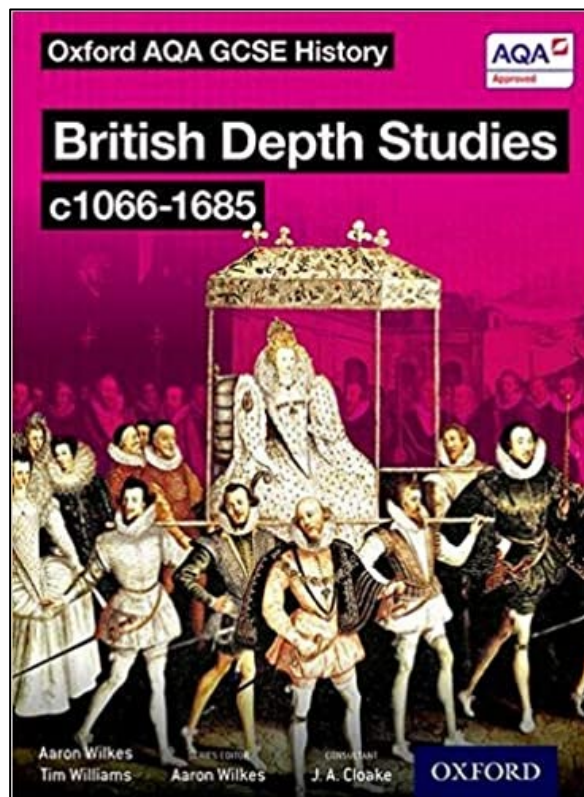


# Great Sankey High School

## AQA GCSE History



### Elizabethan England Work Booklet

#### Part 3: Historic Environment

#### Lord Burghley's Almshouse

**Name:**

**Class:**

**Teacher:**

# How to use your Elizabeth Workbook

**Use the icons in your work booklet to guide you.**



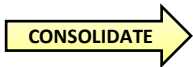
This is information you are being introduced to for the first time, make sure to read this as carefully as possible and highlight any key words or phrases.



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:



# Why was there so much poverty in Elizabethan England?

### New Info

#### Population Growth led to Rising Prices

- 1) In the 16th century, England's birth rate increased and the death rate fell. This led to huge population growth — during Elizabeth's reign, the English population grew from around 3 million people to at least 4 million.
- 2) Food production didn't keep pace with the growth in population. As a result, food prices rose and sometimes there were food shortages.
- 3) Prices for food and other goods rose much more quickly than wages. Standards of living fell for many workers as they struggled to afford the necessities — many were forced into poverty.
- 4) Because of the rapid population growth, there was growing competition for land, and so rents increased. This trend was made worse by changes in farming practices.

#### Monopolies

Elizabeth often rewarded her courtiers with monopolies, which gave them the exclusive right to produce or distribute a particular item. Monopolies were unpopular with many people because they made the problem of rising prices worse. Since monopoly-holders had no competition, they could fix high prices for their goods.

Complete the mind map below using as much detail as possible:



What is a monopoly? Why were monopolies unpopular in England?

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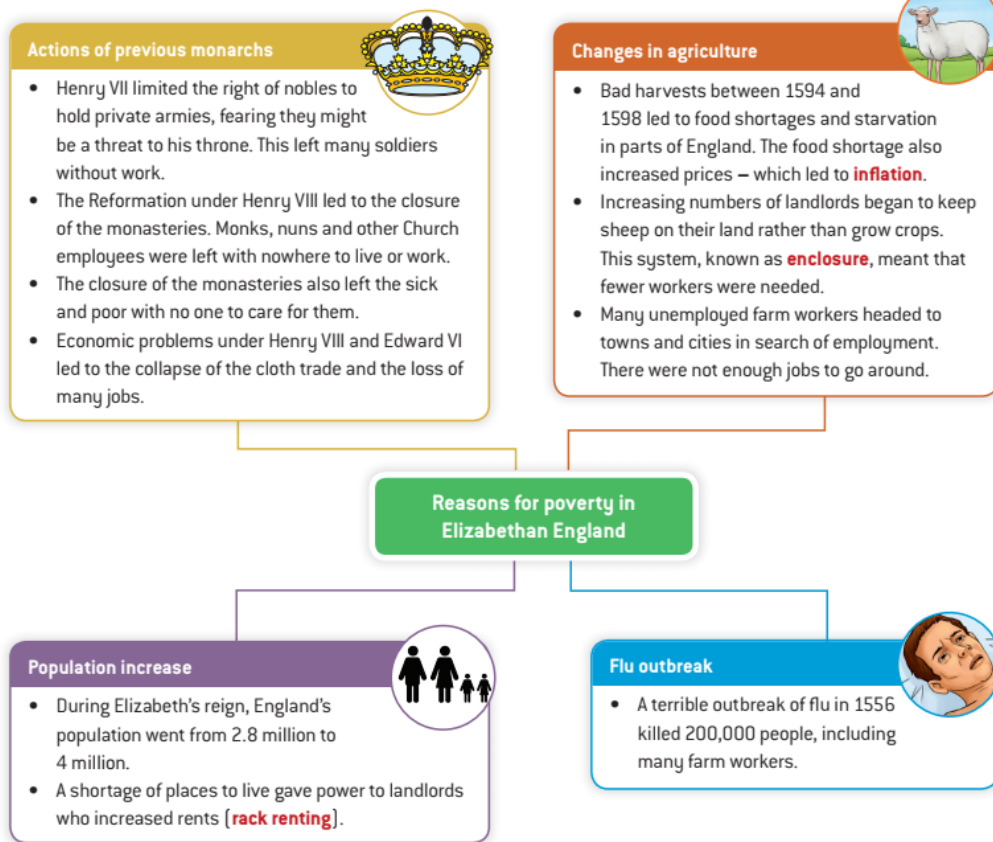
## New Info

The growing number of people living in **poverty** was a major problem in Elizabethan society.

### Religious Changes meant there was **Less Support for the Poor**

- 1) Between 1536 and 1541, Henry VIII had **closed down** England's **monasteries** and sold off most of their land (this was called the 'dissolution of the monasteries').
- 2) The monasteries had performed important **social functions**, including providing **support** for many **poor, ill** and **disabled** people. The dissolution of the monasteries **removed** a valuable source of **assistance** for people in need.

Poverty in Elizabethan England rose significantly for a number of reasons:



How did Henry VIII's actions affect poor people before England became Queen?

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## Enquiry Question:



# Why was there so much poverty in Elizabethan England?

## Summary

### Increase in poverty - reasons why



Reason	Explanation
Rising population	The population rose by a million during the Elizabethan period. More people meant there was more demand for goods, and so prices rose.
Inflation	Prices for goods rose, but wages fell as there were more people around to do the work.
Cloth trade collapse	Woollen cloth was the England's main export. There was a decline in demand and this led to unemployment.
Wars	Taxes were increased to compensate for the price of waging war.
Bad harvests	Harvests were particularly bad in the 1590s leading to even higher demand and more rising prices.
Changes in farming	Many landlords decided to <b>enclose</b> their fields and keep sheep instead of growing crops which led to high unemployment.





### Enquiry Question:



## Why was there so much poverty in Elizabethan England?

### Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

How much did the population grow during Eliz. Rule?	What happened to food production as a result?	What were monopolies?	What event saw Henry VIII close the monasteries?	What was it called when landowners closed their land?
What was the process of increasing rent known as?	How many people were killed by flu in 1556?	What were homeless people who travelled aka?	What happened in the 1590s which made things worse?	Why did the government fear vagabonds?

### Key Terms

Term	Definition
	The experience of having barely enough to survive.
	Somebody who did not have a job or money in Elizabethan society.
	A group of advisors or guards for an important person
	A period of great change in the European and English Church.
	A large stone building owned by the Church where monks lived.
	An area surrounded by a barrier.
	Demanding an excessive or extortionate rent from a tenant or for a property.

### Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Can you identify who the poor were Elizabethan England?

2. Can you explain why did poverty increase in Elizabethan England?

3. In your opinion which was the most significant cause of poverty in Elizabethan England?



## Enquiry Question:



# How did Elizabethans respond to poverty?

### New Info

#### A sympathetic approach

Their belief in 'the Great Chain of Being' made it clear to Elizabethans where they were positioned in society. In the views of the time, the wealthy (nobles and gentry) were simply 'better' than the peasants. However, just as God looked after his people and the queen looked after her subjects, the wealthy were expected to offer some help to those below them. In practice, this might mean making the odd charitable donation, but not something that was going to solve the problem completely. Before Elizabeth, attitudes to the poor were largely unsympathetic. There was certainly recognition that some poor people could not help their situation, because of injury or ill health, so it was seen as correct that charities should help them. If someone was able-bodied, however, it seemed logical to the wealthy that the person could find work if they chose to.

As unemployment and poverty grew under Elizabeth there was a change in attitude. People began to recognise that many able-bodied paupers, particularly in **urban** areas, could not find work. They wanted to help themselves but they were not able to. These people were seen as the **deserving poor**. The response to this change in attitude was that many wealthier people worked hard to provide more help and charity to those in need. Archbishop Whitgift established **almshouses** in Croydon in south London. Almshouses were buildings that provided accommodation and food for those in need.

▼ **INTERPRETATION A** A painting from 1911 of an almshouse built by Archbishop Whitgift in 1596



### Who were viewed as the deserving poor?

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### What was an almshouse?

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## Enquiry Question:



# How did Elizabethans respond to poverty?

## New Info

### The undeserving poor

While more people began to recognise the idea of the deserving poor, they also saw a group that was **undeserving**. These were untrustworthy beggars who had no interest in honest work. In 1567, Thomas Harman published a book that drew attention to some of the scams and tricks used by these conmen and women. The book was very popular and hardened some attitudes towards the poor. Many wealthy people began to question the honesty of all beggars they encountered.

### The idle poor

Harman's book was based on the idea of beggars being criminals but his view was not unique. Many believed that the best way to deal with begging was to threaten severe punishment. Beggars were often seen as idle or lazy and unable to change their ways.

▼ **SOURCE C** This illustration shows the same man in normal dress (left) and disguised as a cripple (right)

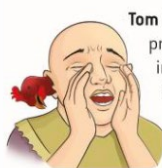
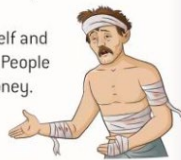
Common vagabonds in Elizabethan England from Thomas Harman's *Warning Against Vagabonds*

**The Counterfeit Crank** would bite on soap so that he frothed at the mouth and then pretend to have a fit. The idea was that people would feel sorry for him and give him money.



**The Baretop Trickster** was a woman who would trick men into following them, and perhaps buying them a meal, by removing items of clothing. The man would then be beaten and robbed by the woman's accomplices.

**The Clapper Dudgeon** would cut himself and tie dirty bandages around the wound. People would feel sympathy and give him money.



**Tom O'Bedlam** would pretend to be mad in order to get money. He might bark like a dog for hours, follow people around or stick a chicken's head in his ear. The money people gave him may have been out of sympathy or perhaps just to get rid of him!



## Who were viewed as the 'undeserving poor'?

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## Enquiry Question:



### How did Elizabethans respond to poverty?

Look at Source B. What kind of vagabond is Harrison describing?

▼ **SOURCE B** *Adapted from A Description of England by William Harrison (1587):*

The vagabonds abide nowhere but run up and down place to place; idle beggars cut the fleshy parts of their bodies to raise pitiful sores and move the hearts of passers-by so they will bestow large gifts upon them. It makes me think that punishment is more suitable for them than generosity or gifts. They are all thieves. They take from the godly poor what is due to them.

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Why do you think Thomas Harman's book and the picture in Source C were produced?

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What effect do you think these publications might have had on how people viewed the poor?

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### Enquiry Question:



## How did Elizabethans respond to poverty?

### Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

How did Elizabethans organise society?	Who was at the bottom of this structure?	Before Elizabeth, how were attitudes towards the poor?	In what areas was it hard to find work?	What were these unemployed people known as?
What were other poor people known as?	Who wrote a book categorizing the poor?	In what year did he write his book?	Can you name three types of vagabonds?	How did many believe the poor should be treated?

### Key Terms

Term	Definition
	Areas in towns and cities.
	Those who wanted to work but couldn't.
	Those who people believed didn't want to work.
	A house set up to provide support for those in poverty.

### Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Can you describe two types of pauper in Elizabethan England?

2. Can you explain why so many people had a negative view of the poor?

3. What impact did publications at the time, have on views on the poor?





## Enquiry Question:

How did the Government treat the poor in Elizabethan England?



### New Info

Elizabeth's government introduced a series of [Poor Laws](#) to try and tackle the problem of [poverty](#).

### The Government became More Involved in Poor Relief

- 1) Traditionally, the [main](#) source of [support](#) for the poor was [charity](#) — rich people made [donations](#) to hospitals, monasteries and other organisations that helped the poor. However, during Elizabeth's reign the problem of [poverty](#) became [so bad](#) that these [charitable donations](#) by individuals were [no longer enough](#).
- 2) People began to realise that [society as a whole](#) would have to take [responsibility](#) for helping the poor, and so the [government](#) began to take [action](#) to tackle the problem of [poverty](#).

#### Comment and Analysis

The government feared that the rising poverty levels were a [serious threat](#) to [law and order](#). As poverty levels rose, [crime](#) rates [increased](#) and there were [food riots](#) in some places. The government feared that the poor might [rise up](#) in [rebellion](#) if the problem of poverty wasn't tackled.

### People believed the Poor could be split into Three Categories

#### The Helpless Poor

Those who were [unable](#) to support themselves — including young [orphans](#) and the [elderly](#), [sick](#) or [disabled](#).

#### The Deserving Poor

People who [wanted to work](#), but weren't able to find a job in their home town or village.

#### The Undeserving Poor

[Beggars](#), [criminals](#) and people who [refused to work](#). Also [migrant workers](#) ('[vagabonds](#)') who left their homes and travelled around looking for work.

### Why did the government become more involved with providing support for the poor?

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### Give a short explanation for each of these terms:

Helpless Poor

Deserving Poor

The Undeserving Poor



## Enquiry Question:

How did the Government treat the poor in Elizabethan England?



### New Info

## The Poor Laws gave Help to the Helpless and Deserving Poor

- 1) From the 1560s onwards, the government brought in a series of Poor Laws to deal with the growing problem of poverty.
- 2) Because voluntary donations were no longer sufficient to fund poor relief, in the 1560s the government passed a Poor Law which introduced a tax to raise money for the poor (known as the 'poor rate').
- 3) Further Poor Laws were passed in 1597 and 1601 in response to the poverty crisis of the 1590s (see p.22). Under these laws, the poor rate became a national system of compulsory taxation. It was collected locally by an official called the Overseer of the Poor.
- 4) Poor rates were used to provide hospitals and housing for the elderly, sick and disabled. Poor children were given apprenticeships, which usually lasted at least seven years, and local authorities were expected to provide financial support or work for the deserving poor. Poor people could be sent to prison if they refused to take work.

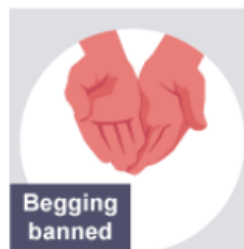
### Comment and Analysis

The Privy Council researched how local government had tackled the problem of poverty. They based the national Poor Laws on the local policies that seemed to be most effective. For example, towns like London, Norwich, Ipswich and York had been using compulsory poor rates to pay for poor relief since the mid-16th century.

### National level – 1601 Poor Law

1601 saw the formalisation of earlier acts and laws of poor relief. Poor Laws were key pieces of legislation:

- they brought in a **compulsory** nationwide **Poor Rate** system
- everyone had to contribute and those who refused would go to jail
- begging was banned and anyone caught was whipped and sent back to their place of birth
- **almshouses** were established to look after the impotent poor



### What changed as a result of the Poor Laws introduced in 1597 and 1601

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Enquiry Question:

How did the Government treat the poor in Elizabethan England?



In what ways were the Poor laws influenced by local government policies?

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Complete the mind map below?





### Government action: the Poor Law

In 1601, the first ever Poor Law was introduced. It stated that:

- The wealthy should be taxed to pay for the care of the sick and vulnerable.
- Fit and healthy paupers should be given work.
- Those who refused to work were still dealt with harshly: they could be whipped or placed in a House of Correction.

The poor were categorised into three groups:

**The helpless poor (the sick and old):** given food and accommodation.

**The able-bodied poor (those considered fit):** had to work in exchange for food.

**The idle poor:** punished and sent to a House of Correction.

### How effective was the Poor Law?

Although the 1601 law did make a difference to some, it was not properly enforced in many areas. Begging seemed to decrease, but this may have been due to the threat of the House of Correction rather than the extra help available.

Some historians argue that the law was unsuccessful because it made each area responsible for its own paupers. Some were simply sent from one place to another without receiving any help.

### What did the first Poor Law state and when was it passed?

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### How effective was the Poor Law?

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## The Undeserving Poor were treated Harshly

Under the Poor Laws of the 1590s, the **undeserving** poor were to be publicly **whipped** and then **forced** to return to their **home parish**. Repeat offenders could be sent to **prison**.

### Comment and Analysis

The **undeserving poor** were treated so **harshly** because they were seen as a serious **threat** to **society**. Many people believed that poor **criminals** and **vagabonds** had encouraged the **Northern Rebellion** in 1569 (see p.40). In **response** to the Rebellion, the government introduced particularly **harsh punishments** for the undeserving poor in **1572**.

Give three examples of punishments that were given to the undeserving poor.

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_

Give three examples of punishments that were given to the undeserving poor.

### Interpretation

The interpretation below is about the reasons for the Elizabethan Poor Laws.

- a) It is true that **Queen Elizabeth's government introduced laws which helped to ease the burden of poverty for large parts of the population** from the 1560s onwards. However, these laws were introduced **less out of concern for the poor, and more out of concern for the Queen's own security**. In search of someone to blame for the early instability of her reign, Elizabeth turned on those who were least able to defend themselves. Many were punished for the 'crime' of poverty, and **the punishments only got worse as the threat to the Queen increased**.
- b) →
- c) ←

1) Explain whether you think each highlighted phrase is convincing about the Elizabethan Poor Laws. Use information from page 24 to help you.

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**Enquiry Question:**

How did the Government treat the poor in Elizabethan England?



**Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions**

What did Elizabeth's government introduce to help?	What did the government fear the poor would do?	Can you name three types of poor?	What was the tax to help the poor known as?	What were also introduced to help house poor?
Where were beggars sent if they refused to work?	What was opened in Ipswich to help the poor?	What % of people lived in poverty in Norwich in 1570?	In what year was the Poor Law first introduced?	Why could it be argued that it helped?

**Key Terms**

Term	Definition
	To be locked up physically, punishment for begging and other crimes.
	Where beggars would be forced to spend the night as punishment.
	To be whipped, a punishment used for begging and other crimes.
	A person without a settled home or work who wanders and lives by begging.

**Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.**

1. Can you describe how poverty was approached in Elizabethan England?

2. Can you explain how approaches to poverty have changed?

3. How successful were the new approaches to poverty?



**AQA**

**GCSE 9-1 History Elizabethan England  
1568-1603:**

**LORD BURGHELY'S  
ALMSHOUSES AT STAMFORD  
Historic Environment Question, 2022**

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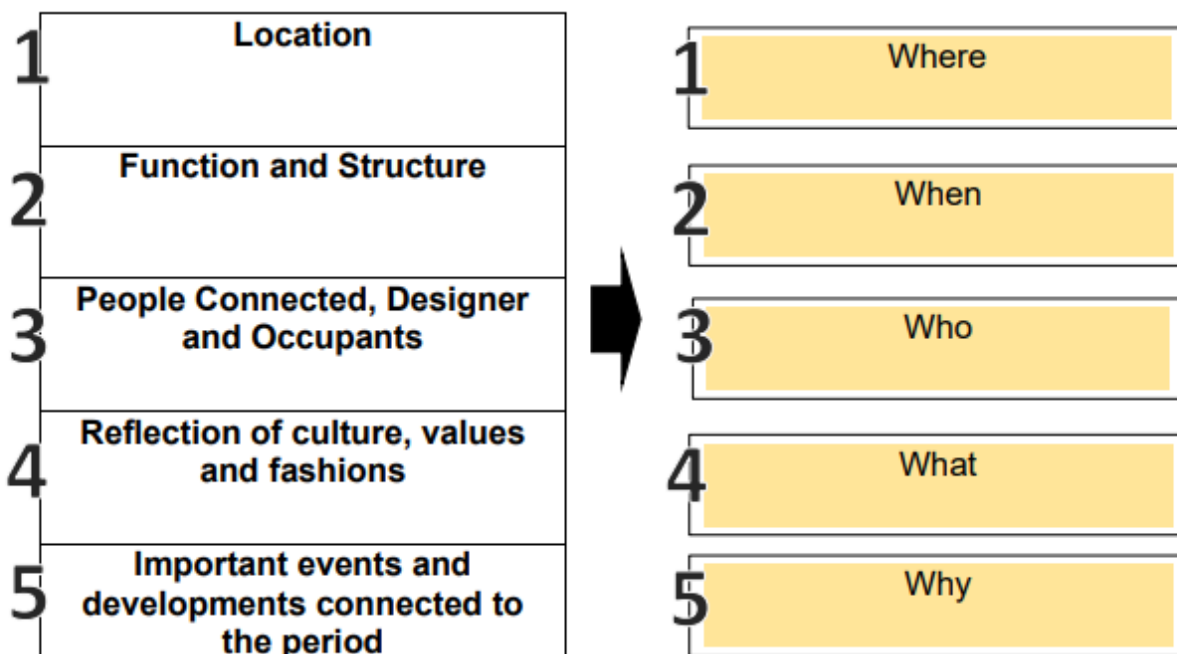
What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?



## Historic Environment: Lord Burghley's Almshouses



The exam questions below examine the relationship between the site and the key events, features and developments of the Elizabethan period. The following aspects of the site are also considered:



<b>Example 1:</b> 'The main function that Almshouses demonstrated was the greater prosperity of their owners'. How far does a study of Lord Burghley's Almshouses support this statement? (16 marks)	<b>Example 2:</b> 'The main reason for building an Almshouse was to demonstrate the successful career of its owner'. How far does a study of Burghley's Almshouses support this statement?	<b>Example 3:</b> 'The main reason for the renovation of the Stamford Hospital was to demonstrate the wealth and power of the owner.' How far does a study of Burghley's Almshouses support this statement?
<b>Example 4:</b> 'The main purpose of building Almshouses was to leave a lasting legacy.' How far does a study of Burghley's Almshouses support this statement?	<b>Example 5:</b> 'The main reason for the building of Almshouses was the Puritan belief to provide worthwhile employment for the poor.' How far does a study of Burghley's Almshouses support this statement?	<b>Example 6:</b> 'The main function of Almshouses was to serve and support the poor in the local community.' How far does a study of Burghley's Almshouses support this statement?





What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?

New Info

What were alms and almshouses?

Alms were gifts such as money or food given as charity to help the poor. When this money was given to build and maintain houses which poor people in an area could live in rent free, they were known as almshouses. Almshouses have a long history in England with the oldest being established before the Norman Conquest. Even today over sixteen hundred remain, housing approximately 35,000 people.

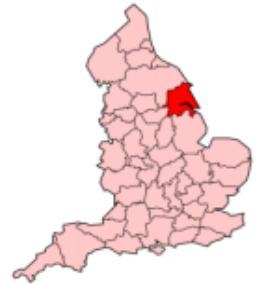
Location: Where are Lord Burghley's Almshouses?

Lord Burghley's Almshouses are situated beside the river Welland across the river from Stamford's town centre.

Many **almshouses** were located in places important to their founders and family. For example, Robert Dudley was given permission to build almshouses at his family residences at Kenilworth Castle and Warwick Castle.



They were built on the site of a 12<sup>th</sup> century almshouse and near to **Burghley House**, his residence. There was also a hospital established on the site between 1170-80 to cater for poor travellers and the local poor and sick.



Resource A A modern photograph of Lord Burghley's Almshouses at Stamford.



What was an almshouse and where did Lord Burghley build his?

Five horizontal lines for writing an answer to the question above.

## Enquiry Question:



What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?



### New Info

#### Function and structure: When were the Almshouses built?

After the **dissolution of the monasteries** in 1536, the hospital was bought by William Cecil and then used as an almshouse. In 1597 a new almshouse was built to cater for 13 old men.



*Lord Burghley's Almshouses today*

The site was deliberately chosen by Lord Burghley as it was on the **south bank** of the River Welland in Stamford facing up the hill to **St Mary's Church**, where Burghley had been taught as a boy.

These almshouses were to be a very public display of Burghley's **charitable works**. His almshouses would show the local community and the world his loyalty to England and show his responsibility to the poor. He set out the rules for them in 1597 with great precision, printed by the Royal printer and so that anyone in London could read them.

Resource B A modern photograph of the back of Lord Burghley's Almshouses at Stamford.



What did the building of the almshouse say about Lord Burghley as a man?

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What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?

New Info

People connected: Who was involved with the Almshouses?

The Originator and designer

William Cecil, Lord Burghley, was the **leading statesman** for Queen Elizabeth. As a result of his roles in her government, he was very powerful, combining the roles of a modern Prime Minister and leading civil servant. He was fiercely loyal to Elizabeth and someone she could trust.

His jobs included:

Secretary of State until 1572

Master of the Court of Wards (which collected taxes for the Crown) until his death in 1598

Lord Treasurer from 1572 until his death



Lord Burghley was extremely **wealthy**. He gained a lot of property through **patronage** and as a landed noble had a large income from land and rents. He also received a huge amount of money from the fees and payments he received as **Master of the Court of Wards**. He also paid little income tax, even claiming his income never changed since the reign of Edward VI.

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.



Who was Lord Burghley? (William Cecil)

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## What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?

### New Info

**The occupants:**

Lord Burghley would choose and admit the first **five** of the **thirteen** poor men to be cared for. This would continue and pass to his heirs at the nearby Burghley House.

The other poor men would be chosen by the **vicar** of St Martin's Church, various local **churchwardens**, the **Alderman** of Stamford as well as town officials.



The **records** of the almshouses would be kept at St Martins, the **parish church** long associated with the Cecil family. Duplicate copies would be kept by the Aldermen.



#### Rules of the Almshouses

**1 Rule:**

The **warden** of the almshouse (chosen by Burghley) along with the twelve other poor men were given a yearly allowance of cloth for their gowns. This was the same colour as the coats worn by his servants.

**2 Rule:**

The thirteen men had to be '**honest Christians**.' They had to meet the vicar of St. Martin's on a Sunday morning to recite the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed and learn the Ten Commandments.

**3 Rule:**

They had to be local men, over 35, who had lived in a **seven-mile radius** of Stamford for at least seven years. Lunatics, drunkards, adulterers, thieves, fraudsters and lepers would not be chosen.

**4 Rule:**

Ideally, the men were to be **honest** soldiers, craftsmen such as masons and carpenters, or labourers and servants – all of whom were unable to get their living as they had done because of sickness, age or other impediments.



**5 Rule:**

Playing cards and gambling was **strictly forbidden**. This was to be a disciplined and strict environment. Fines would be given for non-attendance at Church (6d from the weekly wage). To honour Lord Burghley, they would attend Burghley House on four Sundays of the year, continuing after his death.

**6 Rule:**

**Praying** together as a community was very important. Every Sunday, Wednesday, Friday and Holy Day, the men would go in their gowns to morning and evening prayer at St Martin's where they would kneel in their given places and pray. This was an extremely important aspect of belonging to his almshouse.



### What do the rules set by Lord Burghley reveal to us about the motivation behind the almshouse?

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What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?

New Info

Design of the Almshouses

In 1174, a medieval hospital was built on the site. It consisted of a hall, chamber, solar (sleeping quarters), kitchen and bakehouse with chambers for the chaplain and the sick.

In 1597, Lord Burghley bought the site. A new almshouse was built to provide accommodation for 13 men, incorporating the hospital.



A row of two storeyed stone almshouses was built with provision for 10 rooms in the west wing and two in the smaller east wing. The west wing of the almshouses had six tall chimneys.

Design and reflection of culture, values and fashions: What were attitudes towards poverty?

What were Alms?

Alms were gifts such as money or food given as charity to help the poor.



What were Almshouses?

Money was also given to build and maintain houses, or almshouses, in which poor people of an area could live in rent free. They had a long tradition of helping the poor in Britain and even today 1,600 remain, housing 35,000 people.



What was the history of the site? How does that link to its purpose?

Blank writing area with horizontal lines for notes.



What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?

New Info

Important events connected to period: Why did Lord Burghley build his Almshouses?

Event 1: The Renaissance

Lord Burghley was a **humanist**; at a time of new ideas and thinking in the **Renaissance**, he believed education and learning was important to fulfil people's potential as human beings



He also strongly believed that people should read the **Bible** in their own language to develop their personal relationship with God. This can clearly be seen in the strict Christian rules set out in his Almshouses.



Event 2: Changing attitudes towards the poor

In the 1570s, many people used their new wealth to revive the ancient tradition of founding almshouses to help the poor. Many accepted that many people were poor through **no fault** of their own.



In return for shelter, money, food and clothing, a **daily programme** of prayers was said in the almshouses for the souls of their founders.



Many of the founders were **deeply religious** (such as Lord Burghley) and by showing concern for the poor suggested that God had **chosen** them to be saved.



Event 3: The Reformation and the rise of Puritanism

Lord Burghley was a **Puritan**. He believed the rich had to use their wealth to glorify God, rather than just himself. Moreover, as God preferred industry (work) to idleness (being lazy), giving alms to provide employment for the poor was extremely worthwhile and beneficial.



Also, Lord Burghley believed that giving alms supported social stability (everyone had their place in society under the Great Chain of Being). Alms would **reduce** vagrancy and the threat to good order.

Finally, he believed poor relief could bring an improvement in the **morals and behaviour** of the poor, partly because he required them to go Church on Sunday, Wednesday, Friday and Holy Days.



Event 4: Leaving a lasting legacy

Lord Burghley was very keen to leave a lasting legacy and memory of himself and his family name by building his almshouses. Little was he to know his family went on to **bestow** two Prime Ministers.

His almshouses would show the world his **allegiance** to England and it would help him carry out his **responsibilities** to the poor. It was also another way to establish and bolster his reputation even more.

Even after his death, the men in the almshouses would present themselves **dutifully** to Cecil's heirs and offer any service in memory of their founder. His almshouses would act as a lasting memorial to his family and Stamford.



**Enquiry Question:**



What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?

Why did Lord Burghley build his almshouse? Create a mind map below:







Enquiry Question:



What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?

Read the answer below: Highlight the features from the sides of the answer.

	Mark out of 10	Explanation why you think this
Vanity		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Lasting legacy		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Humanist		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Lazy poor		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Puritanism		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>





### Enquiry Question:



What do Lord Burghley's Almshouses tell us about changing attitudes towards the poor in Elizabethan England?

#### Consolidate: Key Knowledge Questions

What were Alms?	What were almshouses?	How many almshouses are there today?	Who built this almshouse?	Where is Lord Burghley's almshouse?
What did the almshouse used to be?	When did Lord Burghley take over?	How many rules were there for living in the house?	What religious group did Lord Burghley belong to?	What did Lord Burghley want to leave behind?

#### Key Terms

Term	Definition
	A building set up to provide support for the poor.
	What you leave after you die that people remember you by.
	An extreme version of Protestantism, popular in Elizabethan England.

#### Apply Questions – Answer in your exercise book.

1. Can you describe the purpose of an almshouse in Elizabethan England?

2. Can you explain two reasons why Lord Burghley built his Almshouse?

3. Can you explain what Lord Burghley's Almshouse tells us about attitudes towards the poor?