The Northern Rebellion

Mary, Queen of Scots had barely been in England five minutes when she began causing trouble for Elizabeth.

The Northern Nobles were unhappy for Several Reasons

1) Many northern nobles were still committed Catholics. They wanted to see the restoration of Catholicism in England under a Catholic monarch. The arrival of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1568 (see p.38) gave them hope that Elizabeth could be replaced with Mary.
2) Elizabeth had confiscated large areas of land from the Earl of Northumberland and shared them between Northumberland's main rival in the north and a southern Protestant. Northumberland was also angry that Elizabeth had claimed all the profits from copper mines discovered on his estates.
3) Elizabeth had reduced the power of the northern nobles and increased her control in the north. In part, she did this through the Council of the North, which helped to govern the region. Under Elizabeth, the Council was controlled by southern Protestants. The northern nobles deeply resented this.
4) The northern nobles blamed Elizabeth's advisors for these policies. They believed that some Privy Counsellors, especially William Cecil (see p.12), had become too powerful. They wanted to remove these 'evil counsellors' and replace them with men who would be more sympathetic to their interests.

The Northern Rebellion broke out in November 1569

1) In 1569 the Duke of Norfolk (the wealthiest landowner in England) hatched a plan to marry Mary, Queen of Scots and have her recognised as Elizabeth's heir. This plan was supported by Catholic nobles, including the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland, because it meant that Elizabeth would be succeeded by a Catholic queen.
2) When the plan was uncovered, the Earls feared they would be executed for their involvement. In a desperate attempt to escape punishment, they rebelled and tried to overthrow Elizabeth.
3) In November 1569, the Earls captured Durham, where they celebrated Catholic Mass in the cathedral. They then marched south, probably making for Tutbury in Derbyshire, where Mary was imprisoned.
4) Before the rebels reached Tutbury, a large royal army forced them to retreat. Many of their troops deserted, and the two Earls fled to Scotland. Elizabeth showed the rebels little mercy. Westmorland fled abroad, but Northumberland was executed, as were at least 400 rebel troops.

The revolt was a Serious Threat to Elizabeth's rule

1) The Northern Rebellion was the most serious rebellion of Elizabeth's reign. It posed a major threat to Elizabeth's rule and showed the danger that Mary, Queen of Scots represented as a rallying point for English Catholics.
2) News of the rebellion created widespread fear among English Protestants about the threat posed by Catholics, and contributed to growing anti-Catholic feelings. These views were fuelled by memories of the harsh persecution of Protestants during the reign of Queen Mary I.
3) There was little support for the revolt among the rest of the Catholic nobility and ordinary people — when given a choice between Elizabeth and their religion, most Catholics chose to support the Queen. 1569-70 was the last time that English Catholics tried to remove Elizabeth by force.

Comment and Analysis

The Northern Rebellion sought to protect the long-standing independence of the northern nobles, but in the end it increased government control in the north of England. After the revolt, many rebels had their lands confiscated. The Council of the North was also strengthened under the leadership of the Puritan, Henry Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon.

The Northern Rebellion

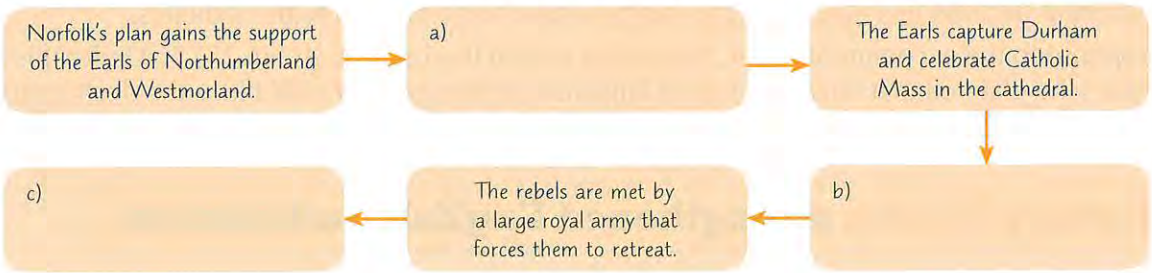
SKILLS PRACTICE

These activities are about the reasons for the Northern Rebellion, as well as how it worked out for the rebels.

Knowledge and Understanding

1) In your own words, describe the Duke of Norfolk's plan in 1569.

2) Copy and complete the flowchart below by filling in the missing stages in the Northern Rebellion. Give as much detail as possible.



Thinking Historically

1) Copy and complete the mind map below, adding the reasons for the Northern Rebellion in 1569. Give as much detail as possible.

2) For each reason in the mind map above, write down whether it was a political, religious or economic reason, or a combination of these.

3) Do you think political, religious or economic reasons were most important in causing the Northern Rebellion? Explain your answer, using the mind map above to help you.

4) Explain the consequences of the Northern Rebellion for each of the following groups.

a) English Protestants b) English Catholics c) Northern Nobles

EXAM TIP

Nothing says 'rebellious' like holding a cathedral service...

As well as knowing what happened in Elizabethan England, you'll also need to know why it happened — so make sure you learn the causes of events like the Northern Rebellion.

The Catholic Threat

The Catholic threat got even worse throughout the 1570s and early 1580s. As a result, Elizabeth and her government became less and less tolerant of Catholicism.

The Pope Expelled Elizabeth from the Catholic Church

1) In 1570, Elizabeth was excommunicated (expelled from the Catholic Church) by the Pope. This meant Catholics no longer had to obey the Queen and were encouraged to overthrow her.

The excommunication was meant to strengthen the Northern Rebellion, but news of it didn't arrive until after the revolt had collapsed.

2) Together with the Northern Rebellion (see p.40), the excommunication changed Elizabeth's attitude towards Catholics. They were now seen as potential traitors, so Elizabeth and her government became less tolerant of recusancy (refusal to go to church) by Catholics.
3) In response to the excommunication, Parliament passed the Treasons Act in 1571. Under this Act, anyone who claimed that Elizabeth wasn't England's legitimate ruler could face the death penalty.

Missionary Priests strengthened English Catholicism

1) In 1568, William Allen founded a missionary college at Douai (now in France) to train English Catholic priests. Once trained, these missionary priests would return to England and secretly minister to English Catholics. The first missionary priests reached England in 1574.
2) In 1580, the missionaries Robert Parsons and Edmund Campion (who had both trained at a missionary college in Rome) entered the country. Campion was executed for treason in December 1581.
3) In the 1560s, Elizabeth had tolerated recusancy because she believed that English Catholicism would gradually die out as the religious settlement became more firmly established.
4) However, the arrival of the missionary priests from the 1570s changed things — with the support of these highly-committed missionaries, it was now unlikely that Catholicism in England would just fade away on its own. This strengthening of Catholicism was a major threat to the religious settlement.

In response to the threat from missionary priests, Parliament passed two anti-Catholic Acts in 1581. These Acts:
- Massively increased the fines for recusancy, making them too expensive for most ordinary Catholics.
- Introduced fines and prison sentences for people who said or attended Catholic Mass.
- Made it treason (which was punishable by death) to convert to Catholicism or persuade others to convert.
- Introduced prison sentences and the death penalty for anyone who encouraged rebellion.

Catholic Plots aimed to put Mary on the English Throne

1) Between 1571 and 1586 there were several Catholic plots to assassinate Elizabeth and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots. They included the Ridolfi Plot (1571), the Throckmorton Plot (1583) and the Babington Plot (1586, see p.44).

Letters sent by Mary implicated her in the Ridolfi Plot. In 1572 Parliament urged Elizabeth to execute Mary for her part in the plot. Elizabeth refused — she was reluctant to execute someone she saw as a legitimate monarch.

2) The plots involved Catholic conspirators in England and Europe. They were supported by the Pope and Catholic rulers, especially King Philip II of Spain.
3) The plots were a threat to Elizabeth's rule and her religious settlement (see p.36). Mary's claim to the throne (see p.38) made them seem credible, and Philip II's involvement meant that there was a risk they would lead to a Spanish invasion.

Comment and Analysis

Missionary priests supported the Catholic plots to assassinate Elizabeth. They wanted England to return to Catholicism and believed this could only be achieved if Elizabeth was removed.

4) However, none of the plots succeeded. This was partly because there was little public support for a Catholic revolution (as the Northern Rebellion had shown). Also, by the 1580s Elizabeth's Principal Secretary, Francis Walsingham, had established a highly efficient spy network, which ensured that the plots were uncovered before they were carried out.

The Catholic Threat

SKILLS PRACTICE

The Catholic threat didn't just go away after the Northern Rebellion — these activities will show you why.

Knowledge and Understanding

1) Why did Elizabeth's attitude towards Catholics change after 1570?

2) What changed as a result of the Treasons Act of 1571?

3) Explain how each of the following people added to the Catholic threat in England.
   a) William Allen
   b) Robert Parsons and Edmund Campion

4) Copy and complete the mind map below, giving examples of measures introduced by the anti-Catholic Acts in 1581.

5) Name three Catholic plots against Elizabeth that took place after the Northern Rebellion, and give the year in which each plot happened.

6) Why was Francis Walsingham important to Elizabeth in the 1570s and the 1580s?

Thinking Historically

1) Explain why each of the following people or groups were a threat to Elizabeth.

   a) The Pope b) Missionary Priests c) Catholic Conspirators

2) Which of these people or groups do you think was the biggest threat to Elizabeth? Explain your answer.

3) Do you think it's surprising that Elizabeth refused to have Mary, Queen of Scots executed after she was involved in the 1571 Ridolfi Plot? Explain your answer.

EXAM TIP

Don't lose the plot, just learn this page...

Elizabeth was never overthrown by the Catholics, but that doesn't mean they weren't a threat. Her increasingly harsh treatment of Catholics shows that she was seriously worried about them.

The Catholic Threat

In 1586 Walsingham used his spy network to prove that Mary had supported the Babington Plot. His evidence persuaded Elizabeth to put Mary on trial and execute her for treason.

Persecution of Catholics Increased in the 1580s

1) In 1584 the Dutch Protestant leader, William the Silent, was assassinated by a Catholic. Combined with the arrival of missionary priests and the Catholic plots against Elizabeth, this assassination made the government even more concerned about the Catholic threat in England.
2) As a result, persecution of Catholics increased. Anti-Catholic laws were enforced more strictly than they had been earlier in Elizabeth's reign, and in 1585 Parliament passed two new laws:
   - Mary, Queen of Scots wouldn't be allowed to become queen if Elizabeth was assassinated. It was hoped that this would put a stop to the plots involving Mary.
   - Missionary priests had 40 days to leave the country. Any priests who didn't leave could be executed, as could anyone who tried to help them.

The anti-Catholic laws of 1581 and 1585 led to the execution of more than 120 Catholic priests and the deaths of many more in prison.

The Babington Plot led to the Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots

1) In 1586, Francis Walsingham used his spy network to gather evidence of Mary, Queen of Scots' involvement in the Babington Plot. He intercepted and decoded Mary's letters, including one which approved plans to assassinate the Queen and free Mary from prison.
2) Mary had been implicated in Catholic plots before, but Elizabeth had always refused to take action against her. The evidence gathered by Walsingham finally persuaded her to put Mary on trial.
3) In October 1586, Mary was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. Despite the guilty verdict, Elizabeth was very reluctant to execute Mary. Parliament and the Privy Council believed that the execution was vital to weaken the Catholic threat and protect the religious settlement, so they put pressure on Elizabeth to sign Mary's death warrant.
4) After hesitating for several months, Elizabeth eventually agreed to the execution. Mary was executed on 8th February 1587.

Comment and Analysis

Elizabeth was reluctant to execute Mary because she was Queen of Scotland. Elizabeth believed that monarchs ruled by Divine Right (see p.14), so she felt she had no right to execute a legitimate monarch. She also feared that executing Mary would undermine her own claim to rule by Divine Right and might fuel more plots against her.

Mary's execution Reduced the Threat from Catholics at Home...

The execution of Mary, Queen of Scots removed the Catholic threat to Elizabeth at home. English Catholics now had no one to rally around, and they lost hope of ever overthrowing Elizabeth and reversing the religious settlement. There were no more major Catholic plots during Elizabeth's reign.

...but it Increased the Threat from Abroad

1) In 1587, relations with Spain were at a low point — the two countries were now at war over the Netherlands, and King Philip II had been preparing for an attack on England since 1585 (see p.48). Mary's execution made the situation worse. Philip was now even more determined to invade.
2) There was also a danger that Mary's son, James VI of Scotland might seek revenge for his mother's death. There were fears that he would form an alliance with other Catholic powers in order to invade England.

The Catholic Threat

SKILLS PRACTICE

This is the last page about domestic plots to overthrow Elizabeth. Have a go at these activities to make sure you understand the importance of the Babington Plot and the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Knowledge and Understanding

1) Who was William the Silent? Why was his death important?

2) What changed as a result of the anti-Catholic laws of 1585?

3) Why did the Babington Plot fail?

Interpretation

The interpretation below is about Mary, Queen of Scots.

> Since arriving from Scotland in the late 1560s, Mary, Queen of Scots had been central to the Catholic threat in England. And yet, Elizabeth was oddly reluctant to take decisive action against Mary. It was only after the presentation of compelling evidence and a lot of political pressure that the Queen of England agreed to deal with her cousin once and for all.

a) b) c)

1) Explain whether you think each highlighted phrase is convincing about Mary, Queen of Scots. Use information from pages 38 to 44 to help you.

Thinking Historically

1) Copy and complete the table below by adding the positive and negative consequences of Mary's execution for Elizabeth. Add as many rows as you need.

Positive	Negative

EXAM TIP

Don't be like Mary — try to keep your head in the exam...

Before writing about an interpretation, look at it carefully to make sure you understand the point it's making. Highlighting important quotes or features can help you to do this.

The Puritan Threat

As if the Catholic threat wasn't bad enough, the religious settlement also faced a threat from the other end of the religious spectrum. The Puritans were committed Protestants who wanted to purify the English Church.

The Puritans wanted to make the Church More Protestant

The Puritans were committed Protestants. For them, the religious settlement of 1559 was only a first step in purifying the Church of England — they wanted further reforms that would make the Church more Protestant.

1) They were strongly anti-Catholic and wanted to remove all traces of Catholicism from the Church.
2) They believed that preaching (explaining the word of God) was very important. They thought that all priests should be well educated so that they'd be able to preach. At the time, this was unusual — many priests lacked education and didn't preach at all.
3) The Puritans also encouraged the education of ordinary people, so that they would be able to read and understand the Bible for themselves.
4) They were very strict about godly living (obeying all of God's commandments).

Comment and Analysis

For Elizabeth, the religious settlement of 1559 was final and couldn't be changed. She wanted everyone to accept the settlement, so she saw Puritan demands for further reforms as a serious threat.

Some Puritans were more radical. They wanted to get rid of the Church hierarchy of archbishops, bishops, etc. This view was a threat to Elizabeth because it called into question her authority as Supreme Governor of the Church — the head of the hierarchy.

The 'Prophesyings' taught Priests how to Preach

1) By the 1570s, the Puritans were concerned about the lack of educated priests who were able to preach. So they introduced the 'prophesyings' — a kind of training to teach priests how to preach.
2) Elizabeth thought that the 'prophesyings' would encourage more Puritan opposition to the religious settlement. In 1576, she ordered the Archbishop of Canterbury, Edmund Grindal, to put a stop to them.
3) Grindal (a moderate Puritan) thought the 'prophesyings' were good for the Church, so he refused to obey Elizabeth's order. This made Elizabeth furious. She suspended Grindal and put him under house arrest.

Archbishop Whitgift tried to Suppress Puritanism

1) In 1583 Grindal died and Elizabeth made John Whitgift Archbishop of Canterbury. With Elizabeth's support, Whitgift launched an attack on Puritan clergy — all priests had to accept the regulations of the Church of England or face suspension. Between 200 and 300 Puritan priests were suspended.
2) Whitgift's campaign made some Puritans feel that there was no hope of reforming the Church of England. Instead, they decided to break away and form a separate church.
3) These Puritan separatists were seen as a major threat to the religious settlement. The government introduced censorship laws to prevent them spreading their ideas, and in 1590 several of their leaders were arrested.
4) The threat from Puritan separatists probably wasn't as serious as Elizabeth and her government thought. There weren't many separatists and they didn't have the support of any powerful members of the elite. Most Puritans were moderates who worked within the Church of England.

Comment and Analysis

Whitgift's campaign faced some opposition from the Privy Council and Parliament. Elizabeth overcame this by threatening to dismiss any council members who opposed it, and refusing to let Parliament discuss the matter.

The Puritan Threat

SKILLS PRACTICE

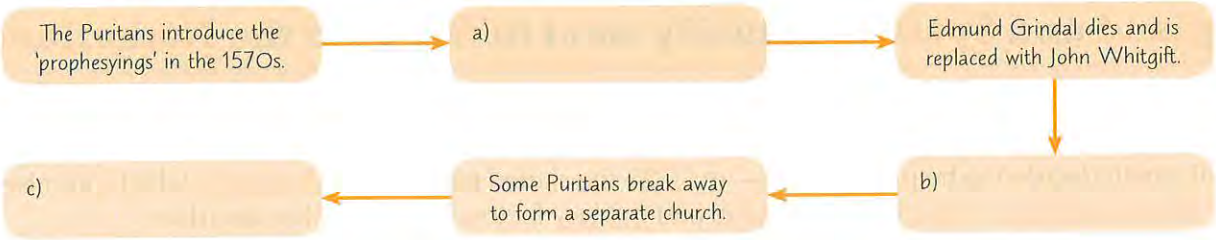
Elizabeth's moderate position on religion was challenged by committed Puritans who wanted further reforms to her religious settlement. Try this page to see how this challenge affected Elizabeth's reign.

Knowledge and Understanding

1) How did Elizabeth's view of the religious settlement differ from the Puritans' view?

2) Copy and complete the mind map below, explaining how the Puritans wanted to change each aspect of the English Church.

3) Copy and complete the flowchart below by filling in the missing stages in the development of Puritanism in the late 1500s. Give as much detail as possible.



Thinking Historically

1) Copy and complete the table below, adding the similarities and differences between Elizabeth's treatment of Catholics and Puritans. Use information from earlier in the section to help you, and add as many rows as you need.

Similarities	Differences

2) Do you think Catholics or Puritans were more of a threat to Elizabeth's religious settlement? Explain your answer, using information from earlier in the section to help you.

EXAM TIP

Puritans were a bit too pure for Elizabeth's liking...

In the exam, you'll need to use correct terminology (e.g. prophesyings) in your answer. This is a good way of showing the examiner that you really understand the topic you're writing about.

War with Spain

England and Spain tried to stay on good terms, but the growing tensions between them eventually led to war.

There were Political, Religious and Economic tensions

King Philip II of Spain had been married to Queen Mary I of England, and the two countries had been allies. Elizabeth and Philip tried to maintain good relations, but tensions between them gradually began to grow.

Political

Spain was a great imperial power. In Europe, Philip ruled Spain, the Netherlands, parts of Italy and (from 1581) Portugal. He also had a large empire in the Americas. By the 1570s, England was starting to have ambitions for an empire of its own (p.30-32). This led to growing rivalry and tension between the two countries.

Religious

Philip was a devout Catholic and disliked Elizabeth's religious settlement. He became involved in several Catholic plots against Elizabeth in the 1570s and 1580s (p.42-44), which damaged Elizabeth's trust in him.

Economic

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.

In the 1560s an English fleet, commanded by John Hawkins, traded with Spanish colonies, even though Spain had banned them from doing so (p.30). This led to the Battle of San Juan de Ulúa in 1568. Francis Drake also raided many Spanish colonies in South America during his round-the-world voyage of 1577-80 (p.30-32).

England and Spain eventually went to War over the Netherlands

1) In 1581, Protestant rebels in the Netherlands declared independence from Spain. In 1584 the rebel leader, William the Silent, was assassinated, and the revolt was in danger of being defeated.
2) Elizabeth decided to help the rebels — in 1585 she signed the Treaty of Nonsuch, which promised military assistance. Religious, economic and military factors influenced her decision:
   - Elizabeth wanted to protect Dutch Protestantism and prevent Philip forcing Catholicism on the Netherlands.
   - English exports to Europe were vital to the English economy, and many English goods reached the European market via Dutch ports, especially Antwerp. Elizabeth needed to ensure that English merchants would have access to the Dutch ports.
   - If the rebels were defeated, Philip might use the Netherlands as a base for an invasion of England.
3) Philip saw the Treaty of Nonsuch as a declaration of war on Spain. In response, he began building a huge fleet (an Armada) that he planned to use to invade England.

Drake was sent to Disrupt Spanish Preparations for the Armada

1) Elizabeth sent Drake to spy on Spanish preparations and attack their ships and supplies. In April 1587, Drake attacked the Spanish port of Cadiz. He destroyed around 30 ships and seized many tonnes of supplies.
2) This delayed the Armada by more than a year. Obtaining fresh supplies and weapons was very expensive and seriously strained Spain's finances.
3) During his raid, Drake captured planks made from seasoned wood, which were needed to make the barrels used to carry food and water.
4) As a result, the Spanish had to make their barrels from unseasoned wood, which couldn't preserve food and water very well. This caused supply problems for the Armada and affected the morale of Spanish troops and sailors. Fresh water supplies were lost and many tons of food rotted as the fleet sailed to England in 1588.

Comment and Analysis

Drake described his raid on Cadiz as 'singeing the King of Spain's beard'. He meant that he had inflicted temporary damage on King Philip's Armada, but hadn't destroyed it entirely — it would 'grow back' in time.

War with Spain

SKILLS PRACTICE

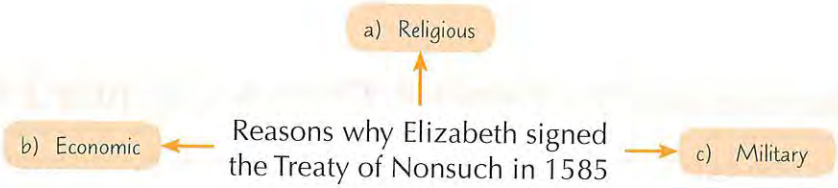
England and Spain's uneasy relationship took a turn for the worse during Elizabeth's reign. Have a go at these activities to help you understand why, and what happened once the two countries were at war.

Knowledge and Understanding

1) Why were England and Spain allies before Elizabeth became queen?

2) Give three reasons why tensions between England and Spain started to increase before they were at war. Give as much detail as possible.

3) Copy and complete the mind map below by explaining the different reasons why Elizabeth decided to sign the Treaty of Nonsuch in 1585.



4) How did Philip II of Spain respond to Elizabeth's decision to sign the Treaty of Nonsuch?

5) Why did Francis Drake describe the raid on Cadiz as 'singeing the King of Spain's beard'?

Thinking Historically

1) Copy and complete the table below by explaining the consequences of each of Francis Drake's actions for the Spanish Armada. Give as much detail as possible.

Action	Consequences for the Spanish Armada
a) 30 ships were destroyed in Cadiz.	
b) Tonnes of food and weapons were captured or destroyed.	
c) Seasoned wood was stolen.	

EXAM TIP

I've always thought facial hair was a fire hazard...

The 'singeing of the King of Spain's beard' might sound silly, but it's a really handy phrase — it tells you a lot about the impact of Drake's raid on the Armada's preparations to invade England.

The Spanish Armada

The Spanish Armada was launched in 1588, but right from the start, things didn't go according to plan...

The Armada Planned to meet the Duke of Parma at Dunkirk

1) By the spring of 1588, the Spanish Armada was complete and Philip was ready to launch his 'Enterprise of England'. The Armada was a huge fleet of around 130 ships, manned by approximately 8000 sailors and carrying an estimated 18,000 soldiers.
2) Philip appointed the Duke of Medina Sidonia to lead the Armada. Philip respected the Duke's high social status and trusted him to obey instructions. However, the Duke had little military or naval experience, and he tried unsuccessfully to turn down the command.
3) The Spanish had thousands more soldiers stationed in the Netherlands under the leadership of the Duke of Parma. Philip's plan was for the Armada to meet Parma's army at Dunkirk. The combined forces would then sail across the Channel to England under the protection of the Armada's warships.

The Armada reached the English Channel in July 1588

1) The Armada set out in May 1588, but was delayed for several weeks by bad weather in the Bay of Biscay and by the attempts of an English fleet to intercept it.
2) In July the Spanish fleet was sighted off Cornwall and beacons (signal fires) were lit along the south coast to send the news to Elizabeth in London. English ships set sail from Plymouth to meet the Armada.

© Mary Evans Picture Library

3) The Armada sailed up the Channel in a crescent formation. This was an effective defensive strategy, which used the large, armed galleons to protect the weaker supply and troop ships.
4) The English navy carried out a few minor raids, but was unable to inflict much damage. Only two Spanish ships were lost, and these were both destroyed by accident.

The English Attacked the Spanish at Calais and Gravelines

1) Having sailed up the Channel, Medina Sidonia anchored at Calais to wait for Parma's troops. However, Parma and his men were being blockaded by Dutch ships and weren't able to reach the coast in time.
2) In the middle of the night, the English sent eight fireships (ships loaded with flammable materials and set on fire) among the anchored Spanish ships. This caused panic among the Spanish sailors, who cut their anchor cables, broke their defensive formation and headed for the open sea.
3) The Spanish ships regrouped at Gravelines, but the weather made it impossible for them to return to their defensive position at Calais. The English moved in, and the following battle lasted for many hours. Five Spanish ships were sunk, and the rest of the fleet was forced to sail away from the French coast and into the North Sea.
4) An English fleet followed the Spanish as far north as Scotland to make sure they did not regroup and return to collect Parma's army.

The Spanish Armada

SKILLS PRACTICE

A combination of factors meant that Philip's invasion of England didn't go according to plan. Try these activities to make sure you understand exactly what happened and why it all went wrong.

Knowledge and Understanding

1) Why did Philip appoint the Duke of Medina Sidonia to lead the Spanish Armada? Why was he a bad choice?

2) Using the following key words, describe Philip's plan to invade England.

Duke of Parma Dunkirk English Channel

3) Explain how bad weather caused problems for the Spanish at each of the following places. Give as much detail as possible.
   a) The Bay of Biscay
   b) Gravelines

4) How did the Dutch cause problems for the Armada?

Thinking Historically

1) Copy and complete the table below by explaining the outcome of each action taken by the English to stop the Spanish Armada.

Action	Outcome
a) They lit beacons along the south coast.	
b) They raided the Armada as it sailed up the English Channel.	
c) They sent fireships among the Armada at Calais.	
d) They attacked the Armada at Gravelines.	
e) They followed the Armada as far north as Scotland.	

2) Which action do you think was most important in stopping the Armada? Explain your answer.

EXAM TIP

Gravelines should've changed its name to Graveyard...

Make sure you know how much time to spend on each question in the exam — if one question is worth twice as many marks as another, you should spend around twice as long answering it.

The Spanish Armada

The English navy had defeated the Armada, and the Spanish ships now faced a dangerous journey home.

The Armada's Journey back to Spain was a Disaster

1) Medina Sidonia decided to call off the attack on England and return to Spain by sailing round Scotland and Ireland. The Spanish sailors were unfamiliar with this very dangerous route, and they encountered several powerful Atlantic storms.
2) Many ships sank or were wrecked on the Scottish and Irish coasts, where the local inhabitants showed the survivors little mercy. Those ships that completed the journey ran short of supplies, and many men died of starvation and disease. In all, less than half the fleet and fewer than 10,000 men made it back to Spain.

Several Factors contributed to the Defeat of the Armada

English Strengths

- The English had improved their ship building, giving them several technological advantages. Spain relied on large ships which were heavy and difficult to handle, whereas the English built long, narrow ships which were faster and easier to handle. English cannons could also be reloaded much more quickly than Spanish ones.
- English tactics were more effective. Spanish ships aimed to come alongside their opponents, board their vessels and overcome the enemy in hand-to-hand fighting. The Spanish couldn't use this tactic against the English, who used their greater mobility to stay out of range. Instead of boarding the Spanish ships, the English fired broadsides (massive barrages of cannonballs) which could sink them.

Spanish Weaknesses

- Most of Spain's men lacked experience of naval warfare, whereas the English fleet was manned by experienced sailors.
- The Spanish plan to meet the Duke of Parma at Dunkirk was seriously flawed. Spain didn't control a deep water port where the Armada could anchor safely, so the ships were extremely vulnerable to an attack while they waited for Parma's troops to escape the Dutch blockade.

Luck

- The death of Spain's leading admiral, Santa Cruz, in February 1588, led to the appointment of the inexperienced Duke of Medina Sidonia to lead the Armada.
- The weather made it impossible for the Spanish fleet to return to the Channel after the battle of Gravelines, forcing it to travel into the dangerous waters off the Scottish and Irish coasts.

England's Victory Removed the threat of a Spanish Invasion

1) Philip sent two further Armadas in the 1590s, but they were both unsuccessful. Although war with Spain continued for 15 years, the Armada of 1588 was the last serious Spanish threat to Elizabeth's throne.
2) The victory of 1588 contributed to England's development as a strong naval power to rival Spain. English ships went on many voyages of discovery and established valuable trade routes, especially with India and the Far East (see p.30). By the end of Elizabeth's reign, the navy was also playing an important role in attempts to set up an English colony in North America (see p.32).
3) The English victory boosted Elizabeth's popularity and strengthened the Protestant cause — it was seen as a sign that God favoured Protestantism.

The Spanish Armada

SKILLS PRACTICE

The defeat of the Spanish Armada wasn't just a military success — it strengthened Elizabeth's rule. Take a look at these activities to see why the Armada was defeated, and how this affected England.

Knowledge and Understanding

1) Copy and complete the flowchart below, adding the problems faced by the Spanish Armada at each stage of its journey back to Spain. Give as much detail as possible.

a) The journey round Scotland and Ireland → b) On the Scottish and Irish coasts → c) The remainder of the journey back to Spain

2) How many men and ships were left by the time the Armada arrived back in Spain?

Interpretation

The interpretation below is about the reasons for the Spanish Armada's defeat.

> Why was the Spanish Armada defeated? Certainly, a large slice of luck was involved, but it's also important to recognise the technological and tactical superiority of the English. Of course, the Spanish didn't do themselves any favours either. The Armada's strategy was already flawed to say the least, but Philip II made the situation worse by sending the wrong men to carry it out.

1) Explain whether you think the interpretation is convincing about each of the following subjects. Use information from pages 50 and 52 to help you.

a) English Strengths b) Spanish Weaknesses c) The Importance of Luck

Thinking Historically

1) Copy and complete the mind map below by adding the consequences of England's victory over the Armada for Elizabeth and England. Give as much detail as possible.

↑
← Consequences of England's victory →
↓

EXAM TIP

The defeat of the Armada — a great English victory...

Making essay plans is a useful way of revising — if you can't think of much to write when you're planning an essay answer, it might mean that you need a quick recap of the topic.

Worked Exam-Style Question

This sample answer will help you with the question where you need to give an account of an event or development in Elizabethan England. Try to discuss and analyse a range of features for this question.

Give an account of the ways that England's relationship with Spain changed between c1568-1585. [8 marks]

The first sentence addresses the question.

England's increased involvement in international trade and exploration caused its relationship with Spain to change. In the 1560s, Elizabeth encouraged English privateers to raid Spanish ships and trade illegally with Spanish colonies. For example, John Hawkins bought slaves in West Africa and sold them to Spanish colonies in the Americas. The Spanish didn't want the English to trade with their colonies, so they confronted Hawkins and destroyed most of his fleet at the Battle of San Juan de Ulúa in 1568. Despite this, Elizabeth continued to send sailors to compete with Spain's international empire. Francis Drake raided Spanish colonies and captured two Spanish treasure ships during his circumnavigation of the world between 1577 and 1580, with Spain sending ships to intercept him in response. This shows that England's involvement in international trade and exploration led to increased tension between England and Spain.

This describes a feature of England's relationship with Spain that changed and analyses its effect.

England's relationship with Spain also became more strained as a result of religious differences between Elizabeth and Philip II. At the start of Elizabeth's reign, England and Spain were allies due to the marriage between Mary I and Philip II. However, in 1559, Elizabeth introduced a 'religious settlement' that made England a Protestant country. As Philip was a devout Catholic, he disagreed with Elizabeth's religious settlement, and supported the English Catholics who wanted to remove Elizabeth and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots. These Catholics tried to overthrow Elizabeth several times in the 1570s and 1580s, for example in the Ridolfi Plot (1571) and the Throckmorton Plot (1583). These plots were a serious threat to Elizabeth, so Philip's involvement in them caused Elizabeth to lose trust in him and damaged England's relationship with Spain.

The answer looks at the role of several factors related to England's relations with Spain.

Use relevant examples to show a good understanding of the period.

England's relationship with Spain broke down entirely in 1585 when the two countries clashed over the Netherlands. The Netherlands was ruled by Spain, but Protestant rebels had declared independence in 1581. When the rebels were on the verge of defeat after their leader, William the Silent, was assassinated, Elizabeth promised military assistance to them in the 1585 Treaty of Nonsuch. This treaty aimed to protect Dutch Protestantism and stop Philip forcing Catholicism on the Netherlands. It also aimed to secure Dutch ports that the English used to export goods to Europe, and to stop Spain using the Netherlands as a base to invade England. Philip viewed the Treaty of Nonsuch as a declaration of war on Spain, causing the relationship between England and Spain to reach a new low.

Try to link every point back to the question.

Exam-Style Questions

Take a look at these exam-style questions to make sure you know the different threats that Elizabeth faced.

Interpretation 1

Not everyone was content with the religious reforms introduced by Elizabeth. For the strict Puritans, who held controversial views on preaching and the structure of the English Church, these reforms didn't go far enough. However, the Queen refused to give in to their demands for further change. On the contrary, as the threat from the Puritans mounted in the 1570s and 1580s, Elizabeth became determined to stamp it out, despite opposition from the highest levels of the Church of England.

Exam-Style Questions

1) To what extent is Interpretation 1 convincing about Puritans in Elizabethan England? Use Interpretation 1 and your own knowledge to explain your answer. [8 marks]

2) How was the Northern Rebellion important for Elizabethan England? Explain your answer. [8 marks]

3) Give an account of the ways that Elizabeth dealt with the Catholic threat in the 1580s. [8 marks]

Answers

Marking the Activities

We've included sample answers for all the activities. When you're marking your work, remember that our answers are just a guide — some of the activities ask you to give your own opinion, so there is no 'correct answer'.

Marking the Exam-Style Questions

For each exam-style question, we've covered some key points that your answer could include. Our answers are just examples though — answers very different to ours could also get top marks.

Most exam questions in history are level marked. This means the examiner puts your answer into one of several levels. Then they award marks based on how well your answer matches the description for that level.

To reach a higher level, you'll need to give a 'more sophisticated' answer. Exactly what 'sophisticated' means will depend on the type of question, but, generally speaking, a more sophisticated answer could include more detail, more background knowledge or make a more complex judgement.

Start by choosing which level your answer falls into. A good way to do this is to start at 'Level 1' and go up to the next level each time your answer meets all the conditions of a level. Next, choose a mark. The mark you choose will depend on whether you think you've met all of, most of, or some of the conditions in that level.

Level Descriptions:

Interpretation Questions:

Level 1 1-2 marks	There is a basic analysis of one aspect of the interpretation. The answer shows limited knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 2 3-4 marks	The answer gives a simple analysis of one aspect of the interpretation. It demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 3 5-6 marks	The answer gives a developed analysis of more than one aspect of the interpretation. A good level of knowledge and understanding of the period is shown.
Level 4 7-8 marks	The answer gives a complex analysis of more than one aspect of the interpretation. Knowledge and understanding of the period is precise and detailed.

Importance Questions:

Level 1 1-2 marks	The answer considers one aspect of the topic in the question, giving a basic explanation of its importance. The answer shows limited relevant knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 2 3-4 marks	The answer considers one aspect of the topic in the question, giving a simple explanation of its importance. The answer shows some relevant knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 3 5-6 marks	The answer considers two or more aspects of the topic in the question, giving a developed explanation of their importance. The answer shows a good level of relevant knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 4 7-8 marks	The answer considers two or more aspects of the topic in the question, giving a detailed explanation of their importance within the wider historical context of Elizabethan England. The answer shows an excellent level of relevant knowledge and understanding of the period.

Narrative Account Questions:

Level 1 1-2 marks	There is a basic analysis of the topic in the question. The answer gives a basic account that shows limited relevant knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 2 3-4 marks	There is a simple analysis of the topic in the question. The answer gives an ordered account that shows some relevant knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 3 5-6 marks	There is a developed analysis of the topic in the question. The answer gives a clear and well-structured account that shows a good level of relevant knowledge and understanding of the period.
Level 4 7-8 marks	There is a complex analysis of the topic in the question. The answer gives a logical and well-structured account that shows an excellent level of precise and detailed knowledge and understanding of the period.

Answers

Elizabeth's Court and Parliament

Page 9 — Elizabeth's Background and Character

Knowledge and Understanding

1
- Henry VII (1485-1509)
- Henry VIII (1509-1547)
- Edward VI (1547-1553)
- Mary I (1553-1558)

2 Elizabeth wasn't expected to become queen because she was third in line to the throne as a child. Her half-brother (Edward VI) and her older half-sister (Mary I) were both in line to rule before her.

Thinking Historically

1 a) This might have had a positive effect by making Elizabeth carefully consider every decision. However, it might have also made her slow to take action.

b) This might have made Elizabeth a stronger leader, helping her to rule in her own right without letting her counsellors take over.

c) This might have helped Elizabeth to learn the skills needed to be a ruler despite having little training in how to govern.

Interpretation

1 a) The interpretation is convincing because it suggests that people viewed Elizabeth's gender as a reason for her not to rule in her own right. It says that most people found the idea of being ruled by a woman 'unthinkable'. This reflects the fact that the majority of people in 16th-century England thought that the monarch should be a man, and that it was unnatural for a woman to rule. This meant that most people expected Elizabeth to let her male counsellors take control or to find a husband to govern for her.

b) The interpretation is convincing because it suggests that people had contrasting views about Elizabeth's legitimacy. It explains that some people questioned whether Elizabeth had the 'right' to inherit the throne from Mary I, and that 'religious differences' were part of the issue. This reflects the difference in opinion between Protestants, who thought that Elizabeth was Henry VIII's legitimate daughter, and Catholics, who thought that she wasn't. Elizabeth was the daughter of Anne Boleyn, who Henry had married after divorcing his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Divorce was forbidden by the Catholic Church, so some Catholics thought that Henry and Anne's marriage wasn't valid, and that Elizabeth was illegitimate.

c) The interpretation is convincing because it mentions that Elizabeth wasn't the only claimant to the throne of England. It calls Mary, Queen of Scots a 'rival' to Elizabeth. This is accurate because some people thought that Mary, Queen of Scots had a right to rule England because she was descended from the House of Tudor, since her grandmother was Margaret Tudor.

Page 11 — The Elizabethan Court

Knowledge and Understanding

1 a) Over 1000 people attended the court, including servants, Privy Counsellors, members of the nobility, ambassadors and other foreign visitors, and Elizabeth's 'favourites'.

b) Pastimes included plays, concerts, hunting, jousting and tennis. There were also balls and grand meals.

c) The court followed Elizabeth wherever she went. It travelled with her when she moved between palaces, and when great processions were held. It also went with her when she went on royal progresses.

2 People gained political power by earning a place at court and having a close relationship with Elizabeth, who was the centre of government.

3 Patronage involved giving out titles, offices or monopolies, which gave men a source of income. Elizabeth distributed patronage widely so that members of the elite relied on her for their income and status. This made them more likely to be loyal to her. It also made them less likely to rebel against Elizabeth, as everyone felt like they had the chance to be rewarded by the Queen.

4 Elizabeth limited the power of traditional noble families by promoting new men who, unlike nobles families, relied on her for their wealth and influence. This created a new elite that was loyal to Elizabeth, therefore limiting the influence of traditional noble families.

Interpretation

1 a) This is convincing because members of the court wore fashionable clothes in order to display Elizabeth's wealth and power. This helped Elizabeth to impress her subjects and foreign visitors.

b) This is convincing because the Queen was accompanied by a large group of courtiers at all times. More than 1000 people attended the court, including servants, counsellors, member of the elite and Elizabeth's 'favourites'.

c) This is partially convincing because Walter Raleigh came to the court in 1581. He was a royal 'favourite', and Elizabeth showed favour to him with valuable gifts such as the right to colonise the New World. However, Elizabeth had other 'favourites' before 1581, such as Robert Dudley.

Page 13 — The Elizabethan Government

Knowledge and Understanding

1
- To give advice to Elizabeth.
- To manage the administration of government. This involved making sure that Elizabeth's policies were enforced and overseeing different areas of the government, including religion, the economy, the military and foreign policy.

2 The Privy Council was made up of around twenty of the Queen's most trusted counsellors. Its members were all chosen by Elizabeth.

3
- 1558 — William Cecil becomes Principal Secretary, making him Elizabeth's closest advisor and the leader of the Privy Council.
- 1559 — Nicholas Bacon becomes Lord Chancellor.
- 1572 — William Cecil becomes Lord High Treasurer, giving him greater control over Elizabeth's finances.
- 1573 — Francis Walsingham becomes Principal Secretary.
- 1598 — William Cecil dies.

4 a) The House of Lords was a chamber of Parliament which consisted of noblemen and senior churchmen. All of its members were unelected.

b) The House of Commons was a chamber of Parliament which consisted of men who were elected. However, only men with a certain amount of property were allowed to vote and members were often chosen by the monarch or powerful local figures.

5 a) Parliament acted as a point of contact between central and local government. It allowed the Queen and her counsellors to gauge the mood of the country and the level of support for their policies.

b) When the Queen needed extra revenue, she had to ask Parliament's permission to raise taxes.

Answers

c) The Queen needed Parliament's permission to pass new laws, but she could bypass this function by issuing royal proclamations instead.

6 From Elizabeth's point of view, Parliament's most important function was to grant taxes. She didn't have to listen to the advice that Parliament gave her, and she could avoid asking permission to pass new laws using royal proclamations.

Page 15 — The Elizabethan Government

Knowledge and Understanding

1 Most parliamentary business focused on local matters and social and economic issues as Parliament could discuss these issues without the Queen's permission. It needed royal permission to discuss matters of state, like religion and foreign policy.

2 a) The term 'Divine Right' refers to the idea that monarchs were sent by God to govern their country.

b) The term 'royal prerogative' refers to a monarch's right to make important decisions about matters of state without interference from Parliament.

3 Elizabeth's Privy Counsellors managed relations between the Queen and Parliament. Some Privy Counsellors sat in Parliament and acted as royal spokesmen, helping to steer debates in favour of royal policies.

4 The Speaker was responsible for keeping order in the House of Commons. The Speaker was chosen by the Queen and closely monitored by her counsellors, which helped to maintain control of Parliament.

5
- They disagreed over marriage and the succession, because Parliament wanted Elizabeth to marry or name an heir, but she refused.
- They disagreed over religion, because some Puritan MPs challenged Elizabeth's religious settlement and tried to make England more Protestant.
- They disagreed over Elizabeth's treatment of Mary, Queen of Scots, because MPs were worried about the threat posed by Mary and her Catholic supporters and wanted Elizabeth to take action against her.

Thinking Historically

1 For:
- Elizabeth didn't have to listen to the advice of Parliament or the Privy Council, and everyone in the government was expected to obey her even if they disagreed with her decisions.
- Parliament could only meet when Elizabeth summoned it, and she only summoned it 13 times in 44 years.
- Parliament wasn't free to decide what it discussed. MPs could only discuss matters of state if Elizabeth gave them permission.
- Elizabeth could use royal proclamations to pass new laws without consent from Parliament.
- Parliament was unable to stand up to Elizabeth. For example, MPs tried to convince Elizabeth to marry throughout her reign, but she refused.
- Elizabeth chose the Speaker in the House of Commons, helping her to keep control of Parliament.
- All Privy Counsellors were appointed by Elizabeth. This meant that she could choose men who she was close to and who she trusted.

Against:
- Elizabeth usually needed Parliament's consent to pass new laws or raise taxes.
- The Privy Council had a lot of power and influence in Parliament, helping to steer debates in favour of royal policies and convincing MPs to support the Queen.
- The Privy Council managed the administration of Elizabeth's government and made sure that royal policies were enforced. It oversaw many different areas of government, including religion, the economy, foreign policy, the military and the Queen's security.

Page 17 — Marriage and the Succession

Knowledge and Understanding

1 Mary I's marriage to Philip II of Spain highlighted the risk of another country gaining too much influence over England if Elizabeth married foreign royalty. Mary's marriage had forced England into an expensive war with France to support her husband.

2 a) Robert Dudley was a member of Elizabeth's court, and one of her 'favourites'.

b) It is thought that Elizabeth was in love with him.

c) The Privy Council and nobility, including William Cecil, opposed the marriage.

d) Duke Francis was the Duke of Anjou and the brother of the King of France.

e) Anglo-Spanish relations were getting worse in the 1570s, and England needed a new European ally. The marriage would have played an important role in creating an alliance between England and France.

f) Duke Francis was a Catholic, which led to strong opposition to the marriage in Protestant England.

3
- King Philip II of Spain
- Archduke Charles of Austria
- King Eric of Sweden

4 Elizabeth didn't choose a successor in the 1570s because she was concerned that whoever she chose might become the focus of plots to overthrow her.

5 Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, her advisors secretly negotiated to make James VI of Scotland heir to the throne. When Elizabeth died in 1603, James became King of England.

Thinking Historically

1 Advantages:
- Choosing a husband might have made Elizabeth's rule more secure by satisfying the people who didn't think that a woman could rule effectively. They might have assumed that Elizabeth's husband would take charge of the country.
- Marrying would have allowed Elizabeth to produce an heir. This would have solved the problem of the succession and reduced the risk of a civil war after Elizabeth died.
- Marrying a foreign king or prince would have allowed England to form a new European alliance. This would have strengthened England's position abroad, and possibly protected the country against Spain after Anglo-Spanish relations started to break down during the 1570s.

Answers

Disadvantages:
- If she married, Elizabeth might have lost a lot of power and freedom as 16th-century women were expected to obey their husbands.
- Choosing a husband was likely to cause political problems. If Elizabeth chose a nobleman from England, it might have angered those who weren't chosen. If she chose a foreign king or prince, it might have given a foreign country too much control over England.
- Choosing a Catholic husband would have undermined Elizabeth's support due to growing anti-Catholic feeling in Protestant England.

Page 19 — The End of Elizabeth's Reign

Knowledge and Understanding

1 The Earl of Essex was Robert Devereux, the stepson of Elizabeth's 'favourite', Robert Dudley. Devereux also became one of Elizabeth's 'favourites' after joining the court in 1584. He became a Privy Councillor in 1593.

2 The Earl of Essex's rise to power led to the development of two conflicting groups at court, one around Essex and one around William and Robert Cecil. These groups competed for patronage and disagreed over matters like the war with Spain.

3 In 1599, Essex was sent to Ireland with a large army in order to crush Tyrone's Rebellion. After limited and unsuccessful attempts to fight the rebels, Essex decided to make a truce with them. He then abandoned his post and returned to England, despite not having the Queen's permission to do so.

4
- He was placed under house arrest.
- He was banished from the royal court.
- He lost most of his public offices.
- He lost his monopoly on sweet wines, which was his main source of income.

5 The aim of Essex's rebellion was to seize the Queen and force her to replace advisors like Robert Cecil with Essex and his supporters. Some of Elizabeth's other courtiers supported the rebellion because they were frustrated with Elizabeth's refusal to appoint them to important positions in government.

6 Essex's rebellion failed because it didn't gain support from ordinary people. Elizabeth was a popular ruler, so people didn't want to overthrow her. Essex's own supporters also quickly abandoned the rebellion.

Thinking Historically

1 a) Elizabeth's authority was weakened by the fact that she failed to use patronage as effectively as she had earlier in her reign. In the past, she had given out patronage very widely, which helped to ensure the loyalty of the elite. Towards the end of her reign, Elizabeth let the Cecils become too powerful while failing to promote others. This created resentment at court and risked fuelling challenges to her authority, such as Essex's rebellion.

b) Elizabeth's authority was weakened by competition at the royal court because it made it difficult for the government to make decisions. The groups that formed around Essex and the Cecils often fought with each other, and failed to agree on important issues, like England's strategy in the war with Spain. Elizabeth's inability to control the competition between the two groups undermined her authority.

Page 21 — 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 suggests that Elizabeth came into conflict with Parliament. It suggests that they 'didn't always see eye to eye'. This reflects the fact that Elizabeth and Parliament disagreed over a range of issues. For example, MPs put pressure on Elizabeth to marry or name an heir to resolve the issue of the succession, but Elizabeth refused. Elizabeth also disagreed with Parliament about her religious settlement and her treatment of Mary, Queen of Scots.
- The interpretation is convincing because it suggests that Elizabeth was able to control Parliament using the Privy Council. It claims that the Privy Council's 'clever manipulation of parliamentary debate' made it easier for Elizabeth to keep control of England's MPs. This reflects the fact that some of Elizabeth's Privy Counsellors sat in Parliament, acting as royal spokesmen and helping to steer debates in favour of royal policies. The Privy Council also monitored the Speaker in the House of Commons, which helped Elizabeth to control Parliament and gain support for royal policies.
- The interpretation is only partially convincing when it suggests that MPs had ways of influencing Elizabeth's decision-making. It suggests that MPs could hold the Queen 'to ransom' until she agreed to compromise with them. This reflects the fact that MPs were able to put pressure on Elizabeth by threatening to refuse taxation. However, Elizabeth never gave in to this kind of parliamentary pressure, making the interpretation less convincing.

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:
- Patronage was important because it allowed Elizabeth to gain her subjects' loyalty. She gave out offices, titles and monopolies to members of the elite, which meant that a lot of them relied on the Queen for their wealth and status. For most of her reign, Elizabeth distributed her patronage widely, making sure that all members of the elite felt like they had the chance to be rewarded for their loyalty. This kept the elite satisfied and made them more likely to remain loyal to Elizabeth.
- Patronage was important because it helped Elizabeth to limit the power of traditional noble families. These families didn't rely on Elizabeth for their wealth and status, as it came from the large amounts of land that they owned. This made it harder for Elizabeth to secure their loyalty through patronage. However, by promoting other men, Elizabeth created a new elite that was more dependent on the Queen. The development of this new elite ensured that the traditional noble families didn't become too powerful.
- Patronage was important for Elizabeth because it allowed her to save money. By distributing patronage in the form of titles, offices and monopolies, she could reward members of the elite in a way that didn't take away from royal revenues. This was especially important as Elizabeth's income was limited due to the weakness of the economy.