# GCSE History –British Depth Studies: Elizabethan England c1568-1603



### **KEY WORDS**

**Treason:** Betraying the country you are from, in particular trying to kill or throw the person or people in charge.

**Rebellion:** An action taken to that goes against the people or person in charge. Armed forces can be involved.

**Catholic:** A branch of Christianity which sees the Pope as the leader of the religion.

**Protestant:** A branch of Christianity which believes that no human is as important as God, in

England the monarch is head of the Protestant church.

Puritan: Stricter Protestants. Believe the Reformation didn't go far enough.

Foreign policy: A governments plan to deal with other nations.

Jesuits: A Catholic group recruited to educate people in Catholicism.

**Missionary:** A person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country.

**Seminary:** An educational institute, which teaches people about how to spread the word about religion, in this case Catholicism.

**Recusancy fines:** Fines issued to anyone who refused to attend services of the Church or follow the laws regarding religion created by Elizabeth I and the government.

**Disbanded:** The break up of an organised group.

**Executed:** Carrying out a sentence of death on someone who has usually committed a crime, such as treason.

**Prophesying:** Religious training exercises favoured by Puritan clergy in England to practice the ideals of Protestantism.

**Clergy:** People ordained for religious services, particularly in the Christian church.

**Excommunicate:** Excluding someone from the Christian church.

Counter- Reformation: Catholic reformation that turns people from Protestants back to

Catholics.

**Martyr:** A person that was killed because of their religious beliefs. **Iconoclasm:** The destruction of religious images and sculptures.

# Write an account Question (8 marks)

- 1) Write an account of Elizabeth's changing policy towards Catholics.
- 2) Write an account of Puritanism during the reign of Elizabeth I.

## **Explain Question (8 Marks)**

- 1) Explain what was important about the execution of Mary Queen of Scots for Elizabethan England.
- 2) Explain what was important about the navy for Elizabethan England.

# **Troubles at Home and Abroad**

### **KEY INDIVIDUALS**

**Mary Queen of Scots:** Heir to the throne of England, Queen of Scotland and Elizabeth's cousin. She was Catholic and a lot of Catholics wanted to see her on the English throne.

**Pope Pius V:** Excommunicated Elizabeth from the Catholic Church.

**Sir William Cecil**: Secretary of State (his son was Robert Cecil)

**Cardinal William Allen:** Involved in the Throckmorton Plot and Spanish Armada. Also set up the college at Douai to train missionaries to spread the Catholic faith in England.

**Edmund Campion:** A English Jesuit who dressed as a merchant to hide himself. Was eventually captured and killed for treason.

**Anthony Babington:** An English Gentleman convicted of plotting the assassination of Elizabeth in the Babington Plot.

**Sir Francis Walsingham:** Secretary of State and Spymaster. Barely escaped France on St Bartholomew's day massacre in France.

**King Philip II of Spain:** King of Spain, was married to Elizabeth' sister Mary I and was a terrible husband. Proposed to Elizabeth, she rejected him. King during the Spanish Armada. He was Catholic.

**Duke Medina Sidonia:** In charge of the Spanish Fleet at the Spanish Armada

**William of Orange:** Protestant who led a rebellion against Spain in the Netherlands. One of Elizabeth's suiters but was much younger.

**Duke of Norfolk:** An English nobleman and politician, he was a strong Catholic and was involved in the Northern Rebellion

**Earl of Westmorland:** An English noble with Catholic beliefs involved in the Northern Rebellion. **Earl of Northumberland:** An English noble man with strong Catholic beliefs who led the Northern Rebellion and was killed for treason.

John Field: A British Puritan clergyman.

**Sir Francis Throckmorton:** English conspirator who was involved in the unsuccessful Throckmorton Plot to overthrow Queen Elizabeth.

**Interpretation A:** An assessment of the threats to Queen Elizabeth from The Life and Times of Elizabeth I, by Neville Williams (1972)

There were other plots against Elizabeth's life in later years. However the revelations of the Ridolfi conspiracy, coming so soon after the Northern Rebellion, alarmed her the most. That her own cousin, the Duke of Norfolk, should have plotted her downfall was the ruellest blow she had yet suffered.

# How convincing is the interpretation Question (8 marks)

1) How convincing is Interpretation A about the threats to Queen Elizabeth I? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge.

# KEY: **\**

## Religion

Elizabeth was Protestant but inherited the upheaval of the Reformation and her families changes. As a practical monarch she tried to bring compromise with her 'religious settlement'. This included priests could marry, book of common prayer and she declared herself 'governor'. Catholics - recusancy fines were low and many kept their own beliefs. Following the Papal Bull which excommunicated Elizabeth, Catholics were encouraged to rise against her. There was a change in policy clamping down on them - see dates. Jesuits were sent to convert Protestants back to Catholicism, including Edmund Campion who was executed, becoming a martyr. Puritans - strict protestants were disappointed in the settlement. Their prophesyings criticised Elizabeth's church and in 1583 they were banned from unlicensed preaching and faced recusancy fines.

### **Mary Queen of Scots**

Mary was Queen of Scotland from 8 days old but was brought up in France. She returned to Scotland in 1560 but was very unpopular. It was suggested that she had been involved in the murder of her second husband Lord Darnley. In 1567 she fled from Scotland and her son James became King of Scotland. Mary was placed under house arrest and was moved around for 19 years. Mary was the legitimate heir to the English throne and was Catholic, this made her a threat to the childless Elizabeth. Several plots planned to put her on the throne, but during the Babington Plot, Walsingham found evidence that she knew of the plot. Mary was put on trial in October 1586 and found guilty of treason, even though she argued that as she was not English, and a Queen, they had no right to put her on trial. On 8/2/1587 Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle, making her a martyr.

## **Foreign Policy - Conflict with Spain**

Philip had been married to Mary Tudor and wanted England to be Catholic again. He had asked Elizabeth to marry him but she said she had married England. Elizabeth authorised the 'sea dogs' to steal Spanish Silver. Elizabeth also sent troops to help with William of Orange's rebellion against Spain. Advances in naval warfare meant ships were faster and more manoeuvrable. They had more powerful weapons and more accurate navigation with the astrolabe.

The Armada failed because of poor tactics by the Spanish, including having a seasick man in charge - Duke Medina Sidonia. The English tactics including the use of fire ships. This was then followed by terrible storms that wrecked many of the Spanish ships on their way back round Scotland.

# **Key Events Timeline**

### College of Douai was created (1568)

William Allen was made a Cardinal by the Pope due to a recommendation of Phillip of Spain. The College was set up to train missionaries to go to England and convert people back to Catholicism. Phillip OF Spain and France helped fund the college.

Pope Pius V issued the Papal Bull and excommunicated **Elizabeth from the Catholic** Church (27<sup>th</sup> April 1570)

The Papal Bull excommunicated Elizabeth from the Catholic Church and called on Catholics to end her rule.

### **Act against Jesuits** and Seminary Priests (1585)

They had 40 days to leave or they would be killed.

Treason to have a Catholic priest in your home (1585)

Rules to crack down on Puritanism. (1583)

### The Ridolfi Plot (1571)

After the Papal Bull, an Italian Merchant named Ridolfi got involved with Norfolk, sending him coded letters. Ridolfi was going to raise an army in the Netherlands and Norfolk again in the North. Before it could happen the letters were found and Norfolk was executed.

### The Spanish Armada (1588)

The Spanish Armada sailed from Spain and reached England in July, with the objective of overthrowing protestant England ruled by Elizabeth I. Phillip II of Spain hated Elizabeth as not only did she refused to marry him but she also killed his ally Mary, Queen of Scots. However, unfortunately for the Spanish, the Spanish Armada proved to be an expensive disaster. Spain suffered a huge loss as it was thought that only 67 ships out of 130 returned to Spain – a loss rate of nearly 50%. Over 20,000 Spanish sailors and soldiers were killed. Throughout the whole campaign, the English lost no ships and only 100 men in battle. It was a huge victory for the English.

Mary, Queen of Scots executed for treason (8<sup>th</sup> February 1587)

Statute of Confinement (1593)

Catholics could not travel more 1590 than five miles from home.

1600

### 1560

Act of

(1559)

Act of

(1559)

Supremacy.

Uniformity.

The Society of the Jesuits was created (1540)

Darnley. Elizabeth

Mary, Queen of Scots

comes to England. (1567)

Mary had to escape Scotland

after being accused of being

involved in the murder of

her second husband Lord

imprisoned her in England.

They wanted the counterreformation and hoped to make convert people back to the Catholic religion.

### The Northern Rebellion (1569)

Aka the Norfolk Rebellion, Elizabeth refused to let the Duke of Norfolk marry Mary, Queen of Scots so he and two Catholic nobles in the North led a rebellion against her hoping to replace her with Mary. They held an illegal Catholic mass and then 4600 of their men marched to London. The Earl of Sussex raised an army for Elizabeth, the Northern army disbanded and Norfolk was imprisoned.

Recusancy fines (1571)

1570

Treason to attend Catholic mass. (1581)

1580

**Recusancy fines** 

increased (1581)

### The Throckmorton Plot (1583)

Throckmorton coordinated the plot. He too wanted to kill Elizabeth and put Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne. His plan was that Henry, Duke of Guise would raise an army in France and invade England and Throckmorton would raise an uprising of the English Catholics. The plot also involved the Spanish ambassador. Unfortunately for them, the plot was discovered Throckmorton was discovered and Mary Queen of Scots was placed under even closer guard.

### Mary Queen of Scots put on trial (15<sup>th</sup> October 1586)

She was put on trial for treason - being involved in an assassination attempt against Elizabeth.

### The Babington Plot (1586)

This was another attempt to murder Elizabeth and place Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne. Led by Anthony Babington, it was the discovery of this plot that led to Mary's trial and execution when it was found that she had known about and agreed with the plot all along.

