics and Protestants often holding different views on the matter. The uncertainty over Elizabeth's claim to the throne created a rival in the form of her cousin Mary, who some people argued had a stronger claim.

How convincing is the interpretation about the following subjects?

Gender

Legitimacy

Other Claimants



Enquiry Question:



Who was Elizabeth I?

Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

In which year did Elizabeth I become Queen?	How many years did Elizabeth reign for?	In which year did Elizabeth die?	Who was Elizabeth's mother?	Which crime was Elizabeth's mother accused of?
Who were Elizabeth's siblings?	Which crime was Elizabeth accused of in 1554?	How was Elizabeth punished for this crime?	Why was Elizabeth's claim to the throne weak?	What did most people believe the monarch should be?

Key Terms

Term	Definition
	To gain possessions after someone has died.
	An attempt to kill or overthrow the monarch or betray the country; punishable by death.
	The noble's, advisors and others who surrounded the monarch.

Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Create a simple Tudor family tree.

2. Explain why it was considered unlikely that Elizabeth would ever be queen.

3. To what extent did Elizabeth's childhood affect her approach to leadership?



Enquiry Question:



Who was powerful in Elizabethan England?

New Info

Elizabeth's court was the heart of social and political life — everyone who was anyone could be found there.

The Court was the Centre of Elizabethan Social Life

- 1) The royal court was a large group of people who surrounded the monarch at all times. More than 1000 people attended the court, including Elizabeth's personal servants, members of the Privy Council (see p.12), members of the nobility, ambassadors and other foreign visitors, and Elizabeth's 'favourites'.

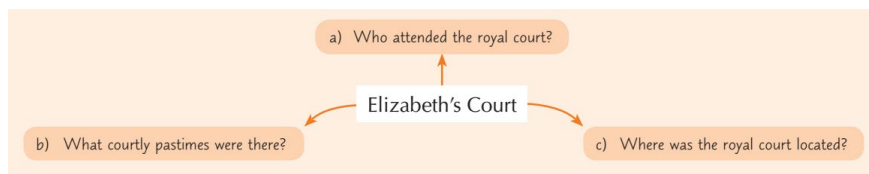
Some courtiers became Elizabeth's 'favourites'. Early in her reign, Elizabeth was very close to Robert Dudley. She made him Earl of Leicester in 1564 and may have considered marrying him (see p.16). Christopher Hatton was another of her 'favourites'. In 1587, she made him Lord Chancellor, even though he had little relevant experience. Walter Raleigh came to Elizabeth's court in 1581. Elizabeth gave him many valuable gifts, including the right to colonise the New World (see p.32).

- 2) Courtiers were expected to flatter Elizabeth, shower her with gifts and pretend to be in love with her.
- 3) Courtly pastimes included plays, concerts, hunting, jousting and tennis. There were also balls and grand meals.
- 4) Members of the court travelled with Elizabeth when she moved between her palaces, and when great processions were held. They also went with her when she travelled around the country visiting the houses of wealthy noblemen (these trips were known as royal progresses).

Comment and Analysis

The entertainments and fashionable clothes on show at court were a way for Elizabeth to impress her subjects and foreign visitors by displaying her wealth and power.

Complete the mind map below



New Info

Political Power relied on Access to the Queen

- 1) The Queen was the centre of government, and political power revolved around her. This meant that those closest to Elizabeth had the greatest influence and power.
- 2) The court was the centre of political life. Anyone who wanted to get ahead and increase their political power had to have a place at court.
- 3) Courtiers didn't necessarily hold government positions — they became powerful through their close relationship with the Queen.

Courtiers had to compete with one another for the Queen's attention and favour. Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, this competition led to growing conflict at court (see p.18).

How did people gain political power in Medieval England?

New Info

Elizabeth used Patronage to ensure Loyalty and Stability

- 1) Patronage involved handing out titles, offices or monopolies (see p.22), which gave men a source of income. Elizabeth had a lot of these offices to give away, including high positions in the Church. Royal patronage was distributed at court.
- 2) Elizabeth's use of patronage helped to ensure loyalty. Those who received patronage became dependent on Elizabeth for some or all of their income and status, so they were likely to be loyal to her.
- 3) Elizabeth distributed patronage very widely. This helped to ensure political stability — all members of the elite felt they had a chance to be rewarded by the Queen, so they were unlikely to rebel against her.
- 4) Patronage was a way for Elizabeth to reward her courtiers without spending royal revenues. This was important because the English economy was weak during Elizabeth's reign and her income was limited.

Comment and Analysis

Traditionally, the elite was dominated by noble families. Their power didn't come from the monarch — it mainly came from the large amounts of land that they inherited. By promoting men who relied on her for their wealth and influence, Elizabeth limited the power of the traditional noble families and made the new elite more loyal to her.

What was meant by the term 'patronage' – How did Elizabeth use it to create stability?

How did Elizabeth limit the power of traditional noble families? Explain your answer.

New Info

The Queen was the head of government. She was advised by her Privy Council, which included her key ministers. Parliament could be involved in granting taxes, passing laws and giving advice.

The Privy Council was Central to Elizabethan Government

- 1) The Privy Council had two main roles. It gave advice to the Queen and managed the administration of government.
- 2) The Council was made up of around twenty men, all chosen by Elizabeth. Members of the Privy Council were the Queen's closest and most trusted advisors. Some key ministers served on the Council for many years.
- 3) The Queen didn't have to follow the advice of the Privy Council. Counsellors were expected to carry out her instructions, even when doing so went against their advice.

This involved making sure that Elizabeth's policies were enforced. The Council oversaw many different areas of government, including religion, the economy, the military, foreign policy and the Queen's security.

What were the two main roles of Elizabeth's Privy Council?

- i. _____
- ii. _____

What sort of people were on the Privy Council and how were they chosen?

Power in Elizabethan England

Elizabeth was only 25 when she became queen and she needed to establish her authority quickly. Although being queen gave her power, she could not do as she pleased. Her government had a clear structure of advisors and other powerful figures. Most of the power was held by a few key trusted individuals in Elizabeth's court. Many, but not all, of these were **privy councillors**. The queen could ensure support through **patronage**.

Court life

The **royal court** and the government were not the same thing. The court was made up of all the officials, servants and advisors that surrounded Elizabeth. The court was the centre of power, but also the source of the latest trends and fashions. It included the Privy Council, but Justices of the Peace and Parliament were not part of it. The government was made up of the queen and her closest advisors, usually privy councillors, but always men whom she trusted.

Patronage was an important way of ensuring loyalty from courtiers. Elizabeth could award titles, land, monopolies and other powerful positions and money-making opportunities in exchange for obedience and support.



William Cecil was Elizabeth's Closest Advisor

- 1) When she became queen in 1558, Elizabeth made [William Cecil](#) her [Principal Secretary](#). He became her [closest advisor](#), leading the Privy Council and making sure the government ran smoothly.
- 2) In [1571](#), Elizabeth gave Cecil the title [Lord Burghley](#). The next year she made him [Lord High Treasurer](#), giving him greater [control](#) over [royal finances](#). Cecil continued to serve Elizabeth until his death in [1598](#).
- 3) Elizabeth's other [key ministers](#) included [Nicholas Bacon](#), who was [Lord Chancellor](#) from 1559 to 1579, and [Francis Walsingham](#), who became [Principal Secretary](#) in 1573.

Comment and Analysis

Cecil was a [highly skilled](#) politician and administrator. Some historians argue that [Elizabeth's success](#) as queen was as much due to [Cecil's remarkable skills](#) as it was to Elizabeth's own talents.

Key Biography

William Cecil (1520–98)

- Cecil served as Secretary of State twice and as a Member of Parliament and was Elizabeth's most trusted advisor; it was said that, at times, the queen would listen to no one but Cecil.
- He encouraged Elizabeth to take control of Catholic Ireland and to fight other Catholic rivals in England and abroad.
- Cecil played a key role in developing the **Poor Laws** and the new religious policies.



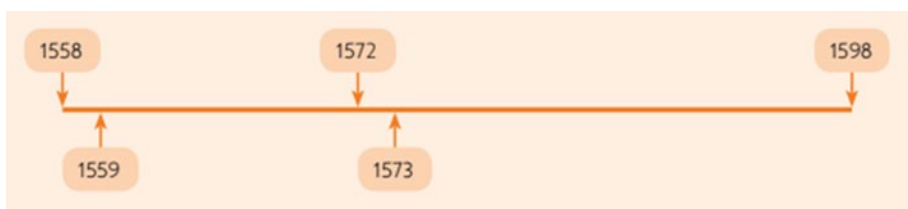
Key Biography

Francis Walsingham (c1532–90)

- Served as Secretary of State and was one of the queen's closest advisors from 1573 until his death.
- Known as Elizabeth's 'spymaster', Walsingham was said to have 'eyes and ears' everywhere.
- He helped establish England as a powerful force at sea and took the lead in dealing with England's biggest rivals: Spain, France and the Netherlands.
- He played a role in the trial and execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, a rival for Elizabeth's throne in the 1580s.



Complete the timeline below by adding information about the Privy Council



New Info

Parliament

Parliament was made up of the House of Lords (lords, bishops and other members of the **nobility**) and the House of Commons ('common' people, although still wealthy and educated). It was much less powerful than the modern UK Parliament but it did have influence over tax and was responsible for passing laws. The queen decided when to call Parliament and how much of their advice she should listen to.

Privy Council

Took responsibility for the day-to-day running of the country. Its members were Elizabeth's main advisors. Technically Elizabeth could choose who was on the Council but in reality she had to appoint the most powerful landowners to avoid the risk of rebellion. The Council could be called upon to deal with almost any issue, including military and foreign affairs, religion and the queen's security. If the Privy Council agreed on a particular issue, it was hard for Elizabeth to refuse it. Luckily for her, privy councillors were rarely united. The Council was led by the **Secretary of State**.

Who had the power in Elizabethan England?

Lord Lieutenants

Appointed by the queen to take administrative responsibility for a particular area of the country. This involved settling disputes and collecting taxes. They were also responsible for raising a **militia** to fight for the queen if needed. Many Lord Lieutenants held other important roles in court, most notably **privy councillors** (if they served on the Privy Council, their day-to-day work would be carried out by a deputy – someone who did the job in their place). The position of a Lord Lieutenant could lead to great power and influence.

Justices of the Peace (JPs)

Each county had several Justices of the Peace to ensure order was kept. They were always selected from the local **gentry** and their main role was to ensure that the laws passed by Parliament were properly enforced. A single JP had the power to send somebody to prison but more than one JP was required to sentence a criminal to death. On taking office, JPs swore to treat everyone who they dealt with equally, whether they were rich or poor.

Summarise the role of each figure in Elizabeth's government

Parliament

Privy Council

Lord Lieutenants

Justices of the Peace



Enquiry Question:



Who was powerful in Elizabethan England?

Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

How many people attended the Royal Court?	Who did Elizabeth make Earl of Leicester in 1564?	Who came to Elizabeth's court in 1581?	What did Elizabeth use to ensure loyalty?	Which group advised Elizabeth?
How many people made up this group?	Who became Elizabeth's closest advisor?	Which title was he given?	Who became 'principal secretary' in 1573?	Who ensured that laws were passed?

Key Terms

Term	Definition
	The most respected members of society who owned most of the land.
	The leader of the Privy Council, a very powerful position.
	A monarch's private council.
	High social class ranked below nobility; they may be local JP's or similar.
	Land, titles or power given to ensure an individuals support.

Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Describe the role played by the Privy Council in Elizabethan England.

2. Explain the responsibilities of the following positions in Elizabethan government:

1) Parliament 2) Lord Lieutenants 3) Justices of the Peace 4) Secretary of State 5) The Royal Court

3) To what extent did Elizabeth have the freedom to make her own decisions as queen?



Enquiry Question:



Why was it difficult to be a female ruler?

New Info

What problems did Elizabeth face in the first ten years of her reign?

When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558 aged 25, she was surrounded by men, many of whom had been powerful figures during the reigns of her father, Henry VIII, and both Edward VI and Mary. From the beginning and throughout her reign, Elizabeth faced challenges as a female ruler in a world where men had always held the power. Elizabeth was keen to assert her authority over Parliament and was not afraid to arrest those who questioned her policies.

One big problem Elizabeth faced was who would succeed her. Her heir, when she came to the throne, was her cousin Mary,

▼ **INTERPRETATION A** *Queen Elizabeth in Parliament from The Journals of All the Parliaments during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth by Simonds D'Ewes (1682)*



Queen of Scots. For many Englishmen, the prospect of the Scottish Queen Mary, a Catholic who had once been married to the King of France, becoming queen was something to be avoided at all costs. The way to avoid this was for Elizabeth to marry and give birth to a son, who could succeed her.

▼ **SOURCE B** *Adapted from The First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of Women by John Knox (1558); Knox was a Scottish Protestant who wrote the book during the reign of Mary I of England:*

To promote a woman to rule and have superiority over any nation is insulting to God because it goes against His design for order and government. It is the overturning of good order and all principles of justice. For no man ever saw the lion bow down to the lioness.

▼ **SOURCE C** *An assessment of the state of the nation made by one of Queen Elizabeth's privy councillors, Armagil Waad, in 1558:*

The Queen and the nobility are poor and the country is exhausted. There is a lack of good leaders and soldiers. The people are disorderly. The law is not properly enforced. All things are expensive. There are wars with France and Scotland. The French king threatens the country, having one foot in Calais and the other in Scotland. We know who our enemies are abroad, but we are not sure who our friends are.

Use the information above to complete the task on the next page

Source A

Question	Answer
Who wrote the Source?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
What does the Source tell us?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
What does this tell us about attitudes towards women?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Source B

Question	Answer
Who wrote the Source?	<hr/> <hr/>
According to the Source, what problems did Elizabeth face?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



Enquiry Question:



Why was it difficult to be a female ruler?

New Info

When Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, aged 25, she immediately had a number of problems to deal with. She was a young woman in a country where men had always held the power.

Succession



- Elizabeth was the last living child of Henry VIII and she had no children of her own. So it was unclear who would **succeed** her if she died before producing an heir. In the past, situations like this had led to violent struggles for power.
- In 1562, she nearly died of smallpox. This drew attention to the uncertainty of England's future. As a result, senior figures were keen that she marry as soon as possible.

REVIEW



If you are unsure about the religious differences that existed at the time, have a look at pages 36–45 to remind yourself of these.

Religion



- The Tudor period had seen England's official religion change a number of times, and this had created instability and violence.
- Many Catholics did not trust Elizabeth and some claimed that she had no right to be queen (they did not recognise Henry's marriage to Elizabeth's mother).
- Puritanism, an extreme form of Protestantism, was also seen as a threat. There were a number of Puritans who had hoped to take control of Elizabeth's Church and make it more extreme – this could have damaged the whole religious settlement.

Foreign policy



- Catholic countries like Spain and France wanted influence over England and had the support of the Pope in this aim. The threat of invasion was very real.
- One key area of tension was the Netherlands, where the Protestant population was in conflict with its Spanish rulers. Elizabeth had to decide whether or not to become involved.

Elizabeth's problems

Taxation



- The country was short of money and Elizabeth needed to raise taxes.
- Poverty was widespread and raising taxes would be very unpopular.

Mary, Queen of Scots



- With no direct heir, the next in line to the throne was Elizabeth's Catholic cousin, Mary. Many Catholics saw her as an alternative Queen of England and this made her a serious threat to Elizabeth.

REVIEW



The diagram gives a brief summary of the problems that Elizabeth faced. All of them are dealt with in more detail in the following chapters.

Ireland



- Like her predecessors, Elizabeth considered herself to be Queen of Ireland. In 1559, she faced a major revolt in Ireland – the first of several during her reign.

Use the information above to complete the task on the next page



Enquiry Question:



Why was it difficult to be a female ruler?

Use the information on the previous page to complete the table below

Problem	Summary
Succession	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Religion	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Foreign Policy	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Mary, Queen of Scots	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Taxation	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Ireland	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



Enquiry Question:



Why was it difficult to be a female ruler?

Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions				
In what year did Elizabeth come to the throne?	How old was Elizabeth when she came to the throne?	Who immediately posed a problem to Elizabeth?	Which protestant criticised female rulers?	What was Elizabeth not afraid to do?
What nearly killed Elizabeth in 1562?	Which religious group did not trust Elizabeth?	Which other religious group was seen as a threat?	What happened in 1559 in Ireland?	Which social issue was widespread in Elizab. England?

Key Terms	
Term	Definition
	To take over the throne.
	Being sent to live in another country often for political reasons.
	The experience of barely having enough funds to survive.
	The head of the Catholic Church

Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.
1. Describe two main issues that Elizabeth when she became queen.
2. Explain why succession was such an important issue in Elizabethan England.
3. Which of Elizabeth’s problems was most significant in the first 10 years of her reign?

Potential suitors

There was no shortage of men who were ready to marry the queen. Three of the most important are shown here.

Francis, Duke of Anjou and Alençon

- The French King's brother and heir to his throne.
- By the time a marriage was proposed, Elizabeth was 46 and probably beyond having children. A childless marriage could result in England falling under French control.
- He was Catholic and many important figures in Elizabeth's court were against the marriage.



King Philip II of Spain

- One of the wealthiest and most powerful men in the world.
- He had been married to Elizabeth's sister, Queen Mary I, but he had rarely visited England and the marriage had not produced an heir.
- He was Catholic.



Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

- A childhood friend of the queen and a favourite of hers throughout her reign. Many assumed they were in love.
- A key figure in the royal court and a member of the Privy Council.
- When his wife died, he became free to marry Elizabeth but the scandal surrounding her death (and rumours of his involvement) meant this was almost impossible.



Elizabeth Considered many Suitors, but she Rejected them All

- 1) Early in her reign, Elizabeth received proposals from foreign rulers, including King Philip II of Spain, Archduke Charles of Austria and King Eric of Sweden. She and her Privy Council seriously considered King Eric's proposal, but in the end all these early suitors were rejected.
- 2) Elizabeth seems to have been in love with her 'favourite', Robert Dudley, and seriously considered marrying him. However, members of the Privy Council and the nobility, including Cecil, were strongly opposed to this match and it did not go ahead.
- 3) In the 1570s, Elizabeth was courted by Duke Francis of Anjou, brother of the King of France. Although there was some support for the match, there was also strong opposition to the idea of Elizabeth marrying a French Catholic, and in the end the marriage negotiations were abandoned.

Comment and Analysis

Marriage negotiations could be a useful tool in foreign policy. Anglo-Spanish relations were breaking down in the 1570s (see p.48), and England needed a new European ally. The proposed marriage to Duke Francis played an important role in efforts to create an alliance with France.

By the late 1570s, Elizabeth was in her mid-forties and it was clear that she would never have children. The issue of the succession still needed to be resolved, but Elizabeth refused to name a successor. She was concerned that a successor might become the focus of plots to overthrow her. Towards the end of her reign, her advisors began secret negotiations to make James VI of Scotland (son of Mary, Queen of Scots) heir to the throne. When Elizabeth died in 1603, James became King of England.

Use the information above to complete the task on the next page



Enquiry Question:



Why was Elizabeth's relationship status so important?

Who could be worthy of marrying Queen Elizabeth?

Advantage

Disadvantage

Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

Francis, Duke of Anjou and Alencon

King Phillip II of Spain



Enquiry Question:



Why was Elizabeth's relationship status so important?

Practice

Why did Elizabeth refuse to chose to a successor in the 1570s?



How was the issue of succession eventually resolved at the end of Elizabeth's reign?



Parliament as matchmakers?

After Elizabeth almost died of smallpox in 1562, Parliament became increasingly concerned about the lack of an heir. Many in Parliament saw it as their duty to find a match for Elizabeth and guarantee stability for England. The smallpox scare was not the only concern. By the time of her illness, the queen was almost 30, by no means old, but the likelihood of her producing an heir was getting smaller. By 1566, Parliament began to openly discuss potential matches. Elizabeth was furious with what she saw as an unacceptable interference and she banned Parliament from ever discussing the issue again. One politician, Peter Wentworth, ignored Elizabeth's orders and argued that Parliament should be able to discuss what it liked. Realising how the queen might react, the rest of Parliament had him arrested and placed in the Tower of London before Elizabeth blamed them all for his opinions. No matter how important the issue of marriage was to the country, it was clear that Elizabeth considered it a decision that she alone should make. This is an example of how Parliament and the queen clashed over the role Parliament should take. Elizabeth believed that there were certain matters that were entirely hers to consider, without any interference from Parliament. Marriage was one of these.

▼ **INTERPRETATION A** *The Commons Petitioning Queen Elizabeth to Marry*, painted by Solomon Joseph Solomon in 1911; the subtitle reads: 'with this ring I was wedded to the realm'



How did Parliament try to involve itself in the issue of Elizabeth's marriage?



What does this issue tell us about the relationship between Elizabeth and Parliament?



Enquiry Question:



Why was Elizabeth's relationship status so important?

Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

What was the real purpose of marriage?	What was the issue with marrying a foreign prince?	What would be risked if she died without an heir?	Which two groups were concerned about succession?	Who had Queen Mary I been married to?
Which religion did England now follow?	Why was Elizabeth personally reluctant to marry?	Can you name a potential suitor for Elizabeth I?	Why did some oppose Duke Francis of Anjou?	Which politician was arrested for ignoring Eliz.?

Key Terms

Term	Definition
	A potential suitable husband for the Queen.
	The issue of finding someone to take over the throne.
	The monarch's closest advisors.

Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Why was succession such an important issue in Elizabethan England?

2. Explain the relative strengths and weaknesses of Elizabeth's potential suitors.

3. To what extent could Elizabeth's decision not to marry be considered foolish?



Enquiry Question:



What was Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament during her reign?

New Info

There were **Two Chambers of Parliament**

- 1) The House of Lords was not elected — it was made up of members of the nobility and senior churchmen.
- 2) The House of Commons was elected, but only men who owned property over a certain value were allowed to vote. Elections weren't free — the Crown controlled who got elected in some areas, and in others powerful local figures controlled who was chosen.

Parliament's functions were **Advice, Taxation and Legislation**

Advice

Parliament was an important point of contact between central government and the leading figures in local government throughout the country. It enabled the Queen and her counsellors to gauge the mood of the country and levels of support for their policies.

Taxation

When the Queen needed extra revenue, she had to ask Parliament's permission to raise taxes.

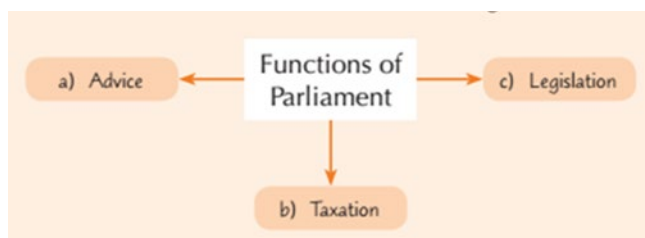
Legislation

The Queen needed Parliament's approval to pass new laws. However, she could bypass this function by issuing royal proclamations instead.

Comment and Analysis

Elizabeth took little interest in the advice of Members of Parliament (MPs), and she could bypass Parliament's role in passing new laws. For Elizabeth, Parliament's main purpose was to grant her taxes.

Complete the mind map below





Enquiry Question:



What was Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament during her reign?

New Info

The Elizabethan Government

Unlike today, in the 16th century **Parliament** was only a **secondary** part of government. Its sessions were **temporary** and **occasional**, and its **powers** were **limited**.

Parliament's Powers were Limited

- 1) Elizabeth had the power to **summon** and **dismiss** Parliament. She **disliked** working with Parliament and tried to use it **as little as possible** — she only called **13 sessions** of Parliament during her 44-year reign.
- 2) Parliament was **not free** to decide what topics it debated. It had to have **permission** from the **Queen** to discuss **matters of state** (e.g. religion, the succession, foreign policy). As a result, most parliamentary business focused on **local matters** and **social** or **economic issues**, which it could discuss without royal permission.

Comment and Analysis

Elizabeth believed in **Divine Right** — that **rulers** were sent by **God** to govern their country. She believed that this gave her a **royal prerogative** — the right to **decide** about **matters of state** without **interference** from Parliament.



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Elizabeth I in Parliament

Why did most parliamentary business focus on local matters and social or economical issues?

In your own words, write a short explanation for each of the following terms:

Divine Right

Royal Prerogative



Enquiry Question:



What was Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament during her reign?

New Info

The Privy Council helped Elizabeth to Manage Parliament

- 1) The Privy Council managed relations between Elizabeth and Parliament very effectively. In particular, Cecil was highly skilled at convincing MPs to support the Queen's policies.
- 2) Some members of the Privy Council sat in Parliament. They acted as royal spokesmen and helped to steer debates in favour of royal policies.
- 3) The Speaker, who kept order in the House of Commons, was chosen by the Queen and closely monitored by members of the Privy Council. This helped the Queen's counsellors to control Parliament and convince MPs to support royal policy.
- 4) Elizabeth was a strong public speaker. She made a number of powerful speeches in Parliament which helped to persuade MPs to obey her wishes.

Describe the role of Elizabeth's Privy Councillors in Parliament:

What was the role of the speaker in Parliament?

How did Elizabeth use the Speaker to maintain control of Parliament?



Enquiry Question:



What was Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament during her reign?

New Info

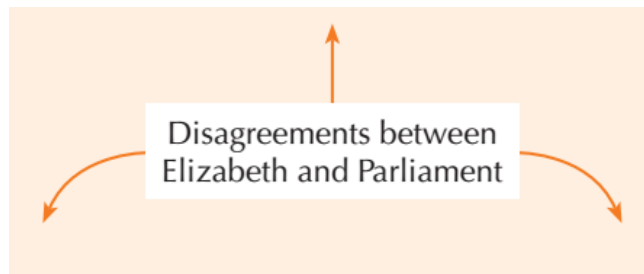
Elizabeth stayed In Control, despite some Disagreements

During Elizabeth's reign, Parliament didn't always agree with her policies:

- Throughout her reign, MPs were concerned about who would rule England after Elizabeth's death — they repeatedly tried to persuade her to marry or name an heir (see p.16).
- Some Puritan MPs challenged the religious settlement (see p.36) and tried to make England more Protestant.
- MPs were worried about the threat from Mary, Queen of Scots and the Catholic plots surrounding her (see p.38). They tried to convince Elizabeth to take action against Mary.

Occasionally, MPs tried to force the Queen to change her mind by threatening to refuse taxation. Elizabeth never gave in to this kind of parliamentary pressure. Effective management by the Privy Council, combined with Elizabeth's powers to dismiss Parliament and select the topics it debated, meant that she remained firmly in control.

Copy and complete the mind map below by describing issues between Elizabeth and Parliament





Enquiry Question:



What was Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament during her reign?

New Info

Marriage and succession



Many in Parliament saw it as their duty to find Elizabeth a suitable husband and, by 1566, began to discuss the issue openly. Angry at such interference, she banned them from talking about it again. Elizabeth saw marriage as a decision for her alone.

Religion



The most divisive factor in Elizabethan society was religion and Parliament reflected this. The majority of those in both houses of Parliament were Protestants and supported Elizabeth's religious settlement. When Elizabeth wished to introduce laws that made life hard for Catholics, she found support in Parliament. One area of disagreement, however, was over the issue of Puritanism. A number of powerful Puritans in Parliament tried unsuccessfully to introduce new laws to change the Church of England.

Freedom of speech



An MP named Peter Wentworth was arrested three times during Elizabeth's reign for arguing that MPs should be allowed to speak on any matter they chose. Elizabeth clearly did not agree! Some MPs supported Wentworth's view, but others did not. One of his arrests was organised by other MPs wishing to demonstrate their loyalty to Elizabeth.

Parliament under Elizabeth I

Crime and poverty



The issue of poverty was significant in Elizabethan England, particularly when it led to crime. Many MPs recognised that simply punishing the poor did not work and attempted to introduce new poor laws. They were unsuccessful, until 1601, when the Poor Law was finally passed.

Mary, Queen of Scots



The majority of those in Parliament saw Mary, a Catholic, as a clear threat to national security and a significant number of them called for her execution. This pressure, and that of the Privy Council, may have swayed the hesitant Elizabeth into executing her cousin.

Monopolies



The giving of **monopolies** was an important way for Elizabeth to maintain the loyalty of powerful men in England (for example, the sweet wine monopoly given to the Earl of Essex). In 1571, an MP named Robert Bell criticised them as unfair. Other MPs joined him in calling for changes in their use. Elizabeth agreed to make a few changes but MPs pushed for more. In 1601, she made a speech to Parliament in which she cleverly managed to give the impression that she was agreeing to make major changes to how monopolies worked without actually promising very much at all.

Use the information above to complete the task on the next page



Enquiry Question:



What was Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament during her reign?

Use the information on the previous page to complete the table below

Problem	Summary
Marriage & Succession	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Religion	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Freedom of Speech	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Crime & Poverty	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Mary, Queen of Scots	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Monopolies	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



Enquiry Question:



What was Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament during her reign?

Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

What were the two chambers of parliament?	What were Parliament's three main functions?	How many sessions of parliament did Elizabeth call?	What did most parliament's focus on?	Which idea of rule did Elizabeth believe in?
Who managed relations between Queen and Parl.?	Who kept order in the House of Commons?	What change did Puritans try to make?	Who were some MPs worried about?	How would MPs try to put pressure on Elizabeth?

Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Describe two different roles played by Parliament in Elizabethan England?

2. Explain how Parliament's powers were limited in Elizabethan England.

3. How successful was Elizabeth's relationship with Parliament during her reign as Queen?



Enquiry Question:



What does Essex's rebellion tell us about government and politics in Elizabeth reign?

New Info

Background

- Essex had been a loyal subject throughout Elizabeth's reign and was, for a time, one of her favourites. He became a privy councillor in 1595 and was awarded the monopoly on sweet wine in England.
- During his time at court, Essex developed a rivalry with Robert Cecil, the son of the powerful William Cecil and an important and influential figure at court.
- Essex pleased the queen when, in 1596, he successfully attacked the Spanish port of Cadiz.



Causes of the rebellion

- Soon after his victory against the Spanish, Essex became involved in an argument with the queen during a Privy Council meeting. At one point, he turned his back on Elizabeth and she hit him on the side of the head. He nearly drew his sword but was stopped by other councillors just in time. Essex was placed under house arrest.
- Later the queen sent him to Ireland to deal with a rebellion. He not only failed to defeat the rebels but agreed a truce with them – directly against the queen's orders.
- On his return to England, Essex rushed straight into the queen's chambers and caught her without her wig!
- After his failures in Ireland, Essex quickly fell from Elizabeth's favour. She refused to renew his sweet wine monopoly. As a result, he lost much of his wealth and influence.
- Angry, and with nothing left to lose, Essex began to gather supporters and plot a rebellion against the queen.



The rebellion

- In February 1601, Essex took four privy councillors hostage and marched them to his London house, along with 200 supporters.
- Robert Cecil, Essex's great rival, responded by labelling him a traitor. Many of Essex's supporters left, while others panicked and released the hostages without his permission.
- Essex and his remaining followers were arrested.



Consequences

- Essex was put on trial for treason and was sentenced to death.
- During his interrogation, he agreed to name other rebels including his sister, Penelope.
- He was executed in private on 25 February 1601. Some of his supporters were also put to death but most were just fined.
- Elizabeth had made it clear, even late in her reign, that she would not tolerate challenges to her authority.



Use the information above to complete the task on the next page



Enquiry Question:



What does Essex's rebellion tell us about government and politics in Elizabeth reign?

Who was the Earl of Essex? What was his position in Elizabethan England?

Why did he decide to rebel against Queen Elizabeth?

How did the rebellion happen? What was the result?

What were the consequences of Essex's rebellion?



Enquiry Question:



What does Essex's rebellion tell us about government and politics in Elizabeth reign?

New Info

The last 15 years or so of Elizabeth's rule were so different to her early years that they're sometimes called her 'second reign'. One of the main differences was the growth of competing groups at court.

Elizabeth's Court split into Rival Groups in the 1590s

- 1) The make-up of Elizabeth's Privy Council changed towards the end of her reign. Several of her key ministers, including Christopher Hatton and Francis Walsingham, died around 1590. William Cecil died in 1598 and was succeeded by his son, Robert Cecil.
- 2) In 1593, Elizabeth made Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, a member of the Privy Council. Essex's rise led to the growth of two conflicting groups at court, one around the Earl of Essex and the other around William and Robert Cecil.
- 3) The two groups were constantly competing for royal patronage and influence. They also disagreed over important matters, especially strategy in the war with Spain (see p.48). Elizabeth's inability to control this conflict undermined her authority.



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Essex was the stepson of Elizabeth's earlier 'favourite', Robert Dudley. He came to court in 1584 and quickly became a 'favourite' himself. He was extremely ambitious for military success and could be arrogant and disrespectful, even towards the Queen.

Who was the Earl of Essex and when did he join the Privy Council?

How did the Earl of Essex's rise to power affect Elizabeth's court?

Essex launched a Rebellion in 1601

- 1) In 1599, Elizabeth sent Essex to Ireland at the head of a huge army. His task was to crush Tyrone's Rebellion (also known as the Nine Years' War), which had been going on since 1594.
- 2) Essex made some limited attempts to fight the rebels, but when these were unsuccessful, he made a truce with them. He then abandoned his post and returned to England without the Queen's permission.
- 3) As a punishment, Elizabeth put Essex under house arrest for a time, banished him from court and took away most of his public offices. In November 1600, she also took away his main source of income, a monopoly (see p.22) on the distribution of sweet wines.
- 4) The loss of his political power and his income drove Essex to revolt. On 8th February 1601, he launched a rebellion in London. Essex aimed to seize the Queen and force her to replace her closest advisors, especially Cecil, with himself and his followers.
- 5) Essex's rebellion failed within just a few hours. He received no support from ordinary Londoners, and most of his own supporters quickly abandoned him too. Essex was arrested, tried for treason and executed on 25th February 1601.

Comment and Analysis

In her later years, Elizabeth rarely appointed new men to the Privy Council, which created resentment among some courtiers. These men became frustrated at Elizabeth's refusal to promote them to government posts, and so they encouraged Essex's rebellion.

Using the following words: Tyrone's Rebellion, Truce, England describe Essex's expedition to Ireland

How was Essex punished for his failure?

What was the aim of Essex's rebellion in 1601? Why did it receive support from some?



Enquiry Question:



What does Essex's rebellion tell us about government and politics in Elizabeth reign?

New Info

The Conflict at court Undermined Elizabeth's Authority

- 1) The lack of popular support for Essex's rebellion shows that it wasn't a serious threat to Elizabeth's rule. She was still a popular and respected queen, and there was no desire to overthrow her or her government.
- 2) However, the rebellion does suggest that Elizabeth's authority over her court became weaker towards the end of her reign. By the 1590s, she was no longer using patronage as effectively as she had in the past.
- 3) Instead of balancing the different groups at court, she let the Cecils become too powerful, while failing to promote many others. This led to a build-up of anger and resentment, which risked fuelling challenges to her authority — like Essex's revolt.
- 4) The conflict at court in the 1590s also made Elizabeth's government less effective. Constant competition and in-fighting between groups made it more difficult to make decisions and get things done.

Why did Essex's rebellion fail?

What does the rebellion suggest about Elizabeth's authority?



Enquiry Question:



What does Essex's rebellion tell us about government and politics in Elizabeth reign?

Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

In what year was Essex made a Privy Councillor?	What monopoly was he awarded?	Who Essex develop a rivalry with?	Who did Essex manage to defeat at Cadiz?	Which event turned Essex's favour?
Where was he sent and what happened?	How did Queen Elizabeth respond to this?	How did Essex respond to this in turn?	What were the consequences for Essex?	What did Elizabeth make clear through this?

Key Term

Term	Definition
	The exclusive right to trade in a particular product.

Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Who was the Earl of Essex?

2. Why did Essex rebel against Elizabeth?

3. What does the Essex rebellion tell us about the power of Elizabeth's court?



Enquiry Question:



Why did rebellions against Elizabeth fail?

New Info

INTERPRETATION A *A portrait of Elizabeth in old age, painted nearly 20 years after her death*



A tired queen and a weary nation

By the end of her reign many people's attention had moved on from Elizabeth and become focused on the future. After four decades people were ready for a change. Whether at the beginning of her rule as a young and inexperienced monarch, in the middle at the height of her powers or at the end, Elizabeth still needed to control and command the loyalty of her subjects. In her 45 years as queen she faced a number of rebellions.

Why did the plots and rebellions against Elizabeth fail?

For a plot or rebellion to succeed, secrecy is needed. Messages need to be sent and plans made without any outsider knowing what is intended. The problem for those who tried to plot against Elizabeth was that she had the largest and most effective network of spies and informers that England had ever seen. These were not spies in the modern sense; they were employed through much less formal arrangements. Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth's Chief Minister, oversaw the network. Everyone from nobles, who might have the trust of plotters, to innkeepers and servants, who could overhear whispered conversations, could potentially be kept in Walsingham's pay.

The second thing necessary for a plot to succeed is popular support. All of the rebellions relied on others seizing the opportunity and joining the fight. The problem was that most people were happy with the way things were. For the first time in many years people were able to live in relative religious freedom. The brutality of Mary I's reign was something that no one wished to return to and even many Catholics preferred an English queen over Mary, Queen of Scots, or a foreign ruler like Philip of Spain. For many in England, it seemed that they had never had it so good. There simply was not the general appetite to change things.

Describe the security of Elizabeth's position towards the end of her reign?



Enquiry Question:



Why did rebellions against Elizabeth fail?

New Info

Spies

The network of spies headed by Walsingham meant that very few plots ever got beyond their earliest stages.

Religious settlement

Elizabeth's religious policy kept most of the population happy. Although things became tougher for Catholics as her reign went on, there remained a level of tolerance. In areas where Catholicism was more popular, the new settlement was often not enforced to the same extent.

Unconvincing alternatives

Regardless of their religion, most people preferred an English queen over the alternatives: Mary, Queen of Scots, or a foreign king like Philip. Mary was not only a former Queen of France but was also blamed by many for her second husband's death. Philip had been King of England before and had shown little interest in the country, while his wife oversaw the brutal execution of hundreds of Protestants.

Why did plots against Elizabeth fail?

A skilled politician

Elizabeth dealt with her most difficult relationship, the one with her Parliament, very effectively. She was skilled at getting her own way while still allowing Lords and MPs to feel influential. The issue of marriage and succession is a perfect example of this. She would listen to Parliament's advice but was clear where its power ended.

Punishments

Elizabeth took swift action against traitors. Rebels were tortured and put to death. Her former favourite, Essex, whose plot never aimed to remove her from the throne, was beheaded and her own cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, was kept locked up for many years before she was executed. For those who challenged Elizabeth, the consequences of failure were plain to see.

Extension



An important skill for a historian is comparing factors that caused things to happen and deciding which factor played the largest role. Challenge yourself by using the information in this chapter to decide which of the factors in the spider diagram was the most important in stopping a successful rebellion against Elizabeth from ever taking place. In your answer, remember to say *why* one factor is more important than others by *directly comparing* them.

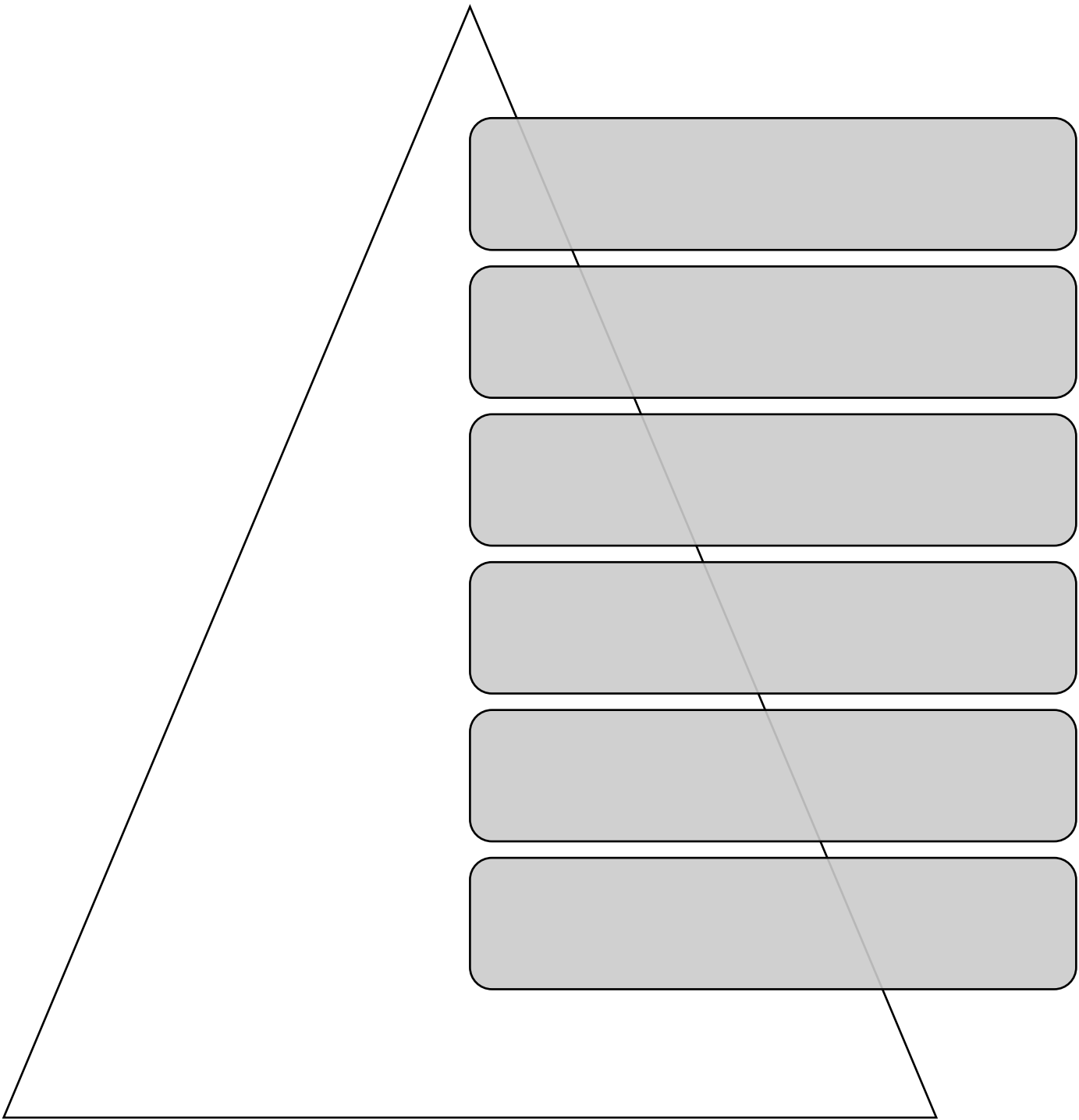
Use the information above to complete the task on the next page



Enquiry Question:



Why did rebellions against Elizabeth fail?



Rank each of the factors and explain your decision briefly.



Enquiry Question:



Why did rebellions against Elizabeth fail?

Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

What is needed for a plot or rebellion to succeed?	What did Elizabeth have that made this difficult?	Who oversaw this network?	How many years was Elizabeth Queen for?	What is the second thing needed for a plot to succeed?
How could Mary I's reign be described?	Can you name two people executed by Elizabeth?	Which Spanish King challenged Elizabeth?	What was Elizabeth's religious policy?	Which group did restrictions become tougher?

Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Describe a rebellion faced by Elizabeth:

2. Explain two reasons why rebellions against Elizabeth failed?

3. Which was the most significant factor in the failure of challenges to Elizabeth's power?