

**YEAR 11** – Edexcel GCSE History (9-1)  
**Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England 1558-88**



## 1. Queen, government and religion

1.1 The situation on Elizabeth's accession	☺	☹	☹
Society and government in Elizabethan England in 1588 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hierarchical nature of society and the social pyramid</li> <li>• Government – <b>Monarch, Court, Privy Council, Parliament, Lords Lieutenant, Justices of the Peace, Secretary of State</b></li> </ul>			
The Virgin Queen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problems of her legitimacy, gender and marriage</li> <li>• Her character and strengths</li> </ul>			
Challenges at home and from abroad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat from France and the rest of Europe</li> <li>• Financial weaknesses</li> </ul>			
1.2 The settlement of religion	☺	☹	☹
Religious divisions in England in 1558 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of religious conflict in Tudor times</li> <li>• Different beliefs of <b>Protestants, Catholics and Puritans</b></li> </ul>			
Elizabeth's Religious Settlement (1559) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Act of Supremacy, The Act of Uniformity</b> and the <b>Royal Injunctions</b> (1559)</li> <li>• The impact of the Religious settlement on the people and the clergy</li> </ul>			
The Church of England <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of the Church of England in Elizabethan society</li> <li>• The power of the <b>Church Courts</b></li> <li>• How the settlement was enforced</li> </ul>			
1.3 Challenge to the religious settlement	☺	☹	☹
The nature and extent of the Puritan challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>crucifix controversy</b></li> <li>• The <b>vestment controversy</b></li> </ul>			
The nature and extent of the Catholic challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The papacy and the <b>counter-reformation</b></li> <li>• England's nobility and the Catholic threat including the <b>Revolt of the Northern Earls (1569)</b></li> <li>• The threat from foreign powers – France, Spain and the Dutch Revolt</li> </ul>			
1.4. The problem of Mary, Queen of Scots	☺	☹	☹
Mary Queen of Scots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her claim to the English throne</li> <li>• Her arrival in England in 1568</li> </ul>			
Relations between Elizabeth and Mary			
2. Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad, 1569-88			
2.1 Plots and revolts at home	☺	☹	☹
<b>Revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569-70</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes for the Revolts of the Northern Earls, 1569-70</li> <li>• Events of the Revolts of the Northern Earls, 1569-70</li> <li>• Significance of the Revolts of the Northern Earls and the <b>papal bull</b>, 1569-70</li> </ul>			

Plots against the Queen 1571-1586 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features and significance of the <b>Ridolfi plot 1571</b></li> <li>• Features and significance of the <b>Throckmorton plot 1583</b></li> <li>• Features and significance of the <b>Babington plot 1586</b></li> <li>• <b>Walsingham</b> and the use of spies</li> </ul>			
Execution of <b>Mary Queen of Scots 1587</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots 1587</li> <li>• Significant of the execution of Mary Queen of Scots 1587</li> </ul>			
<b>2.2. Relations with Spain</b>	😊	😐	😞
Rivalry with Spain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political rivalry</li> <li>• Religious rivalry</li> </ul>			
Commercial rivalry with Spain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The New World</b></li> <li>• <b>Privateering</b></li> <li>• Actions of <b>Sir Francis Drake</b> and their significance</li> </ul>			
<b>2.3 Outbreak of war with Spain, 1585-88</b>	😊	😐	😞
English direct involvement in the Netherlands 1585-88 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why did the English take a direct involvement in the Netherlands?</li> <li>• The role of <b>Robert Dudley</b></li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drake and raid on <b>Cadiz</b></li> <li>• “Singeing the King of Spain’s beard.”</li> </ul>			
<b>2.4 The Armada</b>	😊	😐	😞
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish invasion plans</li> <li>• Reasons why Philip used the Spanish Armada</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for victory</li> <li>• Consequences of the victory</li> </ul>			
<b>3. Elizabethan society in the Age of Exploration, 1558-88</b>			
<b>3.1. Education and leisure</b>	😊	😐	😞
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education in the home, schools and universities</li> <li>• Leisure; sport, pastimes and theatre</li> </ul>			
<b>3.2 The problem of the poor</b>	😊	😐	😞
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reasons for the increase in poverty and <b>vagabondage</b></li> <li>• The changing attitudes and policies towards the poor</li> </ul>			
<b>3.3 Exploration and voyages of discovery</b>	😊	😐	😞
Factors prompting exploration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of new technology on ships and trading</li> <li>• Drive to expand trade</li> </ul>			
Drakes circumnavigation of the globe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for the voyage</li> <li>• Significance of the voyage</li> </ul>			
<b>3.4 Raleigh and Virginia</b>	😊	😐	😞
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant of <b>Raleigh</b></li> <li>• Attempted colonisation of Virginia</li> </ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for the failure of Virginia</li> </ul>			