

## Answers

- 3 This question is level marked. You should look at the level descriptions on page 56 to help you mark your answer. Here are some points your answer may include:
- During Elizabeth's reign, the people closest to the Queen in the royal court were constantly changing. Elizabeth favoured different courtiers at different times, with her 'favourites' including Robert Dudley at the start of her reign, followed by people like Walter Raleigh, who didn't arrive at court until 1581. The members of the Privy Council also changed, for example when important figures like Christopher Hatton, Francis Walsingham and William Cecil died in the 1590s and were replaced by new men like Robert Devereux and Robert Cecil. The fact that Elizabeth's 'favourites' and Privy Counsellors changed regularly meant that she was influenced by a lot of different people throughout her reign.
  - The royal court changed due to Elizabeth's changing use of patronage. For most of her reign, Elizabeth distributed her patronage very widely, and a large number of courtiers benefited from it. However, she stopped doing this towards the end of her reign, rarely appointing new men to the Privy Council and instead showing favour to a few individuals, such as William and Robert Cecil. This changed the balance of power at the royal court because the Cecils became very influential, creating resentment among other courtiers who were no longer benefiting as much from royal patronage.
  - Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, competing groups started to emerge at the royal court. One group was focused around Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, and the other around William and Robert Cecil. The two groups competed for patronage and influence, and they had different opinions about issues such as the war with Spain. This clear divide in the royal court hadn't existed earlier in Elizabeth's reign.
  - The royal court changed as Elizabeth's authority over it became weaker. Elizabeth was unable to control the competition between the Earl of Essex and the Cecils, and the in-fighting between them and their supporters made it difficult to make decisions and run the country. This was different from earlier in Elizabeth's reign when William Cecil, a skilled politician and administrator, made sure that the government ran smoothly. Essex's rebellion in 1601 showed how little control Elizabeth had over the royal court at the end of her reign, even though it quickly failed.

### Life in Elizabethan Times

#### Page 23 — Poverty

##### Knowledge and Understanding

- Between 1536 and 1541, Henry VIII closed England's monasteries, before selling off most of their land. This was known as the 'dissolution of the monasteries'. These monasteries had previously offered assistance to people in need, so Henry's actions meant that poor, ill and disabled people lost a key source of support.
- A monopoly is an exclusive right to produce or distribute a certain item. Monopolies were unpopular because monopoly-holders had no competition, which meant that they could demand high prices.

- Before the 16th century, traditional farming methods involved farmers renting strips of land in open fields. These farmers carried out subsistence-level farming, which meant that each one only grew enough crops to feed himself and his family. However, in the 16th century, landowners started changing farming techniques to try to make more money. They enclosed their fields to create a few large farms, meaning that open fields were no longer shared between farmers.

##### Thinking Historically

- The growing population caused an increase in demand for food, and food production couldn't keep up. This led to food shortages and caused food prices to go up.
  - Wages couldn't keep up with the rising price of food and other goods. This meant that many people could no longer afford necessities. Their living standards fell, and many of them were forced into poverty.
  - There was more competition for land due to population growth, so rents increased.
- a) The use of enclosed farming meant that landowners needed fewer labourers to farm their land. This resulted in farmers being evicted, leaving them unemployed and homeless.
  - b) An increase in wool exports meant that more farmers were farming sheep instead of growing crops, which led to a fall in grain production. The lack of grain caused food prices to rise, and increased the risk of food shortages when there was a bad harvest.
  - c) Several failed harvests in the 1580s and 1590s made food shortages even worse, and caused food prices to rise further. This meant that more people fell into extreme poverty, with some even starving to death.
- You can choose either option, as long as you explain your answer. For example:  
Change in agriculture was the more important reason for the increase in poverty in the 16th century because it made problems associated with population growth, such as food shortages and rising food prices, much worse. The growing population might have been able to support themselves through subsistence-level farming if it weren't for agricultural changes like the introduction of enclosed farming.

#### Page 25 — Poverty

##### Knowledge and Understanding

- The government became more involved in providing support to the poor because the charitable donations that rich people made to hospitals, monasteries and other organisations were no longer enough to deal with the growing problem of poverty.
- a) People who were unable to work, such as young orphans and the elderly, sick and disabled.
  - b) People who were trying to find employment, but couldn't find a job in their home town or village.
  - c) People who didn't want a job, such as beggars and criminals, as well as migrant workers who travelled between towns to find work.
- The Poor Laws introduced in 1597 and 1601 made the poor rate into a compulsory system of national taxation. It was collected locally by an official called the Overseer of the Poor.
- Towns like London, Ipswich, Norwich and York had used compulsory poor rates to pay for poor relief since the mid-16th century. These local policies were effective, so the Privy Council based the national Poor Laws on them.



# Answers

- 5
- The money was used to provide housing and hospitals for the elderly, sick and disabled.
  - Some poor children were given apprenticeships, which usually lasted at least seven years.
  - The local authorities were meant to provide financial support and work opportunities to the deserving poor.
- 6
- They were publicly whipped.
  - They were forced to return to their home parish.
  - They were sent to prison if they were repeat offenders.

## Interpretation

- 1 a) This is convincing because a lot of people benefited from the Poor Laws. The Poor Laws in the 1560s introduced a tax to raise money to aid the poor known as the 'poor rate'. Further Poor Laws were passed in 1597 and 1601, which made the poor rate into a national system of compulsory taxation. The poor rate was used to provide a range of services to those suffering from poverty, including housing and hospitals for the elderly, sick and disabled, and apprenticeships for poor children.
- b) This is convincing because the government saw the undeserving poor as a serious threat to society. As poverty levels rose, crime rates increased and there were food riots in some places. This led the government to believe that people might rise up in rebellion if the problem of poverty wasn't tackled. People like beggars and vagabonds could be whipped or sent to prison, which suggests that poor people's well-being was less of a concern than the threat of rebellion.
- c) This is convincing because punishments for the undeserving poor were particularly harsh after the 1569 Northern Rebellion. It was thought that members of the undeserving poor had encouraged the rebellion, which led the government to introduce harsher punishments for them in 1572.

## Page 27 — A 'Golden Age'

### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 The gentry were part of the elite who owned land and lived off the income it provided without needing to do other work. They were below the level of the nobility.
- 2 a) Landowners became wealthier because enclosures were making farming more efficient, rents were going up, and the prices of agricultural products such as grain were rising. This meant that landowners earned more money from their land.
- b) Merchants became wealthier because towns were growing and national and international trade was developing. The term 'Great Rebuilding' refers to a period starting in the 1570s when members of the nobility and the gentry improved their homes or built new ones. The elite took part in it to show off their wealth. The 'Great Rebuilding' improved the living standards of the elite because new and improved houses were much more comfortable. The large windows made them lighter, and bigger chimneys and fireplaces meant that they were better heated.
- a) Decorations for people's homes like portraits, miniatures, tapestries and embroidery all became popular among the elite. These fashions started at the royal court and spread to the nobility and the gentry.
- b) As literature grew in popularity, some members of the elite started to collect large libraries. Others supported the work of poets and playwrights. An increase in support for the theatre helped it to flourish in Elizabethan England.

- c) The number of children from elite families going to grammar school and university increased, as more people were able to afford it. Some families even hired a private tutor for their children.

### Interpretation

- 1
- Some of the men are wearing ruffs.
  - The women's dresses have full sleeves and large skirts.
  - The clothes appear to be made from expensive fabrics, with detailed embroidery.
- 2 The interpretation doesn't give a complete view of fashion in Elizabethan England. The elaborate clothes worn by the people in the image reflect the fact that the elite spent a lot of money on clothing in order to display their wealth and status to others. However, the interpretation doesn't reflect other aspects of fashion among the elite, such as the interest that people took in art and literature. In addition, the elite were only a very small part of the population of England, so the image doesn't reflect fashion at other levels of society.

## Page 29 — Elizabethan Theatres

### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 Before the 1570s, actors travelled around, performing in village squares or the courtyards of inns.
- 2 The Theatre and The Curtain. These theatres were built in London.
- 3
- They were round, open-air buildings.
  - They had a raised 'apron stage' that stretched out into the audience.
  - The stage had a roof known as the 'heavens', which the actors could be lowered from.
  - There were several entrances at the back of the stage.
  - The stage had a trapdoor for the actors to enter the stage.
  - There was a 'tiring house' behind the stage where actors got dressed and waited to enter the stage.
  - There was an open yard for the 'groundlings' to stand in.
  - There was a covered area around the theatre's walls for the richer members of the audience to sit in.
- 4 The theatre appealed to poor people as well as rich people because tickets were affordable, with prices starting at just a penny.
- 5
- The Queen's Men
  - The Admiral's Men
  - The Lord Chamberlain's Men
- 6
- The elite paid for and promoted their performances.
  - The elite protected them from opponents of the theatre.
- 7 a) William Shakespeare was a playwright who belonged to the Lord Chamberlain's Men. He wrote 38 plays, which included comedies, tragedies and histories.
- b) Richard Burbage was a famous actor. He also belonged to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, playing the leading role in many of William Shakespeare's plays.
- 8 a) They thought that it was disruptive and encouraged crime.
- b) They were worried that plays might be used to spread pro-Catholic or anti-government messages.
- c) They thought that it encouraged immorality.
- 9
- Many theatres had to be built outside the City of London. For example, the Globe Theatre was built in Southwark.
  - The government introduced censorship measures to try to control what playwrights wrote.

## Page 31 — Elizabethan Sailors

### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 Spain and Portugal



## Answers

- 2 John Hawkins was a privateer and the first Englishman to take part in the Atlantic slave trade. He made three voyages between West Africa and the Americas to buy and sell slaves. The first two voyages were a success, but the third voyage ended with the Spanish destroying most of his fleet.
- 3 a) Drake explores the South American coastline, raiding many Spanish settlements as he goes.  
 b) The Spanish send ships to intercept Drake on the way back to England, stopping him from sailing east.  
 c) Drake makes his way across the Indian Ocean, round the Cape of Good Hope and back to England.
- 4 Drake was knighted by Elizabeth in recognition of his achievements, and returned from his circumnavigation with great wealth. This encouraged other sailors to go on long-distance journeys and earn similar rewards for themselves.
- 5 a) He led a raid on the Spanish port of Cadiz.  
 b) He played a key role in defeating the Spanish Armada.  
 c) He died of disease while trying to conquer Spanish colonies in the Americas.

### Thinking Historically

- 1 a) This encouraged English privateers to trade with Spanish colonies in the Americas to try to benefit from the wealth of the region. They also raided Spanish settlements and ships.  
 b) This added to the growing tension between England and Spain. The Spanish actively tried to stop some English sailors from taking part in trade with the Americas. For example, John Hawkins was confronted by Spanish ships at the Battle of San Juan de Ulúa in the 1560s.  
 c) This opened up a new trade route to Asia, which English merchants had been hoping to find since the 1570s. The East India Company was set up in 1600 to start trading with Asia.

### Page 33 — Elizabethan Sailors

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 a) It was extremely difficult for Drake to navigate across vast oceans as sailors at the time only knew how to work out their latitude and not their longitude. In addition, many of the places visited by Drake had not been explored by English (or European) sailors before, so there were no detailed maps or charts to help him.  
 b) Disease killed a lot of sailors on long voyages. Drake had to abandon a ship after crossing the Atlantic as so many of the crew had died.  
 c) Bad weather could blow ships off course or even sink them. One of Drake's ships was destroyed by storms while sailing around the bottom of South America, and another was forced to turn back to England.
- 2 A colony in the Americas would have helped England to challenge Spanish dominance in the region, and would have served as a base to attack the Spanish. It might have also provided opportunities for trade.
- 3 Walter Raleigh named Virginia after Elizabeth, who was known as the 'Virgin Queen'.
- 4
- 1584 — Elizabeth gives Walter Raleigh permission to explore and colonise unexplored territories. She asks him to establish a colony in North America.
  - 1585 — Raleigh sends 108 settlers ('planters') to establish a colony on Roanoke Island. They soon start to run low on supplies.
  - 1586 — Francis Drake visits Roanoke. Most of the planters abandon the colony and return to England.

- 1587 — A second group of planters goes to Roanoke.
- 1588 — A group of supply ships are delayed by the Spanish Armada, stopping important supplies from reaching the planters on Roanoke.
- 1590 — The supply ships eventually make it to Roanoke, but all of the planters are gone.

- 5 Raleigh initially remained one of Elizabeth's 'favourites' despite the failure of the Roanoke Colony. However, in 1592, he was banished from court and imprisoned after Elizabeth found out he had secretly married one of her ladies-in-waiting. After being released from prison, he became a Member of Parliament and remained heavily involved with the Navy.

### Thinking Historically

- 1 You can choose any option, as long as you explain your answer. For example:  
 John Hawkins was most important for Elizabethan England as he was one of the first Englishmen to take an interest in global trade and exploration. He went on two very profitable voyages that involved buying slaves in West Africa before selling them to Spanish colonies in the Americas. These voyages were also important because they added to the tension between England and Spain, with Hawkins's third voyage ending with most of his fleet being destroyed by the Spanish. Francis Drake was also important, but the fact that he travelled with Hawkins on two of his slave-trading expeditions means that he might have been influenced by Hawkins's earlier achievements. Walter Raleigh was less important, as his attempts to set up a colony on Roanoke Island were a failure.

### Page 35 — Exam-Style Questions

- 1 This question is level marked. You should look at the level descriptions on page 56 to help you mark your answer. Here are some points your answer may include:
- The image is convincing because it shows that a wide variety of people went to the theatre in Elizabethan England. It depicts wealthier audience members in the foreground of the image and poorer audience members standing next to the stage. This reflects the fact that people of varying social status often attended the theatre at the same time.
  - The way that the audience members are arranged in the image makes the interpretation seem convincing. There are people seated under cover around the theatre's walls. In Elizabethan England, the rich sat in this type of seating. The image also shows people standing in an open yard around the stage, which is how the poor watched plays. These poorer audience members were known as 'groundlings'.
  - The construction of the theatre in the image is convincing. The image shows the theatre as a permanent structure, which reflects the fact that permanent theatres started to be built in England from the 1570s. In addition, the theatre is a round, open-air building, which reflects the usual design of theatres in Elizabethan England.
  - The image convincingly presents the design of the stage in a 16th-century theatre. The raised stage extends into the audience, with audience members standing both in front and to the side of it. This reflects the 'apron stage' used in most theatres. The stage also has a roof, known as the 'heavens', and entrances at the back of the stage, both of which were common features of theatres in Elizabethan England.



## Answers

- William Shakespeare's presence on stage is convincing because he was one of the most important figures in 16th-century theatre. He wrote 38 plays, including comedies, tragedies and histories, which were performed by an acting company called The Lord Chamberlain's Men. Shakespeare's inclusion in the image reflects the importance of his role in the development of the theatre in Elizabethan England.
- 2 This question is level marked. You should look at the level descriptions on page 56 to help you mark your answer. Here are some points your answer may include:
- The growing wealth of the elite was important because it led to the 'Great Rebuilding' as members of the elite improved their houses or built new ones. For example, Burghley House in Peterborough was built for William Cecil. The elite used these new houses to display their wealth, giving them features such as large, landscaped gardens and lots of windows, which were expensive due to the price of glass.
  - The growing wealth of the elite was important because it allowed them to improve their living standards. As part of the 'Great Rebuilding', the elite added new features to their houses such as larger windows and bigger chimneys and fireplaces. This meant their houses were lighter and better heated, making them more comfortable to live in.
  - One reason the elite's growing wealth was important was because it led to an increase in support for literature and the arts in Elizabethan England. People started to collect large libraries of books, and used their wealth to support poets and playwrights. The theatre in particular benefited from the growing wealth of the elite, as acting companies relied on the elite to fund and promote their performances.
  - The growing wealth of the elite was important because it led to changes in education. More members of the elite were able to afford to employ a private tutor for their children or to send their children to grammar schools and universities. This meant that more children from wealthy families had access to an education.
  - Members of the elite had more money to spend on things like clothing in Elizabethan England, which was important because it led to changes in fashion. Clothes were made from expensive fabrics like silk and satin, and were often decorated with detailed embroidery. Women's dresses had full sleeves and large skirts, and members of both sexes wore ruffs. By following these fashions, the elite were able to show off their wealth and status.
- 3 This question is level marked. You should look at the level descriptions on page 56 to help you mark your answer. Here are some points your answer may include:
- For many poor people, living standards got worse during Elizabeth's reign. The population grew from around 3 million to at least 4 million, and food production struggled to keep up. This caused food prices to increase and led to food shortages. People's wages didn't increase as quickly as the price of food and other goods, so many of them struggled to afford necessities and were forced into poverty. The situation got worse in the late 1580s and 1590s, when a series of failed harvests meant that food prices and food shortages became even more of a problem. In some areas, poor people starved to death.
  - Changes in agriculture made poor people's living standards even worse. Traditionally, farmers had rented strips of land where they grew just enough food to feed their family. In the 16th century, landowners started to enclose their fields and evict farmers who rented land from them in order to create larger, more profitable farms. A lot of poor farmers became unemployed and homeless, and were forced to leave their villages and become 'vagabonds' who travelled around looking for work. Many landowners also stopped growing grain and started sheep farming, as exporting wool was more profitable than selling grain. This fall in grain production contributed to rising food prices, which left poor people unable to afford food.
  - There was more support for poor people in Elizabethan England, which helped to improve their living standards. Traditionally, poor people relied on charitable donations from rich people for support, but the growing problem of poverty meant that these donations were no longer enough. As a result, the government passed a Poor Law in the 1560s which brought in a tax called the 'poor rate' to raise money for poor people. Later Poor Laws in 1597 and 1601 turned the poor rate into a national system of compulsory taxation. The poor rates were used to provide housing and hospitals for the elderly, sick and disabled. In addition, poor children were given apprenticeships to help them to learn a trade, and local authorities were expected to provide employment or financial support to the deserving poor.
  - Some poor people's lives got worse due to the Poor Laws of the late 16th century. Under the Poor Laws of the 1590s, people like beggars and vagabonds could be publicly whipped and forced to return to their home parish. Some repeat offenders were even sent to prison. These members of the undeserving poor were treated so harshly because they were viewed as a threat to society, particularly after the Northern Rebellion in 1569. It was thought that members of the undeserving poor had encouraged the rebellion.

### Troubles at Home and Abroad

#### Page 37 — The Religious Settlement

##### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 a) Henry VIII — Catholicism was the national religion. Most people in England were Catholics.
  - b) Henry VIII — Henry broke away from the Roman Catholic Church and made himself head of the Church of England.
  - c) Edward VI — Edward tried to reform the English Church to make it more Protestant.
  - d) Mary I — Catholicism became the national religion again and the Pope became the head of the English Church. Catholic beliefs and practices were brought back, undoing Edward's reforms. Many Protestants were persecuted.
- 2 a) Protestants thought that Christians were saved by faith, rather than by good deeds.
  - b) Protestants encouraged ordinary people to read the Bible in English.
  - c) Protestants thought that churches should be plain and simple.
- 3 Being Supreme Governor gave Elizabeth control over the English Church, without calling her its 'Head'. This was a compromise to satisfy people who thought that a woman couldn't lead the Church.



## Answers

- 4
- Going to church was compulsory. Those who missed a church service had to pay a fine.
  - There was a new Book of Common Prayer which every church in the country had to use.
  - All parishes had to have a copy of the Bible in English.
- 5
- The communion service was vaguely worded. This meant that Catholics could interpret the service in a way that made it acceptable to them.
  - Churches were allowed to keep some decorations and priests had to wear certain Catholic vestments. This meant that some Catholic practices were preserved, which satisfied Catholics.
- 6 Elizabeth's religious settlement was described as a 'middle way' because it made England a Protestant country, but allowed some Catholic practices to continue. It was meant to satisfy Catholics and Protestants who were willing to accept some compromises for the sake of peace and stability.

### Page 39 — Mary, Queen of Scots

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1
- Mary became Queen of Scotland in 1542 when she was just 6 days old. She was raised in France while her mother ruled as regent.
  - In 1558, Mary married the heir to the French throne.
  - In 1560, Mary's French husband died suddenly, and she returned to Scotland.
- 2 Elizabeth was unwilling to make Mary the heir to the throne because she was worried that it would encourage Catholic plotters to try to remove Elizabeth from power and replace her with Mary.
- 3 a) Lord Darnley becomes convinced that Mary is having an affair with her personal secretary, David Rizzio. A group of Scottish nobles, accompanied by Lord Darnley, stab Rizzio to death.
- b) Lord Darnley is murdered. It's suspected that Mary and her friend, the Earl of Bothwell, are responsible for his death.
- c) The Scottish nobles rebel against Mary as they disagree with her marriage to Bothwell. Mary is imprisoned and forced to abdicate her throne. Her one-year-old son, James, becomes King of Scotland.
- d) Mary's army is defeated in battle. Mary flees to England to seek Elizabeth's help in regaining the Scottish throne.
- 4 The 'Casket Letters' were letters supposedly written by Mary to the Earl of Bothwell, which suggested that the pair of them had been involved in Darnley's murder. These letters were presented to the inquiry investigating Darnley's murder. Most members of the inquiry thought that they were real, but Mary's supporters claimed that the letters were forgeries.

#### Thinking Historically

- 1 a) Mary had a strong claim to the throne of England because she was Margaret Tudor's granddaughter. This made her a threat because she could possibly overthrow Elizabeth.
- b) Mary was a Catholic, which meant that her claim to the throne might have been supported by English Catholics who wanted a Catholic queen. This increased the threat to Elizabeth because Mary potentially had a lot of supporters in England.
- c) If Mary regained the Scottish throne, she might have been a threat because she might have been in a position to lead an invasion of England from Scotland.

- 2 a) A 'guilty' verdict would have given support to the actions of the Scottish nobles who had overthrown Mary, who was their legitimate queen. Elizabeth viewed the actions of these nobles as unacceptable and didn't want to suggest that the nobles were right to act as they did.
- b) A 'not guilty' verdict would have forced Elizabeth to release Mary from prison. If Mary wasn't imprisoned, it would have been easier for her to plot against Elizabeth.
- 3 The inquiry failed to reach a verdict. This was important for Elizabeth because it allowed her to keep Mary in prison without legitimising the Scottish nobles' actions.

### Page 41 — The Northern Rebellion

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 The Duke of Norfolk planned to marry Mary, Queen of Scots and get Elizabeth to name her as heir to the throne so that a Catholic monarch would inherit the throne after Elizabeth died.
- 2 a) The Duke of Norfolk's plan is uncovered, so the Earls rebel and try to overthrow Elizabeth to avoid punishment.
- b) The rebel army marches south, most likely towards Tutbury to free Mary, Queen of Scots from imprisonment.
- c) Many of the rebel troops desert and the two Earls flee to Scotland. Northumberland and at least 400 rebel troops are later executed.

#### Thinking Historically

- 1
- Many northern nobles were Catholics who wanted England to be ruled by a Catholic monarch. The arrival of Mary, Queen of Scots (a Catholic) in England in 1568 gave them hope that Elizabeth (a Protestant) could be replaced with Mary. (Religious)
  - The Earl of Northumberland was angry at Elizabeth for taking large areas of his land and splitting them between his main rival in the north and a southern Protestant. (Political)
  - Northumberland was angry that Elizabeth had claimed the profits from copper mines discovered on his estates. (Economic)
  - Many northern nobles resented the fact that Elizabeth had reduced their power and increased her control in the north. They were angry because the Council of the North, which helped to govern the region, was controlled by southern Protestants. (Political/Religious)
  - The northern nobles thought that some members of the Privy Council, like William Cecil, were too powerful. They wanted to get rid of these 'evil counsellors' and replace them with people who would be more likely to support their interests. (Political)
- 2 Answers are shown in brackets above.
- 3 You can choose any option, as long as you explain your answer. For example:  
Religion was most important in causing the Northern Rebellion because the northern nobles' main reason for opposing Elizabeth was her Protestant faith. The original plan to make Mary, Queen Scots heir to the throne was motivated by the desire to restore a Catholic monarch to the throne of England. Religion was also central to the political causes of the rebellion. For example, one of the reasons why the northern nobles resented the Council of the North was because it was dominated by Protestants. The economic causes of the rebellion were less important, because they only affected certain people, like the Earl of Northumberland.



## Answers

- 4 a) The Northern Rebellion created widespread fear among Protestants about the threat posed by Catholics.
- b) The Northern Rebellion contributed to growing anti-Catholic feelings in England. The rebellion's failure and the lack of Catholic support for it also meant that it was the last time the Catholics tried to remove Elizabeth by force.
- c) The Northern Rebellion led to an increase in government control in the north of England, even though the northern nobles had been trying to protect the independence of the region. Many rebels had their lands confiscated, and the Council of the North was strengthened under the leadership of Henry Hastings, the Puritan Earl of Huntingdon.

### Page 43 — The Catholic Threat

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 In 1570, Elizabeth was excommunicated by the Pope, which meant that Catholics didn't have to obey the Queen and were encouraged to overthrow her. This, together with the Northern Rebellion in 1569, led Elizabeth to view Catholics as potential traitors. She became less tolerant of recusants and began to treat English Catholics more harshly.
- 2 Anyone who claimed that Elizabeth wasn't the legitimate ruler could now face the death penalty.
- 3 a) In 1568, William Allen established a missionary college at Douai to train English Catholic priests. These priests returned to England once trained and secretly ministered to English Catholics. This threatened Elizabeth's religious settlement by strengthening Catholicism in England.
- b) Robert Parsons and Edmund Campion were missionary priests who arrived in England in 1580. Their preaching was a serious threat to the religious settlement, because it strengthened Catholicism and made it unlikely that it would fade away on its own as Elizabeth had hoped.
- 4
  - The fines for recusancy were massively increased, making them too expensive for most ordinary Catholics.
  - People who performed or attended Catholic Mass could be punished with fines or prison sentences.
  - It became treason to convert to Catholicism, or to persuade someone else to convert.
  - Anyone who encouraged rebellion against Elizabeth could be punished with prison sentences or even the death penalty.
- 5
  - Ridolfi Plot (1571)
  - Throckmorton Plot (1583)
  - Babington Plot (1586)
- 6 Walsingham was important to Elizabeth in the 1570s and 1580s because he established a very efficient spy network which ensured that the plots against Elizabeth were uncovered before they could be carried out.

#### Thinking Historically

- 1 a) The Pope excommunicated Elizabeth in 1570, expelling her from the Catholic Church. This was a threat to Elizabeth because English Catholics no longer had to obey her and were encouraged to rebel. The Pope also supported Catholic plots to assassinate Elizabeth and replace with her Mary, Queen of Scots.

- b) The missionary priests were highly committed to strengthening Catholicism, and this made it unlikely that Catholicism would fade away on its own. This was a threat to Elizabeth because it meant that her religious settlement was more likely to face Catholic opposition. The missionary priests also supported plots to assassinate Elizabeth.
- c) The Catholic conspirators were a threat to Elizabeth because they plotted to overthrow and even kill her. Their links to Mary, Queen of Scots made their plots seem credible, and the support that they received from King Philip II meant that there was a risk that the plots could lead to a Spanish invasion.

- 2 You can choose any option, as long as you explain your answer. For example:

The Catholic conspirators were the biggest threat to Elizabeth. This is because their plots to assassinate Elizabeth directly threatened her security. Although the Pope supported these plots, he didn't pose a direct threat to Elizabeth. The missionary priests helped to strengthen Catholicism in England and might have encouraged people to oppose Elizabeth as a result, but the fact that there was little support for a Catholic revolution in England suggests that they didn't pose a direct threat to Elizabeth either.

- 3 You can answer either way, as long as you explain your answer. For example:

Yes, because the Ridolfi Plot aimed to assassinate Elizabeth and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots, and letters sent by Mary implicated her in the plot. This wasn't the first time Mary had been linked to a plot against Elizabeth either, as the Northern Rebellion in 1569 had aimed to place her on the throne of England. In addition, 1571 saw the introduction of a new Treasons Act, which meant that anyone who claimed Elizabeth wasn't the legitimate ruler of England could face the death penalty. This makes it even more surprising that Mary wasn't executed for her involvement in the Ridolfi Plot.

### Page 45 — The Catholic Threat

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 William the Silent was a Dutch Protestant leader who was assassinated in 1584. His death was important because he was killed by a Catholic, and this made Elizabeth's government even more concerned about the Catholic threat in England.
- 2
  - Mary, Queen of Scots was prevented from becoming Queen of England if Elizabeth was assassinated.
  - The missionary priests were given 40 days to leave England. Any missionary priests who didn't leave could be executed, along with anyone who tried to help them.
- 3 The plot failed because Walsingham used his spy network to intercept letters sent to and from Mary, before decoding them. These letters revealed plans to assassinate Elizabeth and free Mary from prison.

#### Interpretation

- 1 a) This is convincing because Mary, Queen of Scots was a key figure in the Catholic threat in England. Her arrival in England in 1568 gave Catholics a figurehead to rally around, and led to a series of plots that aimed to overthrow Elizabeth and replace her with Mary. These plots included the Ridolfi Plot in 1571, the Throckmorton Plot in 1583 and the Babington Plot in 1586.



# Answers

- b) This is convincing because Elizabeth refused to give in to pressure from Parliament and execute Mary for her involvement in the Ridolfi Plot, possibly because she was reluctant to execute a legitimate Queen of Scotland. Elizabeth had failed to take decisive action against Mary earlier in her reign too, for example when the inquiry into Lord Darnley's murder failed to reach a verdict.
- c) This is convincing because Francis Walsingham used his spy network to gather evidence of Mary's involvement in the Babington Plot. The letters that Walsingham intercepted and decoded were an important factor in persuading Elizabeth to put Mary on trial. After Mary was found guilty of treason, Elizabeth was still reluctant to execute her. It was only after pressure from the Privy Council and Parliament that Elizabeth agreed to execute Mary.

## Thinking Historically

### 1 Positive:

- By having Mary executed, Elizabeth removed a strong claimant to the throne.
- Mary had been at the centre of multiple Catholic plots. Mary's death meant that Catholics no longer had someone to rally around who could legitimately replace Elizabeth as monarch.
- There were no more major Catholic plots after Mary was executed.

### Negative:

- Mary's execution made England's relations with Spain worse, and made Philip II more determined to invade.
- There was a risk that James VI of Scotland (Mary's son) might try to form an alliance with other Catholic powers in Europe and invade England in order to get revenge for his mother's death.
- Elizabeth had executed a legitimate queen who ruled Scotland by Divine Right. This undermined Elizabeth's own Divine Right to rule England and gave plotters justification to overthrow her.

## Page 47 — The Puritan Threat

### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 Elizabeth saw the religious settlement as something that was final and couldn't be changed. In contrast, Puritans saw the settlement as the first step towards further Protestant reforms.
- 2 a) They wanted to remove all traces of Catholicism from the Church.
- b) Many priests didn't preach, but Puritans saw preaching as important. They thought that all priests should be able to preach.
- c) They encouraged the education of ordinary people so that they would be able to read and understand the Bible themselves. They also wanted to train and educate priests so that they would be able to preach.
- d) Radical Puritans wanted to get rid of the Church hierarchy, including archbishops and bishops.
- 3 a) Elizabeth orders the Archbishop of Canterbury, Edmund Grindal, to put a stop to the 'prophesyings'. He refuses, believing that they're good for the English Church. As a result, Elizabeth suspends Grindal and places him under house arrest.
- b) Whitgift launches an attack on Puritan clergy, forcing all priests to accept the Church of England's regulations or face suspension. Between 200 and 300 Puritan priests are suspended.

- c) The government introduces censorship laws to prevent the separatists from spreading their ideas, and several of the separatists' leaders are arrested.

## Thinking Historically

### 1 Similarities:

- Elizabeth introduced new laws to tackle both the Catholic and Puritan threats. For example, she passed two anti-Catholic Acts in 1581, followed by two more laws in 1585 which aimed to minimise the threat from Mary, Queen of Scots and the missionary priests. Similarly, new censorship laws were brought in to stop the spread of Puritanism in the 1580s.
- Elizabeth arrested leading Catholics and Puritans in order to limit opposition to the religious settlement. Many Catholic priests were arrested for breaking the anti-Catholic laws of 1581 and 1585, and several Puritan separatists were arrested in 1590 after trying to break away from the Church of England.

### Differences:

- Elizabeth was initially willing to make concessions to moderate Catholics for the sake of peace and stability, but she was never willing to compromise with the more extreme views of the Puritans. The religious settlement allowed Catholic practices to continue, but Elizabeth acted quickly to stop Puritan practices such as the 'prophesyings' not long after they started in England.
  - Elizabeth treated the Catholics more harshly than the Puritans from the 1570s. Although both Catholics and Puritans were arrested, more than 120 Catholic priests were executed as a result of the anti-Catholic laws of 1581 and 1585. Even the Puritan separatists who broke away from the Church of England weren't treated with the same severity in 1590.
- 2 You can choose either option, as long as you explain your answer. For example: Catholics were more of a threat to the religious settlement because they had more support from members of the elite and other powerful figures. For example, the Northern Rebellion, which aimed to replace Elizabeth with Mary, Queen of Scots and restore Catholicism to England, was led by nobles like the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland. Other Catholic plots even received support from powerful Catholics abroad, like the Pope and King Philip II of Spain. In contrast, the main threat posed by the Puritans was the idea of breaking away to form a separate church. However, there weren't many separatists and they didn't have the support of any powerful members of the elite, making them much less of a threat to the religious settlement.

## Page 49 — War with Spain

### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 England and Spain were allies before Elizabeth became queen because Mary I had been married to Philip II of Spain.
- 2
- By the 1570s, England was starting to have ambitions for an empire of its own. This meant competing with Spain's empire in Europe and the Americas, which led to growing rivalry and tension between the two countries.
  - Elizabeth encouraged privateers to trade illegally with Spanish colonies, raid Spanish ships and attack the treasure fleets carrying gold and silver from the Americas to Spain.



## Answers

- As a Catholic, Philip disliked the religious settlement. He became involved in several Catholic plots against Elizabeth, which damaged her trust in him.
- 3 a) To protect Dutch Protestantism and prevent Philip from forcing Catholicism on the Netherlands. The Protestant rebels were on the verge of defeat after the death of their leader, William the Silent, in 1584. Elizabeth wanted to support them.
  - b) To protect exports to Europe. Many of England's exports reached Europe through ports in the Netherlands such as Antwerp, and Elizabeth wanted to make sure that English merchants still had access to these ports.
  - c) To protect against invasion. If the Dutch rebels were defeated, Philip could potentially have used the Netherlands as a base from which to invade England.
  - 4 Philip saw Elizabeth's decision to sign the treaty as a declaration of war, and started to build an Armada in preparation to invade England.
  - 5 Drake described the raid as 'singeing the King of Spain's beard' because he thought that he had caused temporary damage to the Armada, but hadn't completely destroyed it. It would eventually 'grow back' like a beard.

### Thinking Historically

- 1 a) The Spanish Armada lost ships that had to be rebuilt. This delayed the Armada by more than a year.
- b) Spain had to replace the supplies and weapons, which was very expensive and strained its finances.
- c) The Spanish had to make food and water barrels from unseasoned wood. Their food and water wasn't preserved very well, which meant that fresh water was lost and food rotted on the way to England. This damaged the morale of the Spanish forces.

### Page 51 — The Spanish Armada

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 Philip appointed the Duke of Medina Sidonia because he respected his high social status and trusted him to obey instructions. He was a bad choice as he had little naval or military experience and he didn't want the role.
- 2 Philip planned for the Armada to sail to Dunkirk to meet an army led by the Duke of Parma. The army would then sail across the English Channel, protected by the Armada's warships.
- 3 a) The Armada was delayed by several weeks on its way to England.
- b) The Armada was unable to return to its stronger defensive position at Calais, making it more vulnerable to an English attack.
- 4 The Dutch caused problems for the Armada by using ships to blockade the Duke of Parma's forces, which prevented them from reaching the coast to meet the invasion fleet at Calais.

### Thinking Historically

- 1 a) The beacons allowed news of the invasion to reach Elizabeth in London quickly, warning her about the Armada's arrival in the English Channel.
- b) The raids caused limited damage because the Armada sailed in a crescent formation, which was an effective defensive strategy. Two Spanish ships were lost, but they were both destroyed by accident.
- c) The fireships caused panic among the Spanish sailors, making them cut their anchor cables, break formation and head to the open sea.

- d) The attack at Gravelines led to five Spanish ships being destroyed. The rest of the Armada was forced to flee to the North Sea.
- e) Following the Armada to Scotland meant that it couldn't regroup and prevented it from returning to meet with the Duke of Parma's troops.
- 2 You can choose any option, as long as you explain your answer. For example:  
The decision to send fireships among the Armada at Calais was most important because it was the main turning point in favour of the English. Actions like the raids carried out on the Armada in the English Channel only caused limited problems to the Spanish, but the fireships caused chaos among their ships and made later actions like the attack at Gravelines possible.

### Page 53 — The Spanish Armada

#### Knowledge and Understanding

- 1 a) Powerful Atlantic storms made it difficult for the sailors to navigate a route they were already unfamiliar with. Many of the ships sank.
- b) Many ships were wrecked on the Scottish and Irish coasts, and the local inhabitants showed the survivors little mercy.
- c) There was a lack of supplies, causing many men to die of starvation. Some also died of disease.
- 2 Overall, less than half of the fleet and fewer than 10,000 men were left.

#### Interpretation

- 1 a) The interpretation is convincing about the strengths of the English because it suggests that they were technologically and tactically superior to the Spanish. The English had improved their ship-building, and their ships were faster and easier to handle than the Spanish ships as a result. Their cannons were also faster to reload. In addition, the English tactic of firing broadsides to sink the Spanish ships was more effective than the Spanish tactic of trying to board English ships and overcome the enemy using hand-to-hand fighting. This is because the English were able to use their greater mobility keep their distance from the Spanish.
- b) The interpretation is convincing about the weaknesses of the Spanish because it suggests that their plan was 'flawed', and that Philip sent the 'wrong men' to carry out this strategy. The Spanish didn't control a deep water port where the Armada could anchor safely, which meant that it was extremely vulnerable to attack while waiting for the Duke of Parma and his army. Most of the Spanish lacked experience in naval warfare, as did the commander of the Armada, the Duke of Medina Sidonia.
- c) The interpretation is convincing about the importance of luck in the Armada's defeat because it suggests that a 'large slice of luck' was involved. The death of Spain's leading admiral (Santa Cruz) in February 1588 was badly timed for the Spanish, and was part of the reason why Philip appointed the Duke of Medina Sidonia to lead the Armada. In addition, bad weather caused problems for the Armada on more than one occasion, for example at Gravelines where it prevented the Armada returning to its stronger defensive position at Calais.

#### Thinking Historically

- 1 • The threat from Spain was significantly reduced. Two more Armadas were sent in the 1590s, but they were unsuccessful.



## Answers

- Victory over the Armada was an important step in England's development as a strong naval power to rival Spain. Improving its naval power helped England to become richer by establishing more trade routes to India and the Far East, and also contributed to England attempting to set up a colony in North America.
- Elizabeth became more popular due to the victory. It proved that she was a capable monarch who was able to defend England from foreign invasion.
- Victory was seen as a sign that God was on the side of Protestantism, which strengthened the Protestant cause in England.

### Page 55 — Exam-Style Questions

1 This question is level marked. You should look at the level descriptions on page 56 to help you mark your answer.

Here are some points your answer may include:

- The interpretation is convincing because it describes the Puritans as 'strict'. The Puritans were committed Protestants who believed in closely following all of God's commandments, and in the importance of 'purifying' the English Church by removing all traces of Catholicism.
- The interpretation is convincing because it claims that the Puritans wanted further religious reforms. It says that Elizabeth's religious reforms 'didn't go far enough' for the Puritans. This reflects the fact that certain Catholic practices, such as churches keeping some decorations and priests wearing Catholic vestments, were tolerated after the religious settlement of 1559, and the strongly anti-Catholic Puritans wanted to get rid of them.
- The way the interpretation describes Elizabeth's response to the Puritans' demands is convincing. It says that she 'refused' to permit any further changes to the religious settlement of 1559. Elizabeth saw the religious settlement as final and wanted everyone to accept it as it was. This was because she wanted to end the religious turmoil that had taken place since the 1530s and to provide stability to England.
- The interpretation is convincing because it suggests that Elizabeth wanted to get rid of the threat that the Puritans posed to her. It says that as the Puritan threat grew in the 1570s and 1580s, Elizabeth became 'determined to stamp it out'. Elizabeth wanted to stop the training of Puritans priests through 'prophesyings' because she thought that it would encourage opposition to the religious settlement. She appointed John Whitgift as Archbishop of Canterbury and supported his attack on Puritan clergy, which led to the suspension of 200 to 300 Puritan priests. After some Puritans broke away from the Church of England in response to Whitgift's campaign, Elizabeth also introduced censorship laws to prevent them from spreading their ideas and had some of their leaders arrested.

- The interpretation is convincing because it suggests that the Church didn't fully support Elizabeth's fight against Puritanism. It says that Elizabeth faced 'opposition from the highest levels of the Church of England'. This reflects the fact that Edmund Grindal had refused to put an end to the 'prophesyings' before being replaced as Archbishop of Canterbury by John Whitgift. As a moderate Puritan, Grindal believed that the 'prophesyings' were good for the English Church, which is why he refused to stop them, even when Elizabeth ordered him to. He was suspended and placed under house arrest for his disobedience.

2 This question is level marked. You should look at the level descriptions on page 56 to help you mark your answer.

Here are some points your answer may include:

- The Northern Rebellion was important because it showed that northern nobles were unhappy with how Elizabeth treated them. Elizabeth had increased her control over the north using the Council of the North, which was controlled by southern Protestants. This made it very unpopular with the mostly Catholic northern nobles, who resented the level of control that Elizabeth and the Council had in the region. In addition, Elizabeth had angered the Earl of Northumberland by confiscating large areas of his land and claiming all the profits from copper mines found on his estates. The Earl's involvement in the Northern Rebellion shows how unhappy he was with the way Elizabeth treated him.
- The Northern Rebellion was important because it highlighted problems within the royal court. The northern nobles believed that some Privy Counsellors, particularly William Cecil, had become too powerful. The rebels wanted to remove these advisors and replace them with other nobles who would be more sympathetic to issues in the north. The rebellion shows that some nobles were unhappy with the amount of power held by some members of the Privy Council.
- One reason the Northern Rebellion was important was because it showed that Mary, Queen of Scots was a genuine threat to Elizabeth. Mary's arrival in England in 1568 gave Catholics hope that she could replace Elizabeth on the throne. This encouraged one of the rebels, the Duke of Norfolk, to come up with a plan to marry Mary and make her Elizabeth's heir. Later, the rebel army marched south, probably towards Tutbury where Mary was imprisoned. This showed that Mary was a focal point for English Catholics who wanted to rebel, and that she was therefore potentially dangerous to Elizabeth.
- The Northern Rebellion was important because it confirmed that Elizabeth had a considerable amount of popular support. There wasn't enough support for the rebels among other Catholic nobles or ordinary people because most of them chose to support the Queen rather than fighting for Catholicism. The failure of the rebellion therefore showed how secure Elizabeth's position was.



## Answers

- Another reason the Northern Rebellion was important was because it actually increased Elizabeth's control over the north of the country. After the rebellion failed, many northern nobles had their lands confiscated, which made them less powerful. In addition, the Council of the North was strengthened under the leadership of Henry Hastings. This increased government control over the north and reduced the independence of the region.
  - The Northern Rebellion was important because it increased anti-Catholic feelings in England. The news of the rebellion led to widespread fear among English Protestants about the threat posed by Catholics. This might have brought back memories of the persecution of Protestants during the reign of Queen Mary I. As a result, the Northern Rebellion made Catholics seem like more of a threat than before.
  - The Northern Rebellion was important because it encouraged the Pope to become involved in plots against Elizabeth. In 1570, the Pope excommunicated Elizabeth from the Catholic Church, meaning Catholics no longer had to obey her and were encouraged to overthrow her. This excommunication was supposed to strengthen the Northern Rebellion, but news of it didn't reach England until after the revolt had failed. However, Elizabeth's excommunication did increase the Catholic threat to England by encouraging further opposition to the religious settlement.
- 3 This question is level marked. You should look at the level descriptions on page 56 to help you mark your answer. Here are some points your answer may include:
- Elizabeth treated Catholics more harshly after the missionary priests started to arrive in England from 1574. In 1568, William Allen had set up a missionary college in Douai to train English Catholic priests before sending them back to England to minister to English Catholics. This made it less likely that Catholicism would fade away on its own and threatened Elizabeth's religious settlement. In response, the government passed two anti-Catholic Acts in 1581. These acts massively increased the fines for recusancy and introduced fines and prison sentences for people who attended Catholic Mass. They also made it treason for someone to convert to Catholicism or to persuade someone else to convert, and introduced prison sentences and the death penalty for those who encouraged rebellion. The severity of these punishments was intended to reduce the threat from missionary priests and deter people from practising Catholicism.
  - Elizabeth tried to reduce the threat from Mary, Queen of Scots and missionary priests in 1585. She was especially concerned about the Catholic threat in England after the assassination of the Dutch Protestant leader, William the Silent, by a Catholic in 1584. This, along with Catholic plots like the Throckmorton Plot in 1583 and the arrival of the missionary priests, led Elizabeth to believe that the Catholic threat was particularly serious. In response, the government passed two new laws. The first law stopped Mary, Queen of Scots from becoming queen if Elizabeth was assassinated, therefore discouraging plots involving Mary. The second law gave missionary priests 40 days to leave the country, and threatened those who didn't leave with execution, as well as anyone who helped them. In addition, existing anti-Catholic laws were enforced more strictly. As a result of the anti-Catholic laws of 1581 and 1585, more than 120 Catholic priests were executed.
  - Elizabeth tried to reduce the Catholic threat and protect the religious settlement by having Mary, Queen of Scots executed in 1587. In 1586, Elizabeth's Principal Secretary, Francis Walsingham, had used his spy network to gather evidence of Mary's involvement in the Babington Plot. The plot aimed to assassinate Elizabeth and free Mary from prison, and Walsingham intercepted letters from Mary which approved this plan. These letters persuaded Elizabeth to put Mary on trial, and she was found guilty of treason in October 1586. Although Elizabeth was reluctant to execute Mary, Parliament and the Privy Council were able to convince her that it was necessary to weaken the Catholic threat and protect the religious settlement. Elizabeth eventually agreed to the execution, and it went ahead on 8th February 1587. The execution removed the Catholic threat to Elizabeth at home because it meant that Catholics had no one to rally around and it took away any hope of reversing the religious settlement. However, it increased the threat from abroad by making Philip II of Spain, a Catholic, even more determined to invade. It also raised the possibility that Mary's son, James VI of Scotland, might invade to try to get revenge for his mother's death.



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