

## History GCSE Knowledge Organiser: Elizabethan England 1568-1603

### Part One: Queen Elizabeth and her Government

Essential Knowledge Storage	Key Terms	Example Exam Question
<p>There was great prejudice against female monarchs, and many believed Elizabeth was too weak to rule effectively;</p> <p>Elizabeth never married, which meant that she did not produce an heir. This created a <b>succession crisis</b></p> <p>Many people wanted to marry Elizabeth, but she refused all offers of marriage, preferring to keep her independence;</p> <p>Elizabeth quickly learnt to become an expert politician, and controlled her <b>Royal Court</b> with a corrupt <b>patronage system</b>. The queen would take the Royal Court on <b>progresses</b> during the summer, to demonstrate her power and escape the disease ridden capital;</p> <p>Elizabeth's most trusted advisers were members of the <b>Privy Council</b>, which would give her advice on her most important decisions. Her key advisor was William Cecil;</p> <p>Elizabeth disliked Parliament, but she had to call it in order to raise taxes and agree new laws, such as those against Catholics.</p> <p>By the end of her reign, patronage caused serious divisions in the Royal Court, resulting in the Essex Rebellion, 1601.</p>	<p><b>Succession crisis:</b> the lack of an heir led to a crisis over who would succeed Elizabeth. Her eventual successor was James VI of Scotland</p> <p><b>Royal Court:</b> the Queen's household of around 500 nobles, advisors, officials and servants.</p> <p><b>Patronage system:</b> showing favouritism by giving particular men important jobs. Would cause both loyalty to the Queen and bitter jealousies;</p>	<p>Write an account of the difficulties which faced Queen Elizabeth as a female rule (8 marks)</p> <p>Explain what was important about the rebellion of the Earl of Essex for Elizabethan England (8 marks)</p>

### Part Two: Life in Elizabethan Times

Essential Knowledge Storage	Key Terms	Example Exam Question
<p>Elizabeth culture was influenced by the Italian <b>renaissance</b>;</p> <p>The popularity of the theatre and house-building inspired new styles of architecture;</p>	<p><b>Renaissance:</b> French term meaning 'rebirth'. In England this primarily related to architecture and literature;</p>	<p>Write an account of the ways in which Elizabeth used propaganda to strengthen her rule. (8 marks)</p> <p>Explain what was important about population growth in the Elizabethan period (8 marks)</p>

Political stability, the rise of the **gentry** and competition amongst the gentry inspired a cultural 'Golden Age';

Government censorship allowed the authorities to control the messages within plays.

Official portraits helped to create a '**cult of personality**' around Queen Elizabeth

Huge population growth led to widespread poverty in England, and Elizabethans distinguished between 'deserving' and 'undeserving poor'

Poverty became such a problem that the **Elizabethan Poor Law 1601** was introduced to help the poor and deter a large-scale rebellion.

New ideas and inventions prompted a wave of European exploration. Spain and Portugal had the most extensive empires of the Elizabethan era.

Francis Drake famously **circumnavigated** the globe, and many English sailors were **privateers** who stole from Spanish ships and ports

**Gentry:** land-owning families, wealthy but without titles (Lord etc);

**Cult of personality:** attempt to create a heroic image of a leader

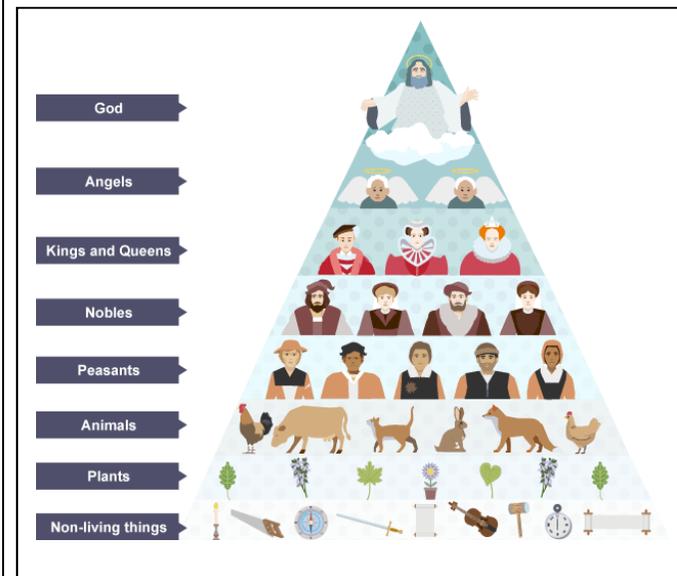
**Poor Law:** required people to pay tax that would be used to help the 'deserving poor'.

**Privateer:** pirates licensed by the government to loot enemy ships

**Circumnavigate:** to travel all the way around the circumference of the globe

Write an account of the ways in which poverty affected Elizabethan England (8 marks)

Write an account of the ways in which Sir Walter Raleigh affected Elizabethan England (8 marks)



### Part Three: Trouble at home and abroad

Essential Knowledge Storage	Key Terms	Example Exam Question
<p>Elizabeth's <b>Middle Way</b> combined elements of the Catholic and Protestant faith into the Church of England</p> <p>Many Catholics tried to restore their religion and Elizabeth took increasingly tough action against them</p> <p>Nearly 200 Catholics were executed under Elizabeth's reign</p>	<p><b>Middle Way:</b> a religious compromise in which people would be safe so long as they outwardly respected the services and teaching of the Church of England</p> <p><b>Armada:</b> a fleet of warships</p>	<p>Explain what was important about the Papal Bull of 1570 (8 marks)</p> <p>Write an account of the ways in which Elizabeth and her government enforced the religious settlement (8 marks)</p>

<p>Mary Queen of Scots inspired four major plots against Queen Elizabeth, and she was eventually tried for <b>treason</b> and executed in February 1587</p> <p>Long term tension between England and Spain came to a head in 1588 when the King Phillip II launched the Spanish <b>Armada</b>.</p> <p>The Armada was defeated by a combination of English tactics, Spanish mistakes, and dreadful weather.</p> <p>The defeat of the Armada was a great propaganda victory for Elizabeth.</p>	<p><b>Propaganda:</b> information which spreads a government message in order to encourage people to think or behave in a particular way.</p> <p><b>Papal Bull:</b> a decree ordered by the Pope.</p> <p><b>Treason:</b> showing no loyalty to your country, especially by helping its enemies or trying to defeat its government.</p>	<p>Write an account of the ways Roman Catholics plotted to remove Elizabeth from the throne (8 marks)</p> <p>Write an account of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 (8 marks)</p>
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