

Early Elizabethan England 1558-88- Personal Learning Checklist

If you can answer all of these questions your knowledge of this topic is really good.  
Practice answering the questions and get someone to test you.

Highlight the questions **red**, **amber** or **green** depending on whether you can answer them. You can then use the Quizlet sets for each one to look up the answers.

**Topic 1:**  
**Elizabethan England 1: 1559-1569**

**Queen, government and religion**

**1558-Elizabeth's problems and decisions**

The situation on Elizabeth's accession

1. Who was Elizabeth's mother and how did she die?
2. Who were Elizabeth's brother and sister?
3. Who were the two monarchs that ruled England before Elizabeth?
4. What were the religious beliefs of those two monarchs?
5. What had Elizabeth been accused of during the reign of the previous monarch?

Elizabethan society and government

6. Describe the nobles in Elizabethan England
7. Why did the nobles have significant power in England?
8. What was the role of the Privy Council?
9. What was the role of the Royal Court?

Problems facing Elizabeth in 1558

Choosing her councillors

10. Why was the Privy Council such an important part of Elizabeth's government?
11. Why was it important for Elizabeth to strike the right balance on the Council?
12. Who did Elizabeth appoint Secretary of State when she became queen?
13. How many councillors did Elizabeth appoint?
14. Why did Elizabeth largely draw her council from among her close relatives and trusted colleagues (one sentence)?

Financial weakness

15. Who was expected to pay for all the costs of running the country (including the court and royal household)?
16. Why had the royal finances been drained leading up to 1558 (one sentence)?
17. What action did Elizabeth take to address these financial problems?

Challenges from abroad

18. What threats did Elizabeth face from Scotland in 1558?
19. What threats did Elizabeth face from France in 1558?
20. What threats did Elizabeth face from Spain in 1558?
21. What action did Elizabeth take in 1559 to deal with the threat from France?
22. Why did the decision that England would have a Protestant Church increase the potential for foreign threats (one sentence)?

### Religious divisions

23. When Elizabeth came to the throne were most people Catholic or Protestant?
24. Which part of England was particularly Catholic?
25. Give three features of a Catholic church
26. Give three features of a Protestant church
27. Why had Mary's reign made it difficult for Elizabeth to reintroduce protestantism?
28. What religion was Elizabeth herself?
29. What religion were most of her advisors?
30. Why would some Catholics refuse to accept Elizabeth as Head of the Church?

### Elizabeth's gender and doubts about her as Queen

31. Why were female rulers not accepted in the 16th century?
32. How did the reign of Mary I make this problem worse?

### The problem of legitimacy

33. Why did some people think that Elizabeth was not a legitimate ruler?
34. How did this belief link to Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn?
35. How does this belief link to religion and The Pope?

### Marriage and the succession

36. Why did people expect that Elizabeth would marry and have children quickly?
37. Why would marrying an English nobleman present difficulties for Elizabeth?
38. Why would marrying a foreign prince present difficulties for Elizabeth?
39. Who were the two most likely foreign marriage candidates that were considered later in Elizabeth's reign?

### Creating peace and prosperity

40. Why was Elizabeth concerned about poverty when she came to the throne?
41. Why was Elizabeth concerned about harvests when she came to the throne?
42. How did the harvest of 1558 help to lessen these fears?

## **Queen, government and religion**

### **Challenges to Elizabeth's Religious Settlement 1558-69**

#### The Revolt of the Northern Earls

43. When was the Revolt of the Northern Earls?
44. Who were the leaders of the Revolt of the Northern Earls?
45. What were the religious motivations behind the revolt?
46. What were the political motivations behind the revolt?
47. What were the financial motivations behind the revolt?
48. How did the revolt end and what happened to its leaders?

#### The Ridolfi Plot

49. When was the Ridolfi Plot?
50. Who was Roberto Ridolfi?
51. Which leading English nobleman was involved?
52. What were the aims of the plot?
53. How did Elizabeth's government find out about the plot?
54. What happened to the plotters?
55. What happened in France in 1572 which increased Protestant fears of a Catholic Plot?

### The Throckmorton Plot

56. When was the Throckmorton Plot?
57. Who was involved in the Plot?
58. Who was Francis Throckmorton?
59. What were the aims of the plot?
60. How was the plot discovered by Elizabeth's government?
61. What happened to the leaders of the plot?
62. What happened abroad in 1584 that increased fears for Elizabeth's life?

### The Babington Plot

63. When was the Babington Plot?
64. Who was Anthony Babington?
65. What were the aims of the plotters?
66. How was Walsingham able to find out about the plot?
67. How did Mary Queen of Scots reveal her involvement to Walsingham?
68. What happened to Babington and the other conspirators?
69. How did the plot lead to the trial and execution of Mary, Queen of Scots?
70. What were the methods used by Sir Francis Walsingham to catch the plotters?
71. When was Mary, Queen of Scots executed? (day, month and year)

### Other opposition

72. Why did the Pope's excommunication of Elizabeth in 1570 increase the risk of opposition to her?
73. What is a Jesuit?
74. In which decade of Elizabeth's reign did the Jesuits arrive?
75. Where did many of the Jesuit Priests train?
76. Where did they tend to hide once they arrived in England?

### England, Spain and the Netherlands

#### Trade and the New World

77. What was England's trade mainly based on in the 1550s?
78. Why was the Netherlands important to this trade?
79. Why did the trade slump after this?
80. What new opportunities did the New World offer?
81. Why was English activity in the New World technically illegal?
82. Why did Elizabeth claim to know nothing about the activities of English Pirates?
83. Did Phillip II go to war with England directly because of these activities?

#### Religious Rivalry

84. What religion was England and what religion was Spain?
85. Why had Phillip II not gone to war with England earlier?
86. Why was Phillip II's fear of France important in his attitude to England in the early part of Elizabeth's reign?

#### Political rivalry

87. Which country ruled the Netherlands?
88. What English actions in the Netherlands and the New World angered Phillip II?
89. Why had Elizabeth not reacted more strongly to Spanish involvement in plots against her?

#### English involvement in the Netherlands

90. Why was the Netherlands important to Spain?
91. Why was the Netherlands important to England?
92. What had happened in the Netherlands in 1572 that was a threat to Phillip II's rule?

93. Why did Robert Dudley and others push Elizabeth to send troops to the Netherlands?
94. Why did Elizabeth grow more and more worried about the Netherlands 1578-84?
95. What did Elizabeth do when she signed the treaty of Nonsuch in 1585?
96. Why did this treaty mean that England was at war with Spain?
97. Why did Elizabeth and Robert Dudley disagree over his actions in the Netherlands?

#### The Armada

98. How did England prepare for war between 1585 and 1588?
99. How did the activities of Francis Drake anger Phillip II and make invasion even more likely?
100. What did Drake do in Cadiz in April 1587?
101. How did this action delay the launching of the Armada?
102. What was the Spanish plan for invading England?
103. What were the problems with the Spanish plan?
104. How did Lord Howard use fireships to disrupt the Spanish fleet?
105. When was the Battle of Gravelines (day, month and year)?
106. Who won the Battle of Gravelines?
107. How did the weather help to cause the failure of the Armada?
108. Where did Elizabeth give her famous speech and what did she say?
109. Which side had the advantage in resources before the fighting?

### **Key Topic 3: Elizabethan society in the age of exploration 1558-88**

#### Sport, pastimes and the theatre

110. List six pastimes that were popular in Elizabethan England
111. How many theatres were there in England when Elizabeth became queen?
112. Where was the first theatre to be opened during Elizabeth's reign and when was it opened?
113. Why were theatres popular with rich and poor?  
Who was Christopher Marlowe?
114. Why did some Elizabethans oppose the theatre?

#### Education

115. Which sections of Elizabethan society send their children to school?
116. What percentage of men and women could read and write by the end of Elizabeth's reign?
117. What ages did people go to grammar schools?
118. What subjects were taught at grammar schools?
119. What type of family would send their children to a public school?
120. What were the two universities that people attended at this time?
121. What would a person study and learn at university?
122. What age and gender of children would attend a Parish/Petty school?

#### Poverty

123. Why could bad harvests cause problems with poverty?
124. Why did more farmers farming sheep and enclosing land lead to problems with poverty?
125. Why did the collapse of the cloth trade in the 1550s lead to problems with poverty?
126. Why did a rising population lead to problems with poverty?
127. Why did inflation lead to problems with poverty?
128. Why did the closure of the monasteries under Henry VIII make problems with poverty worse?
129. Give at least five reasons why Elizabethans were so worried by the problem of poverty
130. What were vagabonds?
131. What were the main features of the Vagabonds Act of 1572?

132. What were the main features of the Act for the Relief of the Poor of 1576?

### Exploration, voyages of discovery, Raleigh and Virginia

#### Reasons for the growth in overseas exploration

133. How did the wealth of the New World lead to the growth in overseas exploration?

134. How did changes in navigation and technology help the increase in overseas exploration?

135. How did the collapse of the cloth trade lead to overseas exploration?

136. How did the English nobility help to increase the amount of overseas exploration?

137. What were the religious motivations behind the growth in overseas exploration?

138. How did the new thirst for learning in the renaissance lead to an increase in overseas exploration?

139. How did the belief in 'civilising' native peoples lead to the growth in overseas exploration?

140. How did great seamen such as Drake and Hawkins help to increase overseas exploration and trade?

#### English voyages of exploration 1558-88

141. What did John Hawkins sell in order to make money on his voyages?

142. What did Martin Frobisher hope he had found in the Arctic?

143. Where did Sir Humphrey Gilbert believe that he could sail to by going around the West Indies?

#### Drake's circumnavigation of the world

144. When did these voyages take place?

145. What were Drake's aims for the voyage?

146. What were the names of the four ships that took part in the voyage?

147. What problem did the voyages encounter near Brazil?

148. Why was Drake left with just one ship by September 1578?

149. Which Spanish ship did Drake successfully attack?

150. Where in North America did Drake land and what did he name it?

151. What valuable products did Drake load his ship with in the later part of his journey?

152. Why was the wealth that Drake accumulated on his voyage important for Elizabeth's finances?

#### The voyages of Sir Walter Raleigh

153. What titles and roles at court did Elizabeth give to Walter Raleigh?

154. What expedition did he persuade the queen to agree to in 1584?

155. What was he to name the colony (in the queen's honour)?

#### The 1585 voyage

156. How many settlers sailed to America with Richard Grenville?

157. Why was Drake forced to abandon Roanoke Island in 1586?

158. What title was Raleigh given by the queen upon his return?

#### The 1587 voyage

159. Who did Raleigh bring on his second voyage (instead of soldiers)?

160. Which location did the second voyage target and why was it a good choice?

161. Why did they end up attempting to set up a second colony on Roanoke Island?

162. What did Raleigh find when he returned to the colony in 1590?

163. Give at least 5 reasons that Raleigh's settlements at Virginia failed

164. In what ways could Raleigh's expeditions be seen as successful?

## Exam questions

**Please highlight all of the exam questions that you have completed in another colour**

### 4 mark describe questions

- Describe 2 features of the Privy Council.
- Describe 2 features of Elizabeth's Religious Settlement.
- Describe 2 features of the Ridolfi Plot.
- Describe 2 features of the Throckmorton Plot.
- Describe 2 features of the Babington Plot.
- Describe 2 features of Drake's attacks on Spanish shipping and trading.
- Describe 2 features of the naval battle off Gravelines.
- Describe 2 features of sports and pastimes for the wealthy.
- Describe 2 features of sports and pastimes for the ordinary people.
- Describe 2 features of the attempts to colonise Virginia in the 1580s.
- Describe 2 features of Drake's circumnavigation of the Globe.
- Describe 2 features of Elizabethan theatre.
- Describe 2 features of Elizabethan schools.

### 12 mark explain questions

- Explain why Mary, Queen of Scots created a problem for Elizabeth when she came to England in 1568.
- Explain why the Throckmorton Plot (1583) was a threat to Queen Elizabeth.
- Explain why the Babington Plot was a threat to Queen Elizabeth.
- Explain why Elizabethans were so worried about the 'idle poor' and vagabonds.
- Explain why men such as Francis Drake went on voyages of exploration.
- Explain why the Spanish Armada was defeated in 1588.

### 16 mark judgement questions

- 'Religious divisions in England were Elizabeth's main problem when she became queen in 1558.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
- 'Elizabeth's religious settlement was a successful compromise.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
- 'The Religious Settlement of 1559 did not solve the problem of religion in Elizabethan England.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
- 'The Babington Plot was the main cause of the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
- 'Lack of foreign support was the main reason why Catholic revolts and plots against Elizabeth failed'. How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
- 'Religious rivalry rather than commercial or political rivalry caused the war between England and Spain.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
- 'Poor harvests were the most important cause of poverty in Elizabeth's reign.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

- 'Relations with the Native Americans were the main reason for the failure of the Virginia colonies.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
- 'The success of Drake's circumnavigation of the globe was due solely to his skills as a sailor.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.
- 'Events in the New World were the main reason for the breakdown of relations with Spain.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.