

# History



## Elizabethan England c.1568-1603



Pupil Name:

In this course the examiner wants you to have an in-depth knowledge of Elizabethan society and government in the later years of Elizabeth's reign.

**Paper 2** – (Second Section- questions on Britain and Health are in the first section)

### 4 exam questions worth 40 marks

**1. How convincing is interpretation X about Y? (8 marks)**

Evaluate the evidence (PRAT) purpose, reliability, accuracy, typicality) using source content and own knowledge

**2. Explain what was important about Z? (8 marks)**  
(Consequences / Impact question)

**3. Write an account of X. (8 marks)**

Cause, details and consequence question- before, during, after .

**4. "The main reason for building X was ...." How far do you agree with this statement? (16 marks)**

Detailed and in-depth knowledge used to answer the questions. Aim for 3 different reasons well explained. Strong conclusion.



## 1) Elizabeth's early Life

News of Elizabeth's birth caused rejoicing across the country, but was a bitter disappointment to her father Henry. He was desperate for a male heir to continue the Tudor dynasty. Although Elizabeth was made next in line to the throne, the King prayed his next child will be male.

When she was two years and eight months old her mother, Anne Boleyn, was accused of adultery and beheaded on the orders of Henry VIII. Her father married Anne's lady-in-waiting Jane Seymour a week later. Elizabeth was declared illegitimate and removed from the royal succession. Her title was downgraded from 'Princess' to 'Lady'. Elizabeth was then neglected for a number of years until Henry's final wife Catherine Parr took charge and made sure she is educated to the highest standards.

At just 13, Henry VIII died and Elizabeth's nine-year-old half-brother Edward became King. In 1548 Catherine died in childbirth and her husband was later executed for plotting to marry Elizabeth and kidnap Edward VI. When Elizabeth was questioned by the authorities she protested her innocence and escaped prosecution.

After Edward's early death in 1553, Elizabeth's older sister, Mary I, became queen. Mary returned the country to Catholicism and began a series of bloody purges of Protestants. 287 are executed during her short reign. Mary's plan to marry Prince Phillip of Spain sparked an unsuccessful rebellion and Elizabeth was interrogated about her involvement with the plotters. She was imprisoned in the Tower of London before being put under house arrest in Woodstock, Oxfordshire. She escaped with her life because Philip II, Mary's husband, thought she might be useful. Mary's marriage was not very successful and her husband clearly did not love her. She suffered a phantom pregnancy before she died of uterine cancer in 1558.

### Discussion- Complete these sentences.

Henry VIII was Elizabeth's father **but**:

- She was Henry's second daughter **So.....**
- Henry had remarried and had a son with Jane Seymour **So.....**
- Her mother was accused of being a witch and a heretic, and was killed, **So.....**
- She saw her father only a few times in her life, **So.....**
- She was well educated for a woman, with an excellent tutor called Ascham **So.....**
- She was able to speak 5 languages **So.....**

## 1) Elizabeth's early Life

### Elizabeth I- Childhood and Character

- Mother- Anne Boleyn executed in **1536** when Elizabeth was 2
- Raised a **Protestant**
- **Act of Succession** declared Elizabeth illegitimate and could not inherit the throne.
- Exiled from court and rarely saw Henry VIII or her half-siblings.
- Had an excellent education (unusual for a woman) by Cambridge tutor **Roger Ascham** who greatly admired her intelligence.
- Spoke French, Italian, Spanish and Latin fluently by age 14. Could also read Greek. Good at history, enjoyed writing poetry but also an excellent dancer, musician, horsewoman and good at needlework.
- Catherine Parr Henry VIII's sixth wife reunited the family and another **Act of Succession** reinstated Elizabeth as heir to the throne but only after her siblings and their children therefore it was highly unlikely that she would ever be queen.
- **1547 Henry died** and son Edward VI became king aged 9.
- Aged 17 Elizabeth was involved in a scandal following a romance with her step-mother's husband **Thomas Seymour** his enemies believed that he was plotting to marry Elizabeth and overthrow Edward. Seymour was executed for treason and Elizabeth was questioned but released.
- Edward died in 1553 aged 15 of tuberculosis. He ignored the **Act of Succession** and declared his Protestant cousin Lady Jane Grey as Queen.
- Some historians like David Starkey argue that this turbulent and unstable childhood made Elizabeth more resolute and independent. Trusting no one and relying on her intelligence to survive.

### Discussion Questions

1. Who was Elizabeth's tutor and why was he so impressed with her?
2. Why can it be argued that Elizabeth's early life was very unstable?
3. What kind of characteristics do you think Elizabeth must have needed to develop to survive these situations?

## 1b) Elizabeth's early Life



Suggest how Elizabeth might have responded to each of these events.

1. The death of 300 Protestants.
2. Mary's unhappy marriage to Phillip of Spain.
3. Being prisoner on the Tower of London and being under house arrest.
4. Being presented with the coronation ring

### Elizabeth becomes Queen- Accession to the Throne

- Mary I (Bloody Mary) was a Catholic monarch determined to restore England to the "true faith" she **executed over 300 Protestants during her short reign.**
- Mary disliked Elizabeth and was very suspicious of her because she was a Protestant. During Mary's reign Elizabeth outwardly conformed and attended Catholic mass.
- When Mary married the Spanish King Philip II many were outraged at the prospect of a Spanish takeover. This led to **Wyatt's Rebellion in 1554.** Mary was convinced that Elizabeth had been involved in this plot somehow and Elizabeth was arrested and sent to the Tower of London. In prison Elizabeth wrote a passionate letter to her sister protesting her innocence and was later released.
- Elizabeth spent the remainder of Mary's reign under house arrest at **Woodstock and Hatfield.**
- Mary died in Nov 1558 with no heir. Her Catholic Cardinal Reginald Pole also died so there was no one powerful enough to prevent Elizabeth becoming Queen.
- Elizabeth was presented with the Coronation Ring at her home in Hatfield and was said to have proclaimed, "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes."
- After consulting an astrologer Elizabeth set a date for her coronation and was crowned Queen at Westminster Abbey on **15 Jan 1559** (Date rhyme- "**On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 1559, The Virgin Queen made the sun shine.**")

## 2) Elizabeth as a Queen

Many people in England were excited to have a new monarch.

However, many men did not think that a woman could ever be a successful ruler.

Thomas Becon wrote that having a female monarch was “evident token of thine [God’s] anger towards us Englishmen”.

He said that “Queens were for the most part wicked, ungodly, superstitious and given to idolatry and to all filthy abominations”.

John Knox felt the rule of women to be a “monstre in nature”.



Elizabeth had to rule with the help of a council. This council was entirely made up of men.

In 1560 William Cecil, her chief councillor, was livid when a messenger had discussed with the Queen a dispatch from her ambassador in Paris which was “too much for a woman’s knowledge”

In 1592 a former lord deputy in Ireland called Elizabeth a “fiddling woman” who “troubles me out of measure” and raged: “a silly woman, now she shall not curb me, she shall not rule me...this it is to serve a base bastard, pissing kitchen woman!”.



### Discussion Question

**Why do you think so many people were concerned about England having a female ruler?**

## 2) Elizabeth as a Queen

Mary I had not been Supreme Head of the Church of England because she had been a Catholic.

When Elizabeth became queen, many people said that a woman could not be the Supreme Head of the Church.

Even the Archbishop of York said that “she cannot be supreme head of Christ’s militant church nor yet any part thereof”.

Elizabeth changed her title from Supreme Head to Supreme Governor but she kept the same powers as Henry VIII and Edward VI.



Elizabeth used her sexuality to engage, and control, the men who surrounded her. Sir Christopher Hatton, one of her courtiers said that “The Queen did fish for men’s souls, and had so sweet a bait that none could escape her network”.

Although men were in competition for the queen’s attention, there were not major problems with factions (rival groups) in the court until later in her reign



In 1588, the English faced the Spanish Armada and Elizabeth went to see her troops at Tilbury.

An eye-witness commented on how she marched “king like” as a “sacred general”.

Elizabeth said in a speech: “I myself will take up Arms, I myself will be your General”. Her speech became famous and earned her a lot of respect.

Some historians have argued that many soldiers thought this was ridiculous and made fun of Elizabeth behind her back. They thought that a woman was not fit to go to war.

### Discussion Question

How can you prove that Elizabeth did not see herself as an ordinary woman ?



## 2) Elizabeth as a Queen- The Essex Rebellion 1601



Elizabeth used a system of patronage to control her court and Privy Council. She had a series of favourites that could rise to great power, wealth and position just because they impressed Elizabeth. Using her patronage she was able to keep the people around and her loyal and obedient. Some historians argue that by the end of her reign this system was no longer working so well and that she no longer commanded the same respect among her favourites. They use the Essex Rebellion of 1601 as an example of this.

### Robert Devereux, The Earl of Essex.

- Rose to prominence as a soldier fighting against the Spanish in the Netherlands.
- In 1586 captured Cadiz from the Spanish “singeing the King of Spain’s beard” – became a national hero and a bit too big for his boots!
- An enemy and rival of Robert Cecil (son of William Cecil) Robert Cecil was by now the most powerful man at court. Essex hoped to get rid of him.
- He frequently disobeyed Elizabeth's orders but she tended to forgive him as he was so charming and handsome until he agreed a truce with the leader of Ireland in 1598 against Elizabeth’s orders.
- She placed him under House arrest and he never regained her favour. He lost his **monopoly** on sweet wines and was bankrupt.
- In **1601 he gathered 300 supporters**, refused to attend the Privy Council and marched to London to seize Elizabeth. Elizabeth's troops blocked his way and the rebellion was quickly crushed. **Essex was executed for treason on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 1601.** Some historians have used this example of how badly Elizabeth was losing control at the end of her reign but other historians argue this shows how popular and in control she remained until the end.

1. What was the system of patronage?
2. One way that Elizabeth rewarded her favourites was to grant them a monopoly on an item. This meant that they had total control of the sale of that item in England. What did Essex have the monopoly on?
3. This monopoly was a huge part of his income and when he lost it he was almost bankrupt.

Which of these do you think was the main reason for the Essex Rebellion?


Political(Cecil)

Personal

Economic

Be ready to explain your answer.

## 2) Elizabeth as a Queen- The Essex Rebellion 1601

<b>Consequences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Essex was put on trial for treason</li><li>• He identified many in the rebellion</li><li>• Executed 25 February 1601 in private</li><li>• Several other rebels executed, but most fined</li></ul> 	<b>Importance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shows the importance of having the Queen's favour for gaining and maintaining wealth and power</li><li>• Shows that the Queen remained powerful enough to deal with a rebellion even in the last few years of her life</li><li>• Demonstrates the power of the Cecil family in Elizabethan court</li><li>• Shows the extent of Elizabeth's power over her court as she was able to remove the sweet wine monopoly</li><li>• Shows how easy it was to lose the Queen's favour</li></ul>
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### Exam Question Practise 3 of 4

#### Write an account of the the Essex Rebellion 1601? (8 marks)

Tell the story, including what led to it and what happened after. Before, during and after. Cause, details and consequences.

### 3) Elizabeth and the issue of marriage



Images of Mary Tudor and Phillip of Spain ruling England together.

Elizabeth was crowned in Jan 1559 and immediately started to receive offers of marriage. However she never did marry and insisted that she was **"The Virgin Queen"** married only to England. By not marrying she remained independent but also without a close ally or an heir to the throne. She rarely outright refused her suitors but kept them dangling for many years.



#### Phillip of Spain

- He was a Catholic .
- He ruled a very influential country, he ran Spain, Portugal Naples, and Sicily.
- He had a large army and navy.
- He was a cruel husband to Elizabeth's sister Mary.



#### Eric of Sweden

- He was a Protestant .
- He ruled a moderately influential country.
- He had a small army.
- He went insane during his rule

### 3) Elizabeth and the issue of marriage



#### Charles V Holy Roman Emperor

- He was a Catholic .
- He was a very influential, he ran Spain, Portugal Naples, Netherlands, parts of France, the Austrian Empire and Sicily.
- He had a large army and navy.
- He was not willing to live in England.



#### Duke of Alençon

- He was a Catholic .
- He was the King of France's brother.
- He had influence over a large army.
- He was ugly but Elizabeth was fond of him.
- The French were unpopular after a massacre of Protestants in 1572.



#### Earl of Arundel

- He was an English Protestant .
- He was a powerful and respected Lord, who had experience of war and helping to run the country during Henry and Edward's rule.
- Elizabeth didn't trust him.

### 3) Elizabeth and the issue of marriage



#### Sir William Pickering

- He was an English Protestant .
- He was a powerful and respected Lord.
- He had already tried to make Elizabeth the Queen by organising plots against Mary I



#### Sir Robert Dudley

- He was an English Puritan .
- He was a powerful and respected Lord.
- He was a close friend of the Queen from childhood.
- Had a wife who mysteriously died.
- Had experience being in the privy council and commanding the armed forces.

Suitor	Advantages	Disadvantages
Robert Dudley		
Earl of Arundel		
Sir William Pickering		
King Phillip of Spain		
Archduke Charles		
Prince Eric of Sweden		
Duke of Alencon		

#### 4) Elizabeth and the issue of succession

In **October 1562, Elizabeth caught smallpox**. This was a disease deadly in one in three cases in the Tudor period and there was no known cure. This made the issue of who was to succeed Elizabeth as monarch very urgent. William Cecil her chief adviser (and later his son Robert) put pressure on Elizabeth to name an heir which she never officially did. Robert Cecil negotiated with James VI of Scotland towards the end of Elizabeth's reign and Elizabeth gave her tacit approval of this plan.



Elizabeth was 67 when the portrait on the right was painted. She had been dead for 20 years when the portrait on the left was painted!

Why do you think no one would have dared paint such a portrait when she was old and dying?



Must is not a word to be used to princes, little man... your late father were he here would never had dared to speak such a word to me"; but she added wryly "Ah, but ye know that I must die, and it makes you presumptuous".

It was reported that Elizabeth said this to Robert Cecil in the days before her death when he insisted that she name a successor. Elizabeth had made it clear throughout her reign that she did not like to be told what to do by her Chief Advisers, her Privy Council or her parliament.

#### **Interpretation A- written by historian Hugh Forster in 1898**

"Who could the queen possibly marry? If she took a foreigner what power would he have over the country? If she took an Englishman then it was certain that there would be jealousy and strife among the great nobles."




#### **Exam Practise question 1 of 4**

**How convincing is interpretation A about the reasons why Elizabeth did not marry? (8 marks)**

Compare content of source to own<sup>12</sup> knowledge.

#### 4) Elizabeth and the issue of succession

Read the info below and complete the right side of the table.

<p>Mary, Queen of Scots</p> 	<p>Descended from Henry VIII's eldest sister. Brought up in France, a strict Catholic. Her grandmother had married the King of Scotland, therefore, she inherited the throne of Scotland. She briefly married the King of France, but after his death she married an important Scottish noble that secured her power in Scotland. She is rumoured to have had this Lord murdered.</p> <p>Like Elizabeth, Mary had herself been declared illegitimate in a statute which had never been formally repealed, and knew that many Catholics considered Mary to be the rightful Queen of England.</p>	<p>Elizabeth might not have wanted to declare Mary, Queen of Scots her successor because</p>
<p>James VI of Scotland</p> 	<p>James VI was Mary's son. Unlike Mary he was a Protestant. When rumours that his mother, Mary had arranged for Lord Darnley, her Scottish noble husband to be killed, a civil war began, and as a result Mary fled.</p> <p>He was only a baby when his mother abdicated and fled to England, and so in his early reign Scotland was run by regents.</p> <p>During the Spanish Armada crisis of 1588, he assured Elizabeth of his support as "your natural son and compatriot of your country"</p>	<p>Elizabeth might not have wanted to declare James her successor because</p>
<p>Catherine Grey</p> 	<p>Catherine and Mary Grey were grand-daughters of Henry VII, their mother was Mary the sister of Henry VIII. They were also protestants. At the deathbed of Edward VI, Lady Jane Grey, their sister was named as the heir, but her nine day rule came to a swift end when she was executed by Bloody Mary when she was brought in to rule. Both the other Grey sisters were secretly married, without Elizabeth's permission and were sent to the Tower of London.</p>	<p>Elizabeth might not have wanted to declare Catherine Grey her successor because</p>

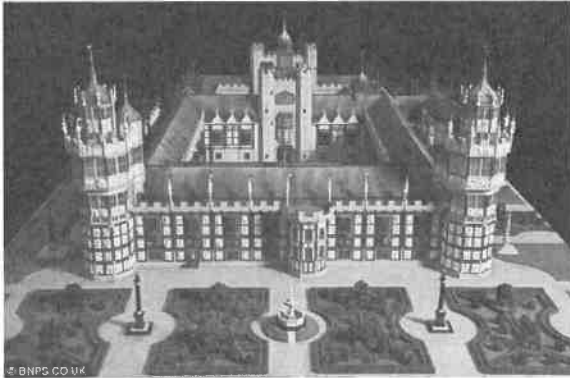
#### Question 2 of 4

**Explain what was important about the issue of succession.**  
(8 marks)

*This question needs you to give examples of effects, impact and consequences. You need to be able to give specific examples. In a conclusion say what you think the most important consequence was. Give at least 3 consequences.*

### 3) Elizabeth's government

Elizabeth faced many problems ruling England as a woman. She had the support of her Chief Adviser **Sir William Cecil** (later Lord Burghley), her **Privy Council**, her **parliament**,



A model of Nonsuch Palace



A portrait of Elizabeth on one of her many progresses.

her **Lord Lieutenants** and her **Justices of the Peace**. Her **Royal Court** was a place for the rich and powerful to live and work near Elizabeth and be near the heart of government.

Except in unusual circumstances, the Court (more than 1500 people) followed a regular pattern. After six weeks or so at **Whitehall** in the winter, the court moved to **Richmond** then **Greenwich** and then **Nonsuch**, with perhaps a visit to **Windsor** in April and sometimes Whitehall again for the Royal Maundy. Then it returned to one or other of the riverside palaces. The routine was varied in some years by short journeys, or 'by-progresses' further afield. August and September were set aside for major progresses and the autumn would be spent at Windsor, Oatlands, Hampton Court or Nonsuch.

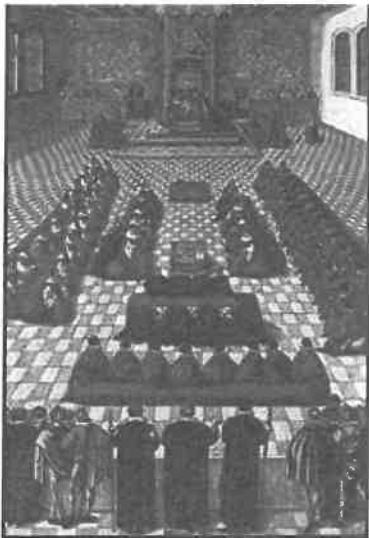
Elizabeth made progresses every summer visiting the great houses of the nobility around the land although she rarely travelled north as this was dominated by catholic lords. She took her entire court with her on these progresses and always her own bed! Sometimes she would arrive with as many as 400 wagons. She might stay at the home of a noble for many weeks and it was considered a great honour to host her but it was also a massive expense as the entire court need to be fed and entertained at the expense of the host. The progresses allowed the people of England to catch a glimpse of their magnificent Queen but also enabled the court to get away from London during the hot, crowded, plague-ridden summer months.

**What were the benefits of Elizabeth's progresses around the south of England?**



### 3) Elizabeth's government

Elizabeth was keen to assert her authority over Parliament – she had the power to call them and also dissolve them. She was not afraid to arrest members of parliament (MPs) that offended her. Parliament tried to pressure Elizabeth to marry and produce an heir. Elizabeth was furious with this and hated their interference. She had one MP, **Peter Wentworth** arrested in 1576 for arguing that Parliament should be allowed to debate any topic at all.



Elizabeth disliked Parliament, which was mainly called in order to grant taxes. During her entire reign parliament met just 13 times. In that time it passed over 400 acts but most of these were related to religion and taxes. Parliament did not run the country, Elizabeth and her Privy Council did, helped by the Lord Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace.

However MPs in Parliament grew in confidence and independence, at times being quite outspoken in its criticisms of Elizabeth's government. They were supposed to have freedom of speech and not to be arrested but Elizabeth ignored this when she arrested Peter Wentworth in 1576.

Interestingly most MPs held their position in parliament due to the patronage and support of members of the Privy Council. There were no elections back then. This meant that the patronage system was used to control and gain alliances and more power at court and in government..

**Can you give 3 examples of how patronage was used at court and in government to control.**

### 3) Elizabeth's government

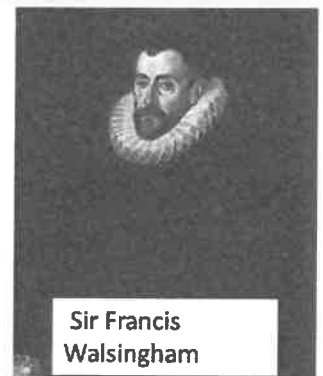
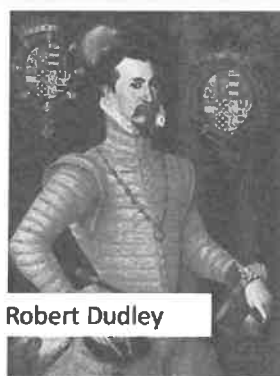
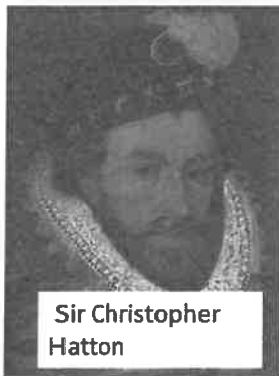
Feature of Government	Explanation	How this helped Elizabeth	What might go wrong
<b>The Royal Court</b>	Run by the <b>Lord Chamberlain</b> . Included about 500 nobles, advisors, officials and servants. Known as <b>Courtiers</b> . The court moved to various different palaces as the Queen moved. <b>Whitehall, Richmond, St James' Palace, Hampton Court, Greenwich, Nonsuch and Windsor Castle.</b>	She was surrounded by many advisers. She had constant entertainment and company. She had constant flattery and admiration.	Political intrigues. Disagreements between nobles. All vying for more power by getting close to Elizabeth. Expensive to maintain all the palaces and Royal residences.
<b>Progresses</b>	Tours of England staying in the homes of the nobility. Mostly in the south of England.	Allowed people to see her and revere her. Brought her closer to the English people. It was a great honour for the nobles she stayed with. She lived in luxury at the expense of the nobles. Removed the royal court from the dangers of London and the plague over the summer months. Gave a chance for the Royal palaces to be fumigated.	Very expensive and a massive effort - she took her own bed!! The nobles spent a fortune trying to entertain her. Other courtiers sometimes grumbled that they were on the move yet again. People in the north of England rarely saw her.
<b>Propaganda</b>	Elizabeth appeared as a goddess to the people. Lavish banquets and entertainments were held at court to demonstrate England's power and greatness to foreign nobles. Rituals and ceremonies of state showed the importance and divine nature of the monarchy.	The people mostly idolised her. Foreign powers respected her. Loyalty and obedience to the crown were encouraged.	Not everyone believed the propaganda. Spain attacked. Catholics hated her. There were many plots to kill her. The most famous were the Ridolfi Plot and Babington Plot that both conspired to assassinate Elizabeth and put the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots on the throne. Elizabeth later executed Mary.
<b>Patronage</b>	Elizabeth gave various different men at court important jobs in government and showed her favour when she needed their loyalty and obedience.	She was able to dominate the nobles by playing them off against each other and ensured that they remained loyal to her.	Lots of jealousy and competition, rivalry and suspicion amongst top government ministers.
<b>The Privy Council</b>	Helped Elizabeth in the daily running of the country issued instructions to the Lord Lieutenant and the Justices of the Peace across England.	The Privy Council met daily and did much of the actual running of the country although Elizabeth guided their work.	Elizabeth did not always follow the advice of the Privy Council - ultimately she was the law in England.

Can you explain how the Privy Council was more important than Parliament?

### 3) Elizabeth's government

Elizabeth's chances of solving the problems that faced her were greatly dependent on her choice of advisors. By January 1559 she had re-organised the household and the Privy Council. The Privy Council organised the day to day running of the country.

All of Mary's ladies in waiting were replaced by people loyal to Elizabeth or relatives through Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn. Apart from Elizabeth all the people in government were men. They were mostly ambitious, determined and skilful politicians. The four most significant men on Elizabeth's Privy Council were...



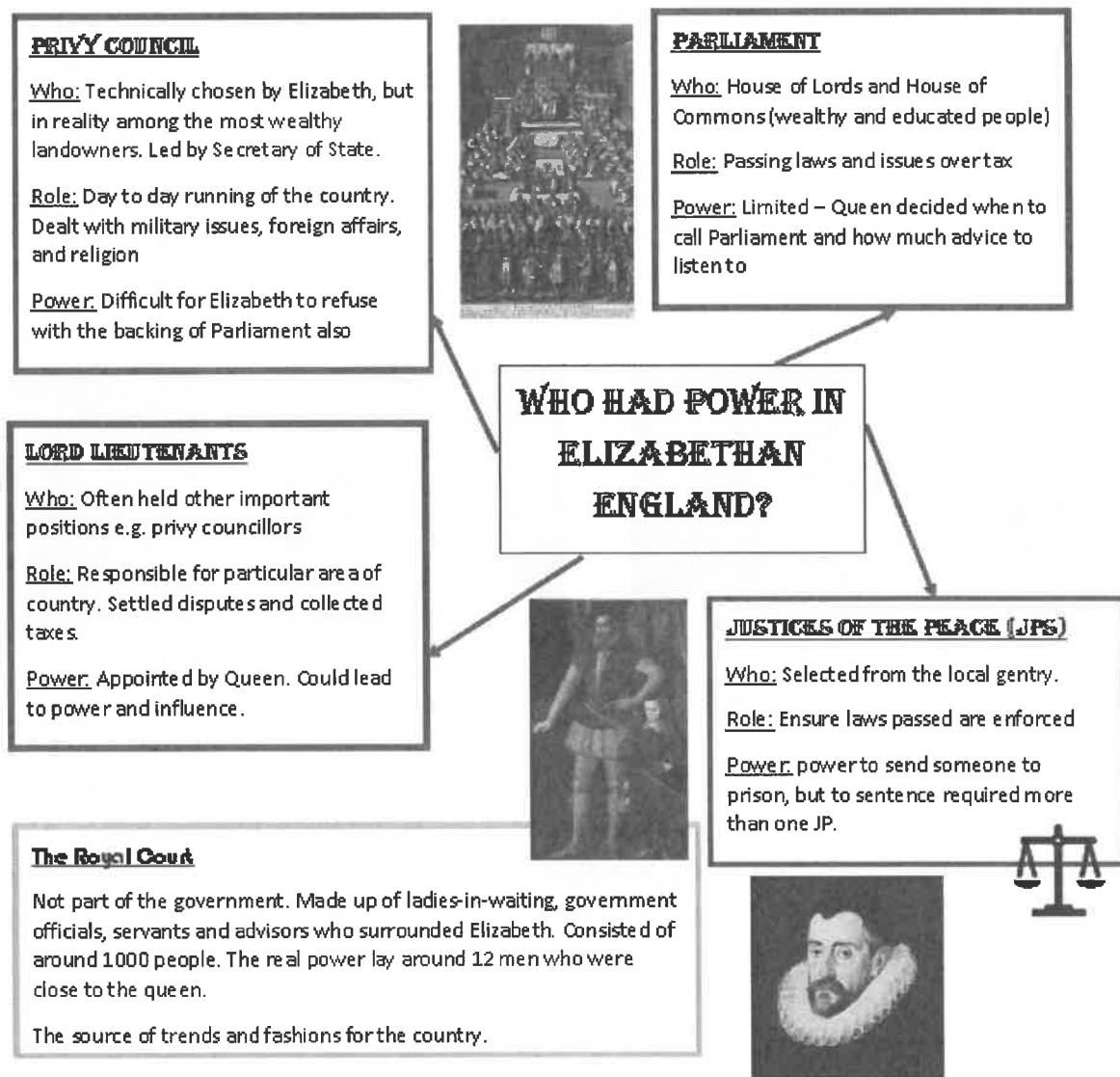
#### The Privy Council

The council had three tasks. It gave the queen advice on all matters as honestly as possible even if that advice was different from the monarch's view. It was also the central administrative body, detailing and ordering matters of defence and war, political negotiations, economic concerns, administrative and religious reforms. These duties could range from planning the invasion of France to deciding what clothes should be available for a noble prisoner in the Tower of London. Thirdly, the council acted as a court, dealing with the issues or complaints that individuals brought direct to the king or queen for their judgement. Elizabeth often attended meetings of the Privy Council but sometimes left them to it. She usually did to listen to their advice as they represented the richest and most powerful men in the land. To ignore them could lead to rebellion.

#### Key Problems for Elizabeth and her government;

1. What to do about marriage and succession
2. What to do about Catholic threats
3. What to do about the Spanish and French
4. What to do about rebellions in Ireland
5. What to do about poverty
6. What to do about taxes
7. What to do about Mary, Queen of Scots

### 3) Elizabeth's government



How convincing is Interpretation C about the way that Elizabeth managed her court? (8 marks)

**Interpretation C. Robert Naunton's account of court-life during the reign of Elizabeth, written in 1632. Elizabeth died in 1603.**

"She ruled much by factions and parties, which she made, upheld and weakened as her own great judgement advised."

This is an evaluation question-You are judging the quality of the evidence compared to your background knowledge- Content v context.

Focus on what it is suggesting to you and does this fit well with what you know- is it accurate compared to what have you learned- would this have been a typical point of view for the time? Compare the impression it gives to your own contextual knowledge.

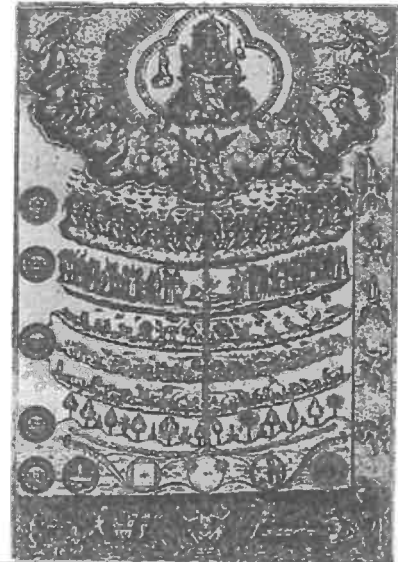
#### 4) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Rise of the Gentry

In Elizabethan England everyone was supposed to know their place in society. There were three classes- the nobility, the gentry and the peasantry.

The gentry were wealthy landowners who often had a significant amount of power and influence in their local area by being landlords and/or Justices of the Peace (in charge of law and order in their county). Some would serve in parliament.

They also had growing wealth thanks to the success of trade, especially in wool, and the fact that England was at peace. Although they made up between 1-2% of the population they owned up to 50% of the land, compared to around 15% for the nobility. The church and the crown owned the rest.

Reading became important with the publication of bibles in English. This was made possible with the invention of the printing press. The gentry would have access to grammar schools, set up after the monastery schools were shut by Henry VIII. There were two universities in England, Oxford and Cambridge. Now the gentry were better educated than ever before.



##### The Great Chain of Being

Society was thought of as a chain which was linked together. Starting with God at the head of the chain with angels and demons were the spirit part of the chain and is unchanging and permanent. Humanity was broken down into the monarch, nobility, gentry and peasants/labourers. Animals were also subdivided into wild and domestic. Plants were below animals and also subdivided.



##### Discussion Question

Large areas of land in England were enclosed (fields joined together-surrounded by hedgerows) and used for sheep-farming rather than growing crops. **Can you explained why this was a good development for the gentry but a bad development for the peasants?**

## 4b) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Rise of the Gentry-Architecture

### Features of a typical Elizabethan Manor house

#### Influence of Classical civilisations

- It was fashionable to be influenced by ancient or classical civilisations during the Renaissance
- Believed it demonstrated culture and refined taste
- Chimneys in classical columns, often in stacks of two or three

#### Symmetry

- Usually in an E or H shape
- This would allow open courtyards

#### Decoration

- Rich oak panelling was typical
- Geometric plasterwork
- Colourful tapestries

#### Glass

- Expensive so only the wealthy could afford it
- Full walls of windows allowed the owner to show off their wealth

#### Rooms

- Medieval hall replaced by a great chamber as the main room
- Number of rooms showed the family's importance



Montacute House in Somerset is a typical late Elizabethan country house.

The wealth of the gentry was also shown within the buildings where the wealth of the gentry was shown in the range of goods people had. **Plaster** was used to decorate internal walls and oak wood panelling (wainscot) which was a huge departure from the medieval period. Such wealth could be used to impress peers and the lower classes. Equally this new found wealth could be used to rival the nobility.

There were significant changes in the style and scope of buildings they were able to build and architecture moved on. Bricks made the possibility of **chimneys** allowing a second floor to be built and more privacy within the house. Servants could be separated from their superiors

The latest Italian fashions (thanks to the Italian Renaissance) had become popular. This included fancy gardens and fountains, a **loggia** (a covered walkway at the front of the house) a **long gallery** for entertaining and exercise, decorative plasterwork and lots of glass.

Name 5 typical features of the homes of the rich at this time.



This is Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire built by the Countess of Shrewsbury to show off her wealth and status.

Prodigy houses were built by the nobility also to impress Elizabeth. The nobles hoped that Elizabeth would visit on one of her progresses.

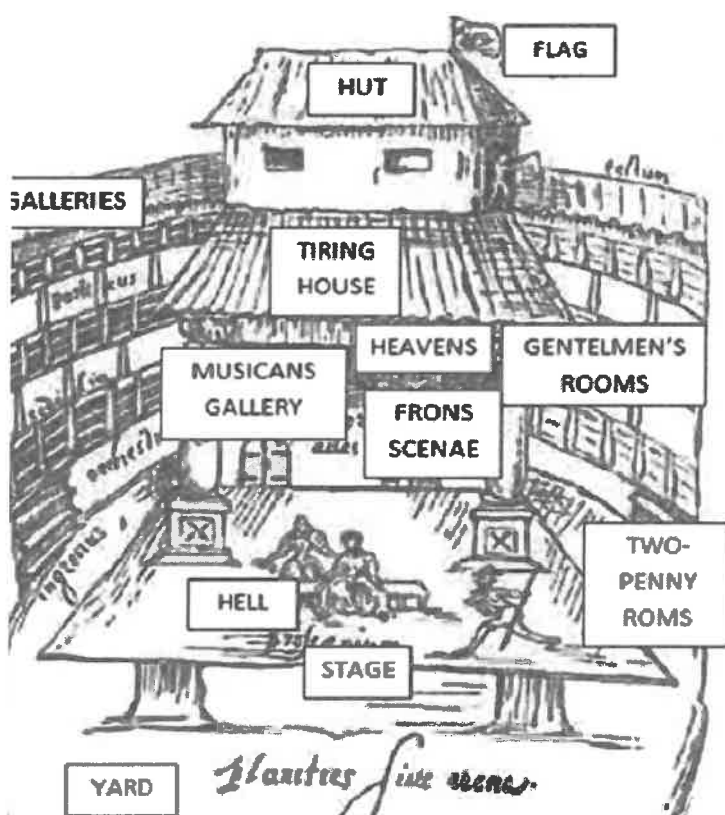
#### 4c) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Theatre

Theatres were a new phenomenon in the late Elizabethan age but became very popular and made a lot of money.

Before 1570 bands of actors could be found travelling across England, performing religious “miracle plays” always stories from the bible. These were very popular however the authorities did not like travelling actors and classed them as vagabonds and beggars. Acting was not considered a respectable profession.

Things changed when a 1572 law said all bands of actors had to be licensed. The first theatres in England were set up in the 1570s- **The Theatre** and **The Curtain-round**, open-air, south side of Thames – **Bankside** similar to bear-baiting pits. Acting companies gained the **patronage** of elite members of society

- It could distract the masses from their poverty and difficult lives.
- Now England was Protestant there was less “theatre” in the church.
- Content of plays was heavily censored propaganda for the Tudors and their ideas about society- often reflected **The Great Chain of Being** or how great the Tudors were as a dynasty e.g. Shakespeare’s play **Richard III**



The most famous of the theatres- **The Globe** (built in 1599) could hold 3000 people.

The poor (known as **groundlings**) had to stand for a penny while better off could afford seats in the galleries.

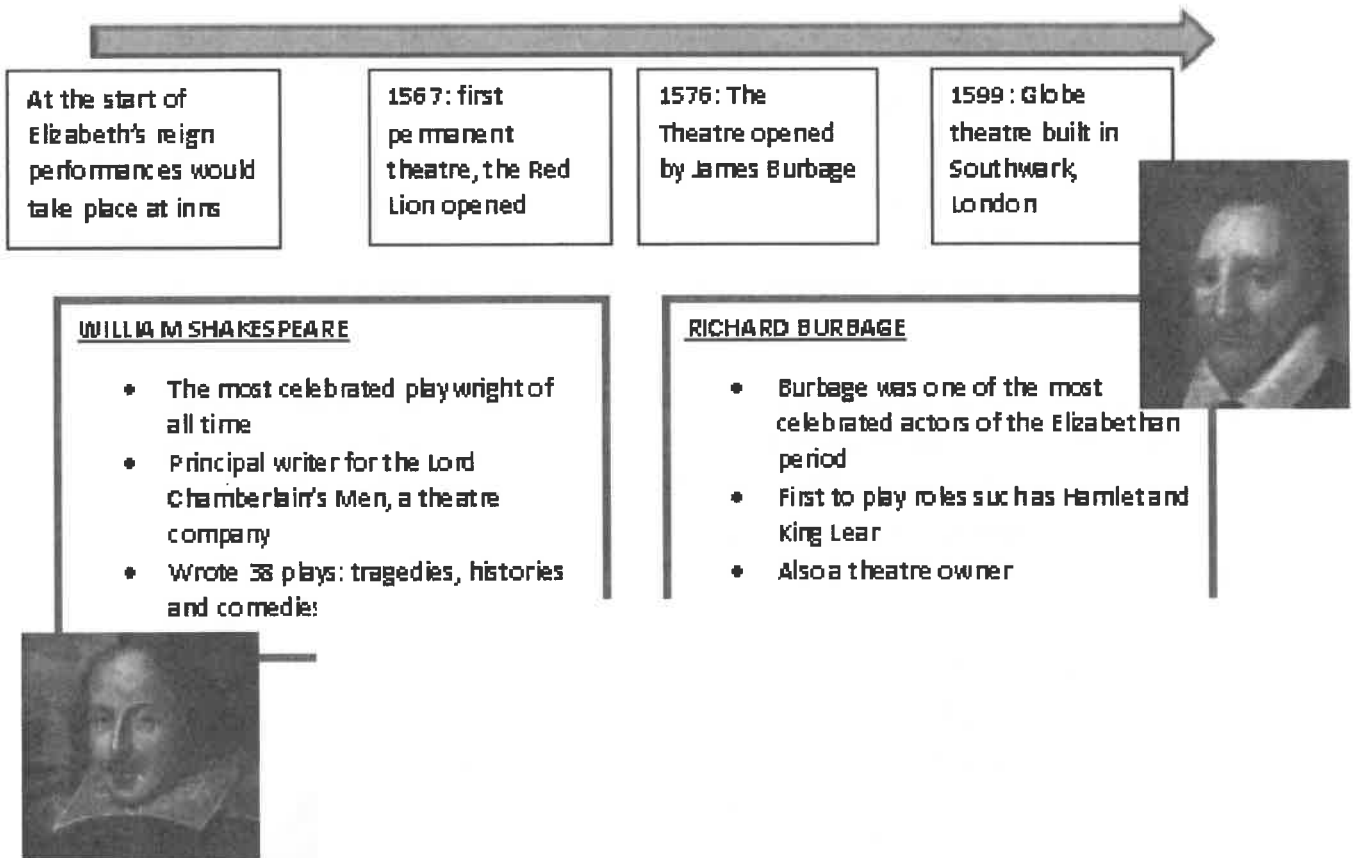
Companies of Actors performed- Shakespeare's company was called “**The Lord Chamberlain’s Men.**”

The most famous actor of the day was **Richard Burbage** part-owner of The Globe

Elizabeth loved to watch plays performed at court even founded her own acting company **The Queen’s Men. PATRONAGE**

Many members of the Privy Council also used patronage system to promote actors and theatres.

#### 4c) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Theatre



Although very popular, some saw theatre as sinful and campaigned to have it banned. Theatres were seen as dangerous places where drunkenness, crime and other immoral behaviour took place. Many were also concerned that such large gatherings of people could spread diseases like the plague more easily. Puritans wanted theatres closed down completely as they were a distraction from godly living. Members of Elizabeth's government worried that theatres could act as meeting places for conspirators. Elizabeth herself loved the theatre and so its popularity grew.

## Opposition to the Theatres

Puritans  
Walsingham  
Doctors

Can you  
explain why?



#### 4d) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Cult of Elizabeth

## Elizabeth- Queen of the Universe



### Qualities

**Majesty**  
**Prudence (Wisdom)**  
**Fortitude (Courage and determination)**  
**Religiousness**  
**Mercy**  
**Eloquence (Public speaking)**

Presenting Elizabeth to her court and public as “The Virgin Queen” and an almighty powerful Queen chosen and favoured by God “Gloriana” was very important to Elizabeth and her government. This was especially important propaganda as she was a woman and a Protestant ruler when Europe was dominated by

- Visual propaganda
- Literary Propaganda- all became more intense during times of threat e.g. Spanish Armada
- **Edmund Spenser writes poem “The Faerie Queene”** and so impresses Elizabeth she gives him £50 a year.
- Her courtiers commissioned portraits of her as a form of flattery
- Use of symbolism. Pearls= wisdom
- Censorship was heavy.

### Symbolism

Often painted with **books** (unusual for a woman) - to highlight...

Even though had little money – extravagant coronation – dressed as a **pure and holy** Queen to highlight the fact that she would...

Often portrayed with an **English bible** to show that...

Often portrayed with a **cornucopia** (the horn of plenty) to show that...

**Phoenix**- female bird rises from the ashes

Often depicted as the Roman Goddess

**Diana**- strong and pure. The **moon symbol**.

After the defeat of the Armada often

depicted as a conquering **Empress**- maps and globes



Write down 5 examples of what the public were expected to believe about Elizabeth.

That she was...

#### 4d) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Cult of Elizabeth



**The Rainbow Portrait c.1600**

- Elizabeth holds a rainbow with the inscription "Non sine sole iris", "No rainbow without the sun", reminding viewers only the Queen's wisdom can ensure peace and prosperity.
- Eyes and ears on dress- all seeing all knowing
- Pearls- virginity and wisdom
- Crescent shaped jewel- the moon- Goddess Diana
- Serpent on arm (wisdom) eats ruby heart – head rules over emotions.
- Flowers on dress- the prosperity of England
- Rainbow symbolises peace.
- At this time Elizabeth is in her late sixties but the image suggests she is ageless.
- Images of her become more "mythical" towards the end of her reign as if she is a goddess.



The Armada portrait was painted shortly after the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

What does it want people to believe about Elizabeth?

#### 4e) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Poor

What to do about the poor was a serious concern for the Elizabethans. Officials and observers wrote about it frequently as a major problem. Poverty was definitely increasing for a number of reasons.

- Population growth- 43% 1550-1600
- Less jobs less food available- more demand
- Bad harvests
- Outbreaks of plague
- **Enclosure** of land for sheep-farming meant less food production also commoners couldn't graze animals on common-land anymore.
- Inflation- prices went up due to more gold and silver in circulation.
- Henry VIII had reduced the value of coinage and closed the monasteries that provided help to the poor
- War disrupted trade, raised taxes but in peace-time unemployment rose
- Spanish control of the Netherlands meant we lost important trade partner.
- Elizabeth sold monopolies to her favourites (patronage) they could raise prices whenever.
- **Rack-renting**- corrupt landlords raising rents

Some people felt that it was their Godly duty to give charity (alms) to the deserving poor- those that genuinely needed help. The church encouraged this.



**“Helpless Poor”**- old young sick

**“Deserving poor”**- couldn't find work

**“Idle Poor”**- **“Sturdy beggars”** – could work but begged instead- regarded as criminals-

**Vagabonds**

**Vagrants**- moved from town to town – homeless and unemployed- often whipped out of the towns if caught begging

**Puritans**- especially hated the idle poor

Attitudes to beggars were very harsh and usually they were whipped out of the towns and cities. Elizabethan society had various names to describe the poor.

#### 4e) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Poor

##### **REMEMBER: those PESCI poor!**

Point	Evidence	Explanation
<b>P = Population was increasing</b>	Grew from 2.8 million to 4 million as a result of an increased birth rate and falling death rate	This meant there were more people without jobs, and not enough food
<b>E = Economic problems - (Inflation)</b>	There were a series of bad harvests which meant there was less food. Henry VIII debased the coins (mixed in less valuable metal so they could be made more cheaply)	This led to traders increasing the prices for goods, which made them harder for families to afford.
<b>S = Space for Living</b>	As the population increased, there were more people who were looking for a place to live	Landlords were able to dramatically increase the price of rents.
<b>C = Closing monasteries</b>	Under Henry VIII monasteries were dissolved and closed down	There were fewer places for poor people to go where they could get help and caused greater unemployment as people lost their jobs.
<b>I = Issues in farming</b>	There were bad harvests in 1594 and 1598 which led to food shortages. More landowners kept sheep, which required fewer workers	Sheep farming left people without work and homeless, and therefore unable to feed their families.

##### **How did towns try to deal with Poverty?**

<b>York</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1515 began issuing beggar licences</li> <li>Required to wear a badge so could be identified</li> <li>Master Beggar appointed to keep a check on the rest</li> <li>Those who refused to work were sent to House of Correction</li> <li>Beggars were expected to work such as spinning</li> </ul>	<b>Norwich</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separated 'idle (lazy) poor' and 'unfortunate poor'</li> <li>'idle poor' given work e.g. knitting</li> <li>'unfortunate poor' given food and other forms of support</li> <li>Limited numbers who received poor relief</li> <li>Poor had to be identified</li> <li>Taxed citizens to pay</li> </ul>	<b>Ipswich</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1569 – licensing system and increased support for poor</li> <li>Hospital opened to treat old and sick</li> <li>Youth training scheme introduced – could learn a trade</li> <li>House of Correction built</li> </ul>
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#### 4e) Elizabethan Society and Culture: The Poor

##### What did Elizabethans do about the poor?

- Very little (helped some- punished others)
- Elizabeth introduced a new coinage system that slowed inflation a bit.
- Some towns collected **Alms** for the poor and provided **Alms-houses- the government felt this was working and copied the idea.**
- More hospitals set up by the rich
- **Poor Law 1597 and Act for Relief of the Poor 1601-** government afraid that poverty could lead to rebellion local towns had to provide for the poor by an **extra tax.**  
**"Overseers of the Poor"** appointed in each area. The first workhouses set up; begging forbidden. Lasted 200 years.

Some historians argue that this was a major turning point in government attitudes to the poor- they would take responsibility and help

Other historians argue that the law was not carefully followed so little changed.

##### Was it effective?

Effective	Not effective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Recognised the difference between the genuinely poor and those who were vagrants (tricking people out of money)</li><li>✓ Instances of begging did decrease</li><li>✓ JPs had to appoint overseers of the Poor in each parish (area)</li><li>✓ JPs had to make sure everyone in a local area paid a poor rate</li><li>✓ It remained in effect until 1834</li><li>✓ It was the first time the government took responsibility for its people</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ It still punished people harshly if they were thought to be lazy</li><li>○ Each area looked after their own poor – some tried to move them on to other areas so they were someone else's problem!</li><li>○ Poverty continued to increase</li><li>○ More money was raised through charity than the Poor law itself</li></ul>

### **Explain what was important about the 1601 Poor Law? (8 marks)**

An impact question/ consequences- what was the situation before and what did it change?

#### 4f) Elizabethan Society and Culture: Exploration



A map of the world from 1450. The Americas "The New World" have not been discovered yet."



English exploration at this time was also significant.

##### Short-term

- Increased the hostility between Spain and England
- Privateering helped cause the launch of the Armada
- Increased the wealth of the merchant class and the Queen.
- Increased sense of patriotic pride
- Brought new goods back to England foods, medicines, furs.

##### Long-term

- England became a global player with the start of an Empire which would later grow to be the largest in the world.
- England's navy would go on to dominate the world.
- England gained great wealth of the Slave Trade which continued until 1807- enslaved over 10 million Africans.
- Exploration triggered Britain's rise as a global superpower.

The 16<sup>th</sup> century was an era of exploration by European sailors.

**Vasco De Gama** (Portuguese) had discovered a sea route to India end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. 1492 Columbus (for Spain) sailed the ocean blue- discovered the West Indies (He was wrong!)

**Amerigo Vespuccio** discovered South America and claimed it for Portugal- Brazil Spanish funded Portuguese sailor **Magellan** first sailor to circumnavigate the globe 1519-1522

The **astrolabe** had been invented which could plot sailors positions accurately.

**Magnetic compass**- helped navigation

**Rudders** were invented to improve steering  
Triangular sails – **Lateen sails**- could sail no matter what way the wind was blowing.  
Elizabeth had inherited 53 warships from Henry VIII- navy already big. Smaller ships meant quicker and easy to manoeuvre.

#### 4f) Elizabethan Society and Culture: Exploration

##### Sir John Hawkins



- England's first Slave Trader. 1560s
- Cousin of Francis Drake
- Between 1562-1567 captured 1,400 slaves from West Africa and sold to the West Indies.
- Many more merchants would then join the Slave trade.
- A bound slave was his crest.
- Gained huge personal wealth from the Slave Trade.
- Knighted by the Queen in 1588 after his help in defeating the Armada as Treasurer of the Navy.
- National hero!

##### Sir Francis Drake



- The second man to circumnavigate the globe (first Englishman) in fact he was only supposed to be exploring the coast of S. America but after raiding Spanish ships in the Pacific he escaped in the opposite direction.
- Strict Puritan – hated Catholic Spain- his duty to teach Spain a lesson
- Called "El Draque" by the Spanish who considered him a pirate.
- The trip was financed by the crown and brought great riches back to England especially the Queen and Francis Drake as he had plundered hundreds of thousands of pounds of Spanish silver.
- Knighted in 1581 by Elizabeth on the deck of his ship the **Golden Hind**.
- Helped defeat the Armada in 1588
- National hero
- Also made huge sums from the Slave Trade!

##### Sir Walter Raleigh

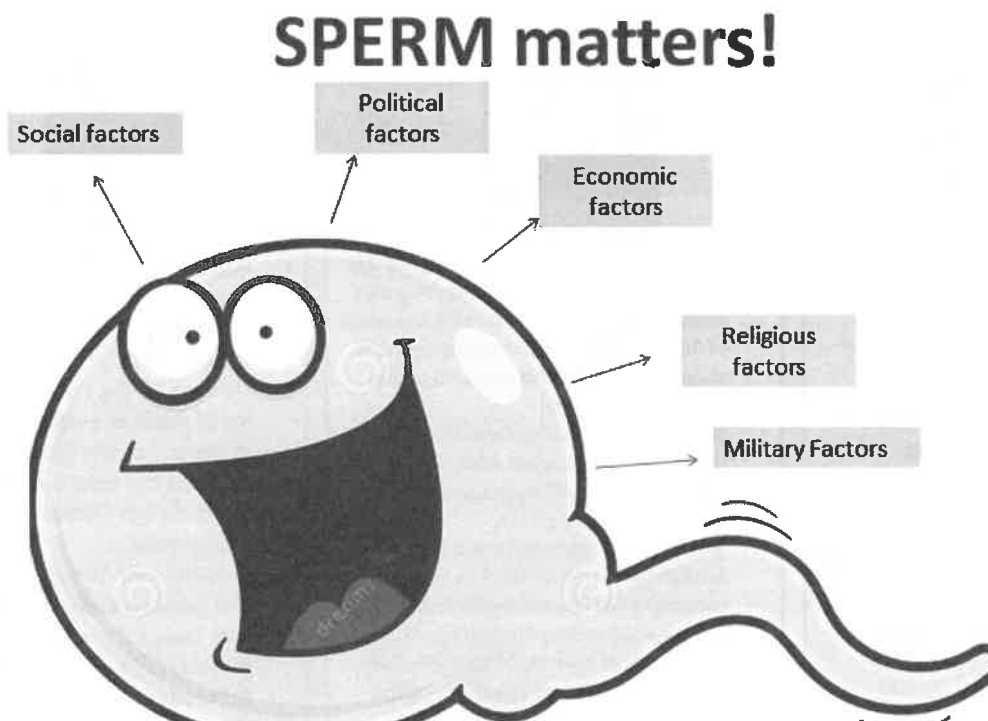


- Popular courtier and favourite of Elizabeth.
- 1584 granted Royal charter to found a colony
- Claimed an area of North America for England and called it **Virginia In honour of the Queen** and founded the colony of **Roanoke** but it did not thrive- colonists disappeared.
- Credited with bringing the potato and tobacco back to England.
- Lost favour when he married Elizabeth's Lady in Waiting without permission.
- The concept of England establishing colonies in the Americas began with him.
- National hero

Using the information on pages 27 and 28 complete these columns for **English Exploration**

Causes	Key Achievements	Consequences

#### 4f) Elizabethan Society and Culture: Exploration



Explain what was important about Elizabethan exploration. (8 marks)

A consequences/impact question- what did it change

Write a paragraph each on (3 paragraphs/ 3 factors))

- Social
- Political
- Economic
- Military
- (On some questions **religious** might also be a factor.)



## 5) The Problem of Religion



When Elizabeth became Queen she inherited a mostly Catholic country, only a few of the English were Protestants but they had been horribly persecuted during the reign of her sister Mary. The country was bitterly divided on the issue of religion. Elizabeth set about creating a **compromise religious settlement** that she hoped would allow her people to live in peace and harmony. She allowed Catholics to worship their own way in private as long as they recognised her as the **Supreme Governor of the Church in England**. Most Catholics during her reign remained obedient and loyal to Elizabeth and did not want trouble but some would choose to plot against her.

Study the key words below before you continue.

- **Transubstantiation-** Catholic belief that the mass was a miracle in which the bread and wine turned into the body and blood of Christ.
- **The Eucharist-** the part of the mass where bread and wine (body and blood) are given as a blessing to Christ's followers- it re-enacts the Last Supper.
- **Iconography-** depictions and statues of Saints- (these were prayed to by Catholics)
- **Recusants-** followed the Pope's orders over Elizabeth's and attended mass were fined
- **Pursuivants-** officials who hunted for Jesuit priests.
- **Excommunicated-** kicked out of the Church and therefore any hope of heaven.
- **Heretic-** someone who goes against the teachings of the Church.
- **Puritans-** strict Protestants , followed the teachings of **Calvin** that wanted all aspects of the old Catholic church destroyed. Did not like the hierarchy in the Anglican Church and some refused to recognise Elizabeth as Supreme Governor.
- **Prophesyings-** training sessions for Puritan preachers- Elizabeth had these banned.

## 5) The Problem of Religion

### What did she really think?



**“I have no desire to open windows into men’s souls.”**

- The Catholic reign of her sister had caused deep divisions and violence in England. Elizabeth wants **religious stability**.
- The North and West were dominated by Catholics- south and east dominated by Protestants.
- Wanted to avoid Civil War and full scale Catholic rebellion
- She liked Church music and richly decorated churches (Catholic)
- Didn’t like **iconography** (statues and depictions of Saints.)
- Didn’t like **religious extremism** of any kind- she approved of the structural organisation of the Catholic church and its obvious hierarchy and wanted to keep this.
- Hated **Puritans** that criticised her authority over the church

**The Middle Way- A compromise religion?**

### Catholic Opposition

- **Recusants** refuse to attend Church of England services and are fined for it.
- **1569 The Northern Rebellion led by Dukes of Northumberland and Norfolk.**
- **Pope Pius V** excommunicated Elizabeth 1570
- 1580s- Jesuit Priests- priest holes- punishable by death e.g. **Edmund Campion executed for treason 1581** about 300 priests were sent in total from the Pope.

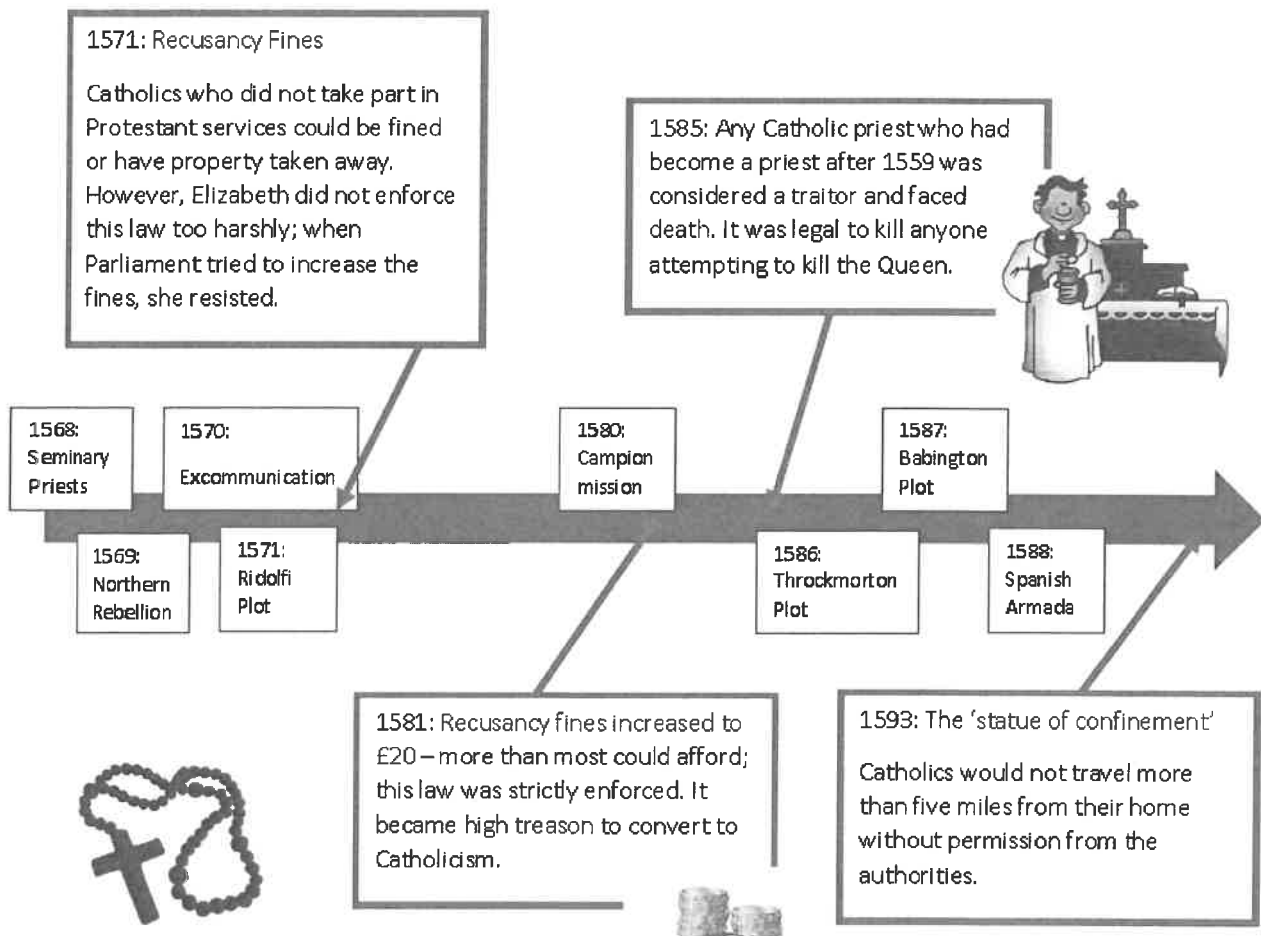
### Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Elizabeth sought a compromise religion?
2. What aspects of the old Catholic faith did she keep in her new Church of England churches?
3. What were Recusants?
4. Why didn’t Elizabeth like Puritans either?

## 5) The Problem of Religion

### The Puritan Threat

- **Puritans** – Purify the church- educate ordinary people so they can read the bible- educate priests via “**Prophesyings**” to become evangelists- preach to the people about **Puritanism**
- hated aspects of Elizabeth’s “Middle Way” they wanted more radical reforms of the church- especially the existence of Bishops and the rest of the Church hierarchy and also the vestments (clothes) worn by the clergy. They became increasingly critical of Elizabeth’s decisions regarding the church and she was very suspicious of them too.
- Elizabeth put the **Archbishop of Canterbury – Edmund Grindal** under house arrest for 7 years for fearing he was encouraging Puritan ideas by allowing “**Prophesyings**” She replaced him with **John Whitgift** who was determined to stamp out Puritanism in the Church. He suspended 300 ministers who refused to conform.



## 5) The Problem of Religion

### Protestant Fears

**1572- St Bartholomew's Day Massacre** in France – thousands of Protestants killed- English Protestants feared the same might happen in England if a strong stand was not taken against the Catholics.

In the space below write some statements that each type of believer might think and feel during Elizabeth's reign.

Elizabeth would keep Mary Queen of Scots prisoner for 20 years before being executed because she was so afraid of Catholic plots to put Mary on the throne. Walsingham had a network of spies carefully watching potential Catholic plotters. **1586- Babington Plot convinced Elizabeth to execute Mary. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1587** (this execution helped encourage the Spanish Armada.)



## 5) The Problem of Religion

Year	Event	Aim	Catholic Response	Protestant Response
1559	The Act of Supremacy	Makes Elizabeth the Supreme Governor	Only the Pope can be Head of the Church	Elizabeth can't be head of the Church because she is a woman but Supreme Governor is acceptable.
1559	The Act of Uniformity	All Churches in England must follow the same rules.	Catholics have to become Recusants or change their religion	The church will be Protestant
1563	The Thirty-Nine Articles	Rules for all churches to follow	Recusants or mass in private	Some of this makes the Church seem too Catholic still!
1571	The Treason Act	Catholics who deny Elizabeth has head could be executed	More fear than ever before	There are Catholic plotters everywhere!! The Pope has excommunicated Elizabeth – how dare he!
1572	St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre Puritan Printing Presses destroyed.	Destroy Puritan criticism of Elizabeth	Most Catholics don't want trouble	Protestants afraid that the Catholics in England might rise up against them Puritans feeling persecuted by Elizabeth too
1576	Elizabeth forbade Parliament from discussing religion.	To avoid squabbles	Most Catholics had converted by now	The matter was settled- The Middle Way has worked
1581	Fine for Recusancy was raised to £20	To control Catholics	Most Catholics will attend Church of England	Happy that Catholics were losing power and wealth
1585	Act against Jesuits and Seminary Priests 40 days to leave the country	To prevent Catholic plots	Priests were hidden “priest holes”	Felt safe
1593	Large gatherings of Catholics illegal and could not travel 5 miles from home!	Controlling Catholic plotters	Most people turned away from Catholicism	Felt safe and stable

## 5) The Problem of Religion

### Did Elizabeth's compromise work?

- 200 Catholics were executed this increased in the 1580s due to fears of Jesuits and plots to put Mary Queen of Scots on the throne.
- 10% of population were Catholic sympathisers by 1603
- 2% were Recusants
- Propaganda against Catholics meant that most were viewed with suspicion as unpatriotic and disloyal. Some laws against the Catholics lasted until the 1800s.
- The Anglican Church satisfied most people.
- Persecution of both Catholics and Puritans became worse after the 1570s.
- The Middle Way had to be forced on some people.
- No major Catholic or Puritan rebellion inside the country.- no civil or religious war.
- The Anglican Church is still our official church and our Queen is the Head of the Church.

### Exam practice question 3 of 4

#### **Write an account of religious persecution in the Elizabethan Age?**

3 paragraphs 10 mins (Cause and consequence question)

Why was this happening? What was done to them?

How did it get worse over time and why?

Mention specific examples of persecution of Catholics and also Puritans

The more specific details you give the more marks you get. Include dates, acts and names.

## 6) Catholic Threats to Elizabeth

On 27<sup>th</sup> April 1570 (12 years into Elizabeth's reign) Pope Pius V issued a **Papal Bull** (law) that stated that Elizabeth was excommunicated from the Church. It also claimed that she was a bastard and a heretic Queen and that it was the Christian duty for Catholics to seek to have her removed, even killed. Most English Catholics remained loyal to the queen but some became involved in plots against her.

The Pope began to train specially appointed Catholic priests known as **Jesuits** to travel to England and reconvert the people to Catholicism. Elizabeth's government was paranoid that these Catholic priests would also try to assassinate her.

**Pursuivants** were sent out to hunt-down these Jesuit priests and many Catholic families tried to hide them in **priest-holes**. The Pope had the support of the two most powerful countries France and Spain so Elizabeth felt that she was surrounded by enemies.



### Edmund Campion

- Joined the Jesuits in 1573
- In 1580 he returned to England from Rome and travelled the country preaching Catholicism.
- Arrested and taken to the Tower of London- tortured for many months but never admitted to seeking to overthrow Elizabeth.
- Found guilty of treason in 1581 and hung, drawn and quartered.

1581- Fines for Recusancy increased to £20

1585- Catholic priests ordained after Elizabeth became Queen are labelled traitors and can be executed.

1593- Catholics not allowed to travel more than 5 miles from their home.

**Do you think Edmund Campion deserved his fate?**

## 6) Catholic Threats to Elizabeth



In 1572 Catholics in France rose up against the French Protestants (Huguenots) and massacred thousands of them. This was known as the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre. Protestants in England were paranoid that the same thing might happen at home and their fear of Catholic plots grew even though most Catholics were loyal and obedient to Elizabeth.

Event	Impact
<b>1569- The Northern Rebellion</b> – Catholic Dukes of Norfolk, Northumberland and Westmoreland marched south with nearly 5000 men. The rebellion was the most serious threat to Elizabeth's rule. At this point in England Catholics were in a majority.	
<b>1570- Papal Bull</b> by Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth and called on loyal Catholics to end her rule. (Even assassinate her)	
<b>1571- The <u>Ridolfi</u> Plot</b> - An invasion from the Netherlands and the North, organised by an Italian Catholic. Elizabeth would be assassinated and replaced by Mary, Queen of Scots. The plot was uncovered before it happened.	
<b>1583- The Throckmorton Plot</b> - led by a Catholic Lord who planned to assassinate Elizabeth with the help of the French and Spanish Catholics and put Mary on the throne.	
<b>1586- The Babington Plot</b> - Letters prove that Mary was involved in this plot to assassinate Elizabeth and put her on the throne – led by Anthony Babington.	

Complete the right-hand side of the chart explaining what you think the impact of these events would be on **Elizabeth, the Protestants and the Catholics**.



## 6) Mary, Queen of Scots



### Mary Queen of Scots

- Tall
- Beautiful
- Charming
- Well-educated
- Raised in Catholic France
- Great grand daughter of Henry VII therefore a rival to the throne.
- The focus of most Catholic plots
- She marries **Lord Darnley** also a Catholic and Great Grandson of Henry VII (has a claim to the throne too)
- Most of Scotland is Protestant and wary of both Mary and Darnley.
- Darnley is murdered. Mary is suspected to be behind it with her lover **Lord Bothwell** whom she later marries. Elizabeth is horrified and says she must order an enquiry.
- The Protestant Scottish Lords imprison Mary. Her baby son James is taken away and raised a Protestant. James is declared King. Elizabeth is appalled by what happens to Mary.

Mary arrives in England in 1568  
She is held prisoner for 19 years.  
She is executed in Feb 1587.

Mary escapes to England looking for the support of Elizabeth to get her throne back.



She is treated as a Queen although technically she is placed under house arrest.

Mary's presence in England was a huge threat to Elizabeth as every Catholic subject would have wished Mary on the throne.

Sir Francis Walsingham was able to prove Mary's involvement in the Babington Plot- she is arrested and put on trial. Elizabeth delays with the execution and is very torn - she knows whilst Mary is alive the plots will not stop but also is reluctant to execute an anointed Queen.

Mary's execution gave Philip of Spain yet another excuse to plan the invasion of England- The Spanish Armada 1588.

1. Why was Mary such a threat to Elizabeth?

## 7) Conflict with Spain

Philip II of Spain saw Elizabeth as a key enemy for many reasons. As a devout Catholic he saw Elizabeth as a Protestant heretic that should be controlled through marriage or removed. Spain supported Jesuit priests sent to England and supported the Catholic plots against her which led to Elizabeth expelling Spanish Ambassadors from court. But there was rivalry in other areas too. Spain dominated trade in the New World and didn't want to allow English traders in on the action. The Spanish were very angry at the Privateering of men like Drake who had stolen fortunes in Spanish gold and silver. Additionally the Spanish had taken control of much of the Netherlands, an important trading partner with England and so Elizabeth was sending help to the Protestant rebels there by giving refuge to their ships and sending soldiers and money to help the rebels.

Complete the table below suggesting what impact these tensions might have on Spain and England.

Cause	Impact
Religion- Elizabeth is regarded as a heretic and a bastard by the Catholic Spanish who involve themselves in plots to remove her.	
The Spanish disrupted vital trade between England and the Netherlands and the New World.	
The English gave military and financial support to Protestant rebels in the Netherlands in <b>The Treaty of Nonsuch 1585</b>	
Economic- loss of Spanish silver and gold due to privateers- The Spanish blamed Elizabeth for the actions of Sir Francis Drake.	
Execution of Mary Queen of Scots in 1587.	

## 7b) The Spanish Armada

Phillip II of Spain had been planning an invasion of England for some years but the launch of his Armada in 1588 was prompted by the execution of Mary Queen of Scots.. The plan was to sail a fleet through the channel and pick up 30,000 Spanish soldiers in the Netherlands and then land on the Kent coast and march to London. The eventual defeat of the Armada was hugely significant for England and her future as a naval power



### The Duke of Parma

- **Governor of the Spanish Netherlands**
- **Expert general**
- **The Armada was due to pick up his 30,000 troops from the Netherlands at Dunkirk and sail to the South of England to invade and depose Elizabeth**



### The Duke of Medina Sidonia

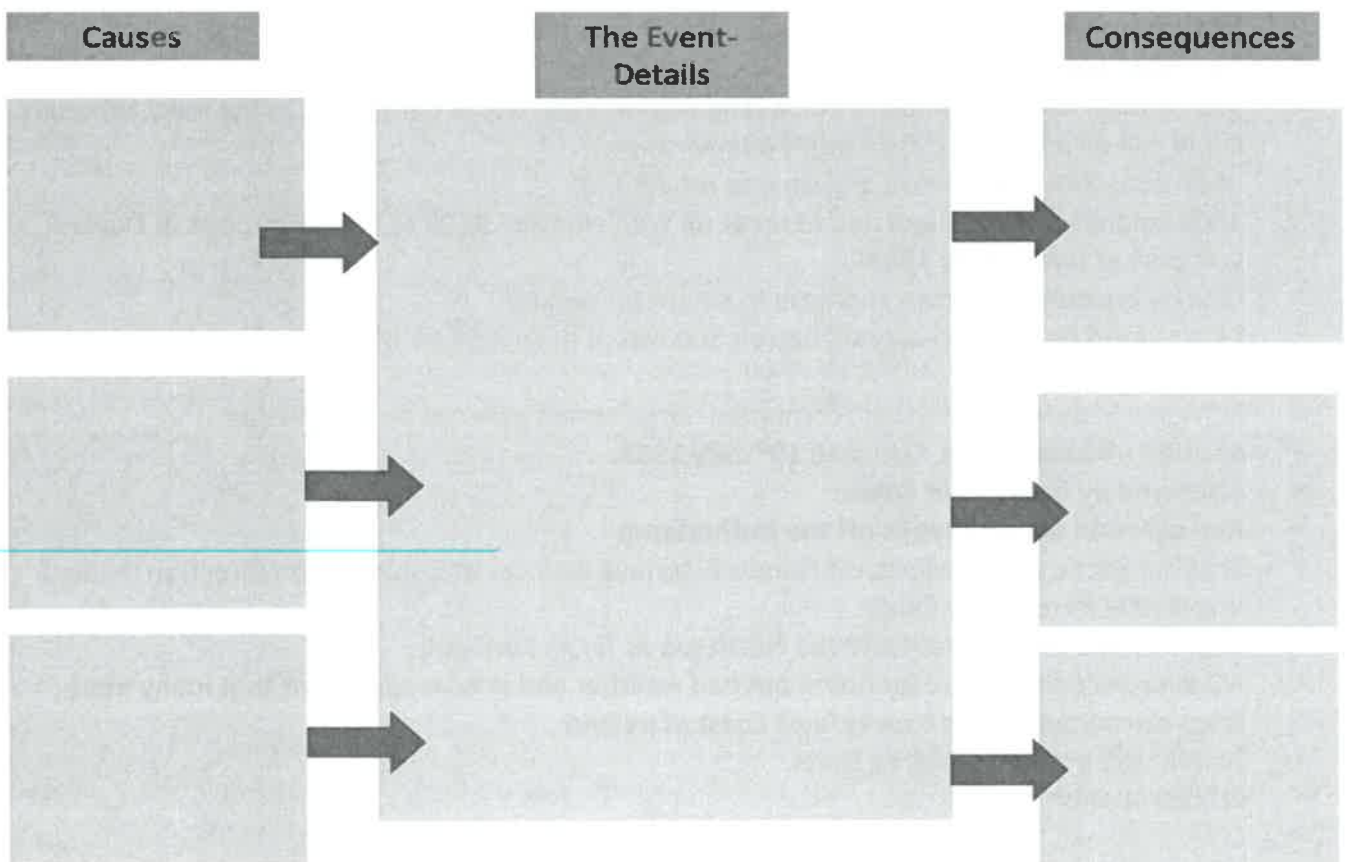
- **Put in charge of the fleet by Phillip II**
- **Good soldier but completely inexperienced naval commander**

Highlight 6 bullet – points from the details below that you think are the most important to learn about the Armada.

- Spain had every hope of winning. God on their side. Much larger ,well-trained and well-equipped army.
- 130 Spanish Galleons in the Armada (The English only had 34 battleships in the navy although could call on a further 200 privately owned ships.)
- 2500 guns (but large, heavy and slow to repeat fire)
- 1800 soldiers on board and due to meet up with another 30,00 of Parma's troops at Dunkirk
- Left port of Lisbon **May 1588-**
- Quickly encounter a storm and have to return for repairs
- Lots of food held in unseasoned barrels and rotted meaning lack of supplies and low morale for the men
- Travelled in defensive crescent formation- large armed galleons on the outside
- Spotted off Lizard Point, Cornwall **19<sup>th</sup> July 1588.**
- **Scattered by fireships at Calais**
- **Ran aground on sandbanks off the Netherlands**
- Lost the **Battle of Gravelines** off Flanders- serious damage to 5 ships. Wind direction made it impossible to return to Calais.
- English ships chased them into the North sea as far as Scotland.
- Medina-Sedonia headed for home but bad weather and poor maps meant that many more ships ran aground on the rocky west coast of Ireland.
- Just 60 ships made it back to Spain.
- 20,000 Spanish dead.

### 7b) The Spanish Armada- Why did it fail?

- The year prior to the launch of the Armada Drake and Essex had raided Cadiz (“The Singeing of the King of Spain’s Beard” ) they stole loads of the seasoned wood that would be used for barrels of food and water – this would rot later leaving the fleet short of water and food. Damage to ships also delayed the Armada for a year.
- Bad weather for the Spanish leaving Lisbon
- The inexperience of the Duke of Medina-Sidonia
- The difficulties in the Armada communicating successfully with Duke of Parma and the army in order to join forces.
- The skill and experience of **Lord Howard, Sir Francis Drake, John Hawkins and Martin Frobisher.**
- English ships were smaller, quicker and more manoeuvrable.
- English ships had light and accurate, long-range guns called **Culverins** whereas the big, heavy Spanish guns were intended for use on land.
- Drake sent **8 fireships** into the Spanish fleet anchored at Calais sending them into a panic. Some Spanish ships ran aground on sandbanks off the Netherlands.
- Belief in the Queen and God on her side- Elizabeth’s speech to her army at Tilbury



## 7b) The Spanish Armada

To this day historians debate the extent to which it was the bad planning, the skill of the English navy or bad weather that were the main reasons for the defeat of the Armada. The English admirals received medals following the defeat of the Armada with the inscription "God Blew with his wind and they were scattered". To Elizabeth it seemed it was the ultimate proof that God was on the side of Protestant England.

On 9 August 1588 Elizabeth met with her troops ready to defend London at Tilbury in Essex. She was reported to have been wearing an armoured breast-plate as if she would lead them into battle. Here she gave probably her most famous speech;

*"I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field."*



### Exam Practice Question 1 of 4

**How convincing is Interpretation C about the reasons why the Spanish Armada failed? (8 marks)**

**Use interpretation C and your own knowledge.**

From *The Spanish Armada* by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto (1989)

"Good weather was essential for Spanish success. It was the least of the miracles they expected from God."

The **Battle of Gravelines** which forced the Spanish northwards is often seen by the English as a great victory but in fact whilst the English guns did significant damage to the Spanish ships in fact no Spanish ships were sunk. They were however driven by the wind and the pursuing English north and never regained a position to rendezvous with Parma's troops.

## 8) An overview-

Feature	Summary
Marriage and Succession	
Government	
Gentry	
Theatre	
The Poor	
Exploration	
Religion	
Catholic Threats	
Conflict with Spain	

# **GCSE HISTORY: Elizabethan England, 1568-1603**

## **The defeat of the Spanish Armada in the English Channel, July/August 1588**



**Name:**

**Class:**

**Teacher:**



# What is a site study?

*"Students will be expected to answer a question that draws on second order concepts of change, continuity, causation and/or consequence, and to explore them in the context of the specified site and wider events and developments of the period studied. Students should be able to identify key features of the specified site and understand their connection to the wider historical context of the specific historical period. Sites will also illuminate how people lived at the time, how they were governed and their beliefs and values."*

*The following aspects of the site should be considered:*

- location
- resources
- people involved with the site and event
- the nature of conflict at the time
- how important events/developments from the depth study are connected to the site.

*Students will be expected to understand the ways in which key features and other aspects of the site are representative of the period studied. In order to do this, students will also need to be aware of how the key features and other aspects of the site have changed from earlier periods. Students will also be expected to understand how key features and other aspects may have changed or stayed the same during the period"*

**The question will look at change, cause, continuity or consequences.**

**Throughout this booklet you will need SIX colours. These will be used to colour code the different pages and information into one of the following categories:**

<b>Preparations</b> Resources and build up	<b>Location</b> Why was this place chosen?	<b>Personnel</b> Commanders, leaders and monarchs
<b>Plans and tactics</b>	<b>Luck</b> Things that are unexpected	<b>Conflict</b> Ongoing tension between Spain and England



# The Story of the Armada

In May 1588, King Philip II of Spain ordered his 'invincible Armada' to set sail for England and overthrow Queen Elizabeth I. This ended a long period of friendship between Spain and England that went back to the engagement of Catherine of Aragon to Arthur, Prince of Wales in 1501. Why had it come to war which was expensive and had unpredictable results?

By 1568 Queen Elizabeth I had successfully dealt with the religious difficulties of the early years of her reign and was encouraging the Church of England to follow a moderate Protestantism. Religious wars had broken out in France after 1560. This meant that England and Spain no longer needed an unwritten alliance based on shared fear of a powerful, united France. Philip II of Spain saw himself as the champion of Catholic Europe, and religious hostility to England deepened after Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth in 1570. Philip, however, was unwilling to take any immediate action against England because he had more important problems. Philip also ruled the Spanish Netherlands and in 1567 he had sent an army there to crush a Protestant rebellion. The Spanish increasingly believed that England was inspiring and supporting rebellion in the Netherlands and thought that if Elizabeth was overthrown, then the Dutch could be pacified and Philip's authority restored. This became a powerful argument for sending an Armada against England. For Elizabeth, having Philip's formidable Spanish army so close to England caused great anxiety. She could not afford to see the Netherlands crushed, so she hoped for and put forward a moderate solution to the Dutch problem. Elizabeth proposed that Philip remove his troops and keep his sovereignty but allow a degree of Dutch self-government and freedom of conscience. This compromise was unacceptable to both Philip II and the Dutch Protestants.

There was also an important economic connection to the Netherlands for England as the two countries were linked by the cloth trade. This was important for the wool producers amongst the English landed classes, the London merchant community, and Elizabeth herself who gained vital customs revenues. Philip II realised the importance of this trade and banned English traders from Antwerp – the main port for the cloth trade – twice during the 1560s to put political pressure on Elizabeth. In the early 1550s a slump in the trade had caused an English government rethink. It needed to maintain its customs revenue so it raised the tax rate on exports, restricted the trade to only English ships, and aimed to exploit aggressively new markets in the Portuguese and Spanish colonial empires. Queen Elizabeth approved of this policy. She had stated at the start of her reign that she would not be bound by the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) in which, with the Pope's blessing, Spain and Portugal had divided the New World between themselves. Despite all of this, a thriving trade between England and Spain existed, and was important to both countries. Even the more hawkish members of Elizabeth's Privy Council, such as the Earl of Leicester, profited from it. However as relations between the two countries deteriorated, this Anglo-Spanish trade was particularly vulnerable to retaliation for the activities of English privateers. For example, in 1568 the Spanish attacked John Hawkins and Francis Drake at San Juan de Ulúa in the Caribbean where they had been trading, as the Spanish saw it, illegally.

**When had friendship between England and Spain started?**

**What religion did Elizabeth move England towards?**

**Who were Spain and England no longer at war with?**

**When did Pope Pius excommunicate Elizabeth?**

**What did Elizabeth want to happen to the Netherlands?**

**Why did England need the Netherlands?**

**Why would Philip ban the trade of cloth?**

**Who was illegally trading in the Caribbean?**

**How did Philip view this?**

In that same year, Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland arrived in England. As both a claimant to the English throne and a Roman Catholic she was an immediate focus for those English Catholics, possibly with support from abroad, who wished to overthrow Elizabeth. As relations between England and Spain continued to deteriorate in the 1570s, Philip II toyed with the idea of helping to put Mary Stuart on the throne through the Ridolfi plot. In 1574 and 1575 he assembled large fleets in his northern ports, supposedly to support his army in the Spanish Netherlands but which could easily have been used against England. The first fleet was dismantled when its commander died and the second was severely battered by a storm in the English Channel. Elizabeth, recognised the threat and advised by John Hawkins, began building a fleet of new ships in the early 1570s that would be fast and manoeuvrable against lumbering Spanish galleons. These advantages Francis Drake demonstrated during his circumnavigation of the globe (1577-1580) when he sacked Valparaíso and captured a Spanish treasure ship. Drake was operating as a privateer – an unofficial pirate – and Philip II protested about his actions but Queen Elizabeth gratefully accepted part of Drake's loot and knighted him on the deck of his ship in April 1580. By doing so she sent a simple message to Philip that England was no longer at peace with Spain, even if she was not yet at war.

Events in the 1580s pushed England and Spain further towards war. In 1580 Philip II added Portugal to his empire, unifying the Spanish peninsula under his rule. In 1583 Santa Cruz, Philip's leading Admiral, captured the Portuguese islands of the Azores and encouraged the King to believe that this was how a successful invasion of England could be achieved. Meanwhile in the Netherlands, the Spanish army, led by the Duke of Parma, was defeating all Dutch resistance. When in July 1584, William of Orange, the Dutch leader was assassinated, the Dutch rebellion seemed doomed. England was now the leading Protestant power in Europe. In May 1585, Philip made a fateful decision to turn against England and he seized all English and other Protestant shipping in Spanish harbours. Although he soon cancelled the order, the damage was done; his actions provoked Elizabeth's government into sending privateers against Spanish shipping in great numbers. Any opposition to this aggressive anti-Spanish stance amongst English traders and the nobility, now disappeared. The Privy Council had been split. Those who had been in favour of peace were less affected by religious enthusiasm, more conservative, and concerned about the cost of any war. The war party, led by the Earl of Leicester and Sir Francis Walsingham, did not believe in the compromise which Elizabeth favoured, and they doubted how seriously Spain would negotiate. Now, however, all were agreed that events meant Elizabeth had to respond. She sent the Earl of Leicester and 5,000 men to the Low Countries, and ordered Drake to terrorise Philip's Spanish and Caribbean territories. There could be no mistake, England and Spain were at war.

**When did Mary Queen of Scots arrive in England?**

**Why was she a threat?**

**Why would Philip help Mary, Queen of Scots?**

1.

2.

3.

**What did Elizabeth do to Drake which upset Philip?**

**Why was Elizabeth concerned about Spain in the 1580s?**

**What happened to William of Orange? How would this affect Elizabeth?**

**What did Philip do to cause Elizabeth to send privateers?**

**Who did Elizabeth send to cause problems for Philip?**

With Pope Sixtus V, offering financial and moral support, Philip decided that the invasion of England was on. In 1586 Philip ordered Santa Cruz to assemble a fleet. Philip did not want any invasion to place a pro-French Mary Stuart on the English throne so her execution in February 1587 removed another obstacle to his plans. However, Drake's attack on Cadiz in 1587 did delay the Armada preparations. Santa Cruz's efforts over the next two months to hunt down Drake and protect the treasure fleet which he thought was Drake's target, left the Admiral's Spanish galleons in need of repair and re-provisioning. Santa Cruz was further disappointed to find that his plans for the invasion had been overtaken by those of the Duke of Parma. Accordingly, Santa Cruz would now merely guard and shepherd Parma's 27 000 troops across the English Channel. Things got even worse for Santa Cruz when, on 16 November, a violent storm damaged 39 ships inside Lisbon harbour. The Admiral reported to the king on 12 December that the Spanish fleet might not be ready to sail for another month. Philip would not accept this and ordered Santa Cruz to go to sea. However fate struck on 9 February 1588, when after a short illness, Santa Cruz died. Philip quickly replaced him with the Duke of Medina Sidonia, a high-ranking and experienced naval administrator who, although not particularly welcoming the appointment, was prepared to do his duty. While Medina Sidonia, assisted by many experienced naval commanders, familiarised himself with the 'Enterprise of England', Parma prepared for the arrival of the Armada by cutting a canal from Antwerp to Bruges and built flat-bottomed boats to carry his men out to sea.

The Armada of about 130 ships, 2,431 guns, and 30,000 men finally set sail from Lisbon on 28 May, 1588 and the 'Enterprise of England' began. It probably was, as Sir John Hawkins described it, 'the greatest and strongest combination of arms that was ever gathered in all Christendom'.

**Who did Philip want to be in charge of the Spanish fleet?**

**Where did Drake attack and when?**

**What was Santa Cruz's role in the invasion?**

**Who replaced Santa Cruz? Why?**

**How prepared was Philip?**

**NEW WORDS:**

**KEY FIGURES:**

# An extract adapted from 'The Lurch into War', by Simon Adams, (1988).

The arrival of the Armada took the English by surprise because by the end of July 1588 they had decided that it would not sail so late in summer. The purpose of the fleet at Plymouth had been offensive rather than defensive as they intended to intercept the Armada in Spanish waters. Only the bad weather that drove the English fleet back to Plymouth in June and July prevented it from doing so. The surprise arrival of the Armada caused many English ships to leave Plymouth to engage the Spanish where they did not intend to, and before they could take on board adequate supplies of food and ammunition. Therefore the running battle up the Channel was both unplanned and unexpected. Instead, the English fleet was preparing to leave for the Azores to intercept the expected annual silver fleet from the Spanish Americas. This suggests that an offensive war against Spain was more widely supported than historians have previously thought. Why did England go to war with Spain in the first place? War was never formally declared before the peace treaty of 1604 but hostilities had broken out in 1585 when a small English army was sent to help the Netherlands, followed by Drake's raid on the West Indies in the winter of 1585-86. These provocative actions led Philip II to decide that the 'Enterprise of England' was both necessary and justified.

The sea war and the English Netherlands intervention formed a combined strategy of 'self-sustained war', in which military expeditions in Europe would be financed by the profits of maritime raiding in the Spanish empire. This strategy had first been outlined a decade earlier when Drake's return from his circumnavigation voyage and the Spanish occupation of Portugal added a new dimension to the potential confrontation with Spain. Drake's success showed the vulnerability of the Spanish empire, the vast profits to be gained, and the apparent superiority of English ships and mariners. This self-sustaining war now seemed a practical way to correct the inequality of resources between England and Spain. The central scheme involved intercepting the annual silver fleet from Spanish America at the Azores, where it would have to stop to take in supplies of water. Alternatively the West Indies could be attacked directly. Drake also discovered that the Portuguese empire in the East Indies was vulnerable to English commerce because although the Spanish conquest of Portugal had dramatically increased Philip's resources, it also extended the area that he would have to defend. English support for Dom Antonio, a claimant to the Portuguese throne who was exiled in England, could lead to the capture of the Azores, trade with the Portuguese Indies, and even a revolt in Portugal itself.

English intervention in the Netherlands was caused by the assassination of William of Orange in July 1584. The Privy Council believed that the Netherlands was close to complete political breakdown leading to a total Spanish victory. This limited intervention was not aimed at defeating Parma's army but to create a military stalemate which would persuade Philip to accept Elizabeth's compromise settlement. This remained the aim of her policy and she saw no conflict between providing limited military assistance to the Dutch and continuing to put forward peace proposals. Since it was doubtful that Philip would be forced to negotiate just by English military intervention in the Netherlands, Elizabeth had no alternative but to apply pressure at sea. Philip's seizure of English shipping in May 1585 worked in her favour, for it allowed her to justify not only the issuing of privateering commissions, but also a widespread counter-embargo on trade with Spain. Yet this blockade was almost impossible to enforce and only a more direct form of naval attack would be effective.

**Why was there a fleet at Plymouth?**

**Why had war broken out?**

**How was the war meant to be 'self-sustaining'?**

**Why was the self-sustaining war seen to be a good idea?**

**Why was the expansion of the Spanish empire a disadvantage to Philip?**

**Why did Elizabeth help the Spanish Netherlands?**

**Why did Philip seize English shipping?**

# An extract adapted from 'The Lurch into War', by Simon Adams, (1988).

The evolution of such a direct naval strategy is unclear, however, and although Drake left England in September 1585 clearly intending to raid the West Indies, it is debateable how much Elizabeth and her councillors knew about it. In the spring of 1586 a larger Anglo-Dutch naval attack on Spain was discussed but nothing came of it except for a little-publicised attempt by Hawkins to intercept the silver fleet that summer. In fact the naval war of 1586 was anything but a success as Drake's West Indies voyage failed even to pay for itself. The original purpose of the Cadiz voyage also remains unclear. All that survives of Drake's instructions is the order of 19 April 1587 (which Drake never received) telling him not to enter a Spanish port, since Elizabeth believed that Philip was willing to enter into serious peace talks. It seems that Elizabeth's main aim was the destruction of the shipping that Philip was reportedly assembling for the Armada, and Cadiz may not have been identified as a specific target. Unlike the West Indies voyage, however, the Cadiz expedition was a dramatic success. Drake caught the Spaniards assembling the Armada, and their widely dispersed fleet was unable to combine to oppose him. Although he missed the silver fleet, Drake returned to England very impressed by the possibilities for a future invasion of Portugal – something more substantial than merely 'singeing the King of Spain's beard'.

Drake's fleet was kept at Plymouth during the winter of 1587–1588, so it could mount a major expedition in 1588. By October 1587, the threat of the Armada had to be taken seriously but the English were, perhaps, over confident. Not only did they underestimate the number and effectiveness of the Armada's ships, but it did not seem possible that the Spanish would attempt to sail up the Channel and rendezvous with Parma. He had a well-deserved reputation for deception so a more devious plan seemed likely, one that involved Ireland and Scotland, where the Armada would be difficult to intercept. It is, therefore, not surprising that at the beginning of 1588 offensive measures for the English looked more attractive than remaining on the defensive. Burghley proposed two expeditions, one to the Azores to intercept the silver fleet in the summer, while Drake proposed intercepting the Armada off Lisbon. As a result Howard was instructed to assemble the majority of the fleet at Plymouth in May. As in 1587, Elizabeth's main aim was to destroy Spanish shipping as the threat to Ireland or Scotland made it too risky to wait for the Armada to arrive in home waters. The ships at Plymouth made up the largest fleet the Elizabethan government had ever assembled but supplying it was extremely difficult, and a combination of organisational delays and bad weather prevented the offensive campaign from taking place. Instead, it was the Armada that made its way safely to the Channel and forced an encounter in home waters.

**Where did Drake raid in 1585?**

**What did Hawkins do?**

**What was more of a success Cadiz or the West Indies? Why?**

**What did the English not expect the Spanish to plan to do?**

**What did Burghley suggest?**

**What was Elizabeth's main plan?**

**How important were privateers and key individuals to the failure of the Armada?**

# Why was their conflict between England and Spain?

As King of Spain, Philip II was one of the wealthiest men in the world. Spanish explorers had returned from voyages in south America with vast treasures from Spain's new colonies. Philip's conquests overseas had received the Pope's blessings so he saw it as his religious duty to expand his power and influence. In 1554, two years before he became king, Philip married Mary I of England. As long as they were married he would be a joint monarch with her. The aim was to unite the Catholic world, but upon Mary's death there was no child. Philip quickly proposed to Elizabeth I. She did not refuse, but just kept him waiting. For a number of years England and Spain were at peace. But this would not last forever.

In August 1566 there were several Protestant uprisings in several Dutch (Spanish Netherlands) cities. Although the disagreement was originally about taxes, this soon took on a religious dimension. There was an outbreak of iconoclasm when Catholic icons, images and sculptures, were smashed and rioting took place. Philip was ruthless in his response. He sent Spanish soldiers to restore peace. This led to even more resistance among Dutch Protestants. Although Elizabeth did not want an all out war, she agreed to send money and volunteers to help the Protestant rebels. She also offered protection to rebel ships known as the Gueux de Mer (sea beggars) in English ports until 1572, greatly angering Philip.

England needed to support the Netherlands as they wanted to continue the cloth trade with Dutch merchants. Conflict was bad for business. Philip was also not keen to get too involved in the rebellion, as he had more pressing matters to deal with close to home in Portugal. He sent a powerful army led by the Duke of Alba to crush the rebellion, but this just made the situation worse.

In 1584, the Dutch rebel leader, William of Orange, was assassinated by a Spanish Catholic. Things grew more chaotic and finally, in 1585, Elizabeth sent troops to support Protestant rebels. She did not want Spain to get too powerful but she was concerned about France becoming increasingly involved. She sent Robert Dudley and 7000 soldiers. Although Dudley achieved very little, this was a clear act of war against Philip and Spain.

**Why was Philip powerful?**

**What did Philip do at the start of Elizabeth's reign?**

**Why was there a rebellion against Spanish rule?**

**How did Elizabeth help to start?**

**Why did Elizabeth want to support the Dutch?**

**How did Philip deal with the rebellion?**

**Why might Elizabeth have been reluctant to send troops?**

**What had happened to Elizabeth in 1570 which might influence how Philip felt?**

**Why might the assassination of William of Orange concern Elizabeth?**

# The importance of naval warfare

<p><b>Attacks on Spanish Bases</b>  Privateers attacked Spanish colonies (foreign countries ruled by Spain) and bases in both Europe and the Pacific from the 1560s to the 1580s.  In 1568 an expedition led by John Hawkins was heavily defeated in the Caribbean. All except two of his ships were destroyed.  From 1572 to 1573 Francis Drake successfully raided the Spanish colony of Panama, seizing gold and silver.  During his circumnavigation of the globe (1577-1580), Drake's attacks on Spanish bases in the Pacific and Canaries resulted in the capture of gold, silver and Spanish coins (pieces of eight or pesos).  In 1587 Drake attacked Spanish ships at Cadiz in southern Spain. This was his most devastating attack on the Spanish with 30 Spanish ships destroyed and many captured. This delayed and weakened the Armada that sailed in 1588.</p>	<p><b>Give three times that English privateers successfully attacked Spanish bases:</b></p> <p><b>What impact did these raids have on the Spanish?</b></p>
<p><b>English Naval Tactics and Technology</b>  By the 1570s English tactics were starting to change. English ships mounted a number of small cannons which could be reloaded quickly. The plan was to get as close as possible to the Spanish vessels and fire devastating rounds of shot (small led balls) into their ships, causing the wood to splinter and lead to casualties. The English had to get close enough to cause damage – but not too close to allow the Spanish to board their ships. Since 1573 English shipyards had produced ships that had full rigging (sails), allowing them to manoeuvre more easily among enemy ships before sinking or disabling them using cannons.</p>	<p><b>Give three tactics of English naval ships:</b></p>
<p><b>Spanish Naval Tactics</b>  The Spanish practiced a convoy system – with treasure ships travelling in a large group of other ships for protection. For privateers to seize these ships they would have to board them. The Spanish prevented this by sinking the privateers' ships or boarding them.  To board and capture English ships, the Spanish had to get as close as possible. To sink ships, the Spanish ships had to carry large cannons that could not be easily reloaded. The Spanish were also unable to sustain their fire against English ships.  Spanish tactics, both against the Dutch and the English, were defensive. They protected treasure ships and escorted troops at sea, so English privateers preferred to attack bases after the treasure had been unloaded.</p>	<p><b>Give three tactics of the Spanish navy:</b></p>

### How did English tactics compare to Spanish tactics?

## Advances at sea in the sixteenth century



### **Faster and more manoeuvrable ships**

A new type of triangular sail known as a lateen allowed for much faster travel and new ships focused on both speed and manoeuvrability. This allowed greater distances to be travelled but was also perfect for raids and battles.



### **More powerful weapons**

Whereas previously sailors would have had to try and board enemy ships it was now possible to fire at them with cannons and try to sink them from a distance. Ships were built specifically for battle and for use in the 'line of battle' tactic. Stronger, sturdier ships allowed for heavier and more powerful weapons to be carried.

### **New technology**



**More accurate navigation** New inventions like the astrolabe allowed for greater accuracy when planning voyages and working out location.

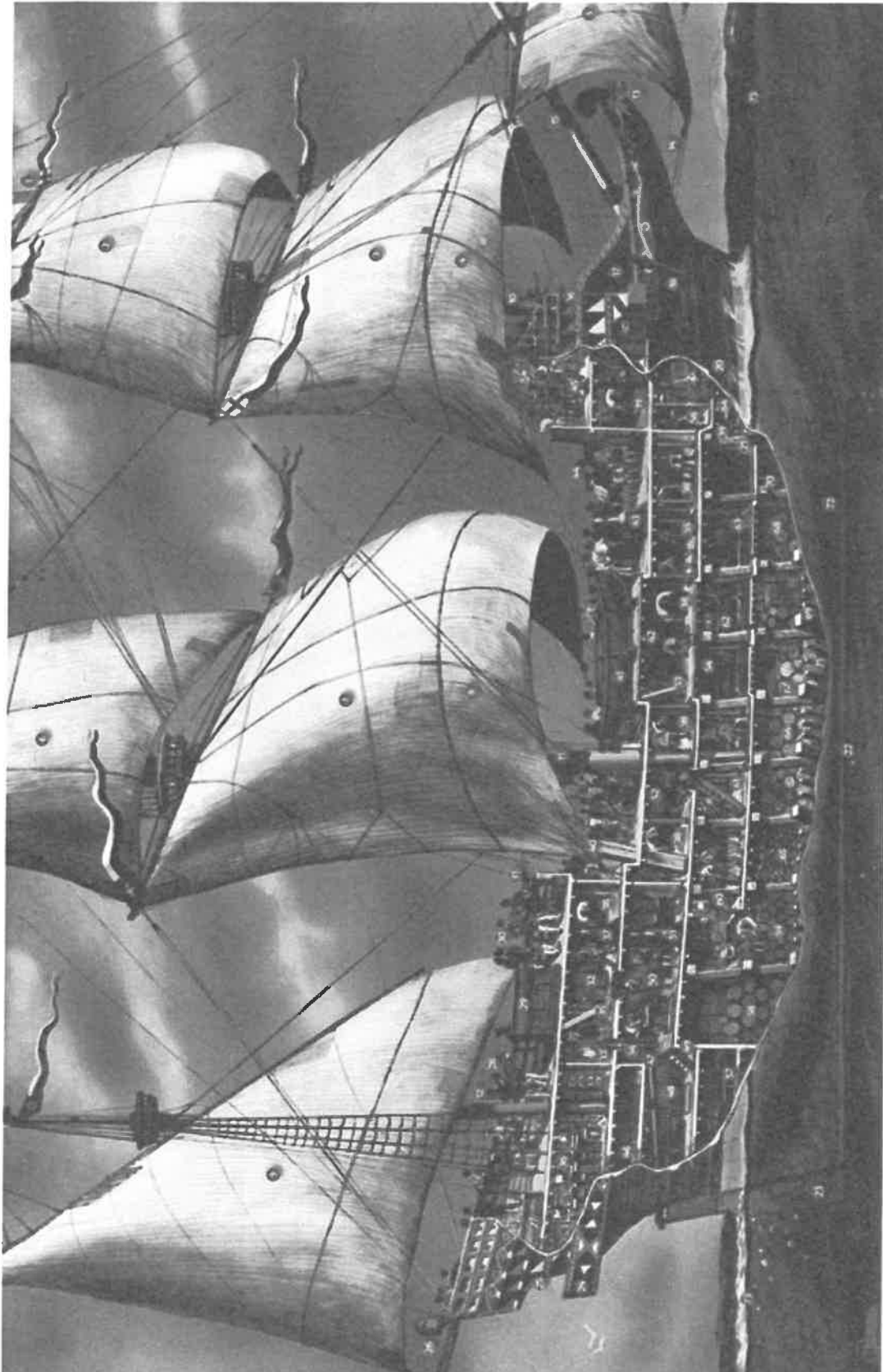
This allowed explorers to embark on journeys with a much higher level of accuracy and to be more prepared for passing through hostile waters.

Explain how new technology improved naval warfare:

**FACCT:** Previously cannon balls had been hand carved out of stone, however the invention of the blast furnace meant that cannon balls could be made identically and had a lower risk of misfiring.



# An English Ship



<b>SAILS</b>	<b>MASTS</b>	<b>HAIF-DECK</b>	<b>UPPER DECK-DECK</b>	<b>LOWER DECK-DECK</b>	<b>OUTER DECK</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>
1 Fore top-sail	10 Fore	27 Locks	32 Officers' cabins	39 Head in deck	57 Lazaretto	Cables, spare	General stores
2 Fore top-sail	11 Main	28 Mast	33 Helmsman	40 Night's head	58 Beer store	spare etc.	90 Ribs and main
3 Fore course	12 Mizzen	29 (shown flying)	34 Whipsail	41 Boats stowed	59 Great hatch	63 Hatch covers	timbers
4 Fore lower	13 (for sailing)	30 (shown flying)	35 Main stowage	42 Great hatch	64 Crew's space	64 Crew's space	70 Crew (for
5 Spritsail	20 Great night	31 (shown flying)	36 Main stowage	43 Main cabin	65 Protected	65 Protected	admiralty)
6 Main top-sail	30 Officers	32 (shown flying)	37 Main stowage	44 Members of	66 Fresh water	66 Fresh water	timbers
7 Main course	31 Drive-halves	33 (shown flying)	38 Great cabin	45 Cabin Run-pipe	67 Young crew	67 Young crew	71 Ballast
8 Main lower	34 (shown flying)	34 (shown flying)	39 (shown flying)	46 Cabin Run-pipe	68 Carrying powder	68 Carrying powder	72 Outer planking
9 Main lower	35 (shown flying)	35 (shown flying)	40 (shown flying)	47 Cabin Run-pipe	69 (shown flying)	69 (shown flying)	...

## ENGLAND

Elizabeth I



Sir Francis Drake



Lord Howard



Philip II



## SPAIN

Duke Medina of Sidonia



Duke of Parma



Defence Force

13,000 soldiers



4,000 veterans

NAVY : 233 VESSELS

156 support ships

34 galleons



8 fireships



35 Dutch ships



14,000 sailors



2,000 guns

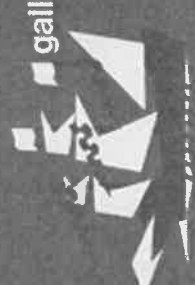


(600 are naval guns)

ARMADA : 130 VESSELS

10 Portuguese galleons

4 galleasses



8 Atlantic guardships



108 transports



20,000 soldiers



2,000 mostly land guns

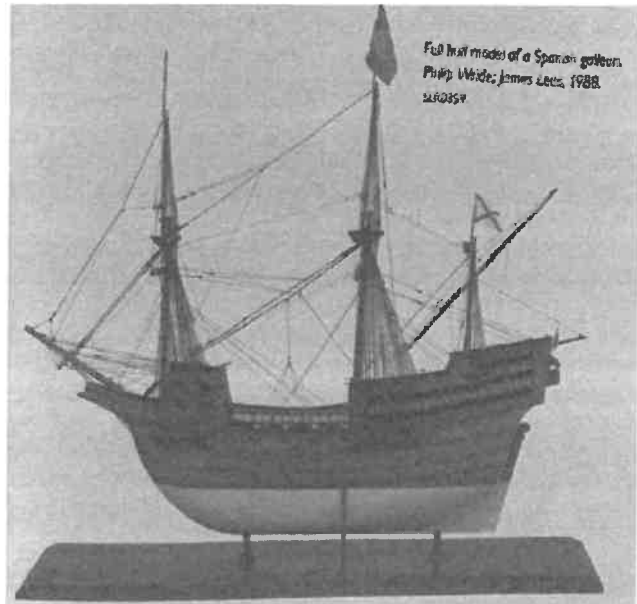
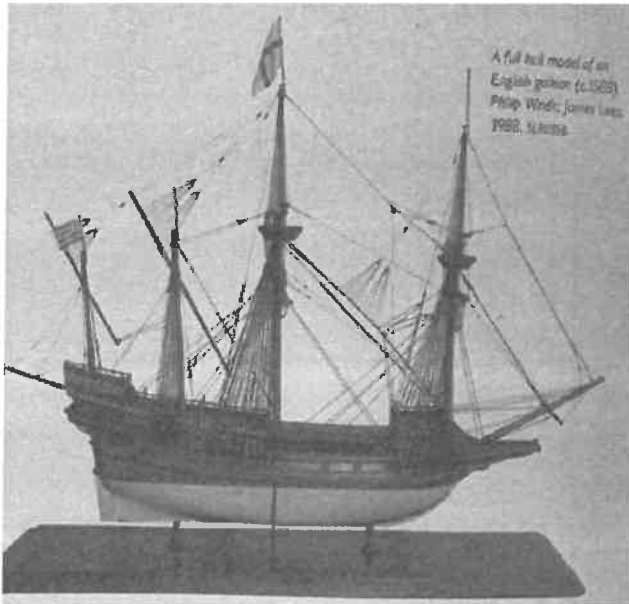


Invasion Army

27,000 veterans in Flanders



# English vs Spanish Ships



**Compare the English ship on the left with the Spanish ship on the right.**

Size and height

Number of sails

**Type of ships they had**

**What impact would this have on the battle?**

# An extract adapted from 'Guns, Gales & God: Elizabeth I's 'Merchant Navy'' by Ian Friel (2010).

Between 1585 and 1603 England and Spain waged a bitter maritime war that England survived rather than won. This was due to Spanish errors, bad weather and the problems of staging long range seaborne invasions. The English ability at sea also played an important part in fending off invasion and carrying the war to the Spanish empire.

Elizabeth I's royal fleet was never large and had no permanent officers or sailors. As a result, it relied on men and ships from the merchant community to supply extra warships, storage vessels and troop transports. Of the 226 or so English ships that faced the Armada only 34 were Elizabeth's, the rest belonged to her subjects. The merchant fleet itself was not very big in the early 1580s with only 177 ships having a capacity of 100 tons or over which made them officially capable of fighting. The fleet did grow considerably from the later 16th century as the government paid grants to private owners to build ships of 100 tons or more and subsidies were given for just over 500 ships between 1560 and 1610. Most were probably built in England, but some vessels were acquired from abroad by purchase, capture or legal seizure.

Towards the end of the century more of the larger vessels with a capacity of over 200 tons were built which reflected a growing demand for larger trading ships on long-distance routes or as privateers. In the first half of the 16th century the English maritime economy was dominated by the cloth trade between London and Antwerp but the decline and eventual collapse of the Antwerp market in the 1550s and 1560s prompted merchants to start looking further afield. From the 1550s a series of voyages to more distant parts of Europe, as well as growing numbers of transoceanic expeditions, aimed to open up new markets and gain access to exotic, high-value goods. Ship owners were mainly merchants, but the gentry and aristocracy also invested in vessels and there was some financial involvement from lower down the social scale. Ships were expensive to build and maintain so part-ownership and Joint Stock companies were common because it helped spread the risk of financial loss resulting from shipwreck or capture. Sea trading was hazardous but could offer high returns on the initial investment, with cargoes often being over fifty times more valuable than the ships that carried them, which explained why owners and investors risked their money.

Shipboard facilities were primitive. Cabins were few and limited to senior officers while sleeping arrangements for ordinary sailors were haphazard and basic. Hammocks were used in some Elizabethan warships but may not have been common in merchant ships. The ship's kitchen was also basic, and often deep in the unhealthiest part of the ship. Boiled food was common, although there is evidence that some cooks were able to toast, grill or fry food at sea. Fresh provisions were sometimes available on shorter voyages, but normal shipboard food - salted beef, pork and fish, cheese, and biscuit - was made to last. Beer was the usual drink because it could be stored for longer than water without becoming contaminated. A sailor's rations could have provided enough calories for heavy work in wet and cold conditions but the food was not good for long-term health due to its high salt content, poor quality and lack of vitamins. Scurvy, a deadly disease caused by vitamin C deficiency, was first encountered by Elizabethan sailors on long-distance voyages. Some seafarers knew that fresh fruit and vegetables could prevent scurvy, but it took centuries for this knowledge to change the sailor's diet significantly.

**What problems did the Spanish face when it came to organising an invasion?**

**What was a disadvantage of the English military?**

1. .

2.

3.

**What type of ships were being built? Why?**

**Where is Antwerp? What country owned it?**

**What can ship building tell us about society?**

**Describe the conditions on ships for sailors.**

# An extract adapted from 'Guns, Gales & God: Elizabeth I's 'Merchant Navy'' by Ian Friel (2010).

Rats, fleas and other vermin were common despite efforts to keep ships clean and the filth that built up could produce a stench throughout the vessel. Crowded conditions meant that disease could spread rapidly and although there were surgeons on board, there was little they could do to fight food poisoning or major epidemics. The Elizabethan world was class conscious with a strict social hierarchy but ordinary sailors had some personal freedom and status. Professional ability and personal qualities were more important than birth or social position. This status meant that ordinary sailors were consulted by their commanders on major courses of action – a shipboard 'democracy' at odds with the way the rest of society operated and which contributed to the reputation of seamen as being difficult to control.

However, consultation was less common on voyages of exploration and virtually non-existent in naval vessels. Sailors learned their craft at sea, many started out at a very young age as ships' boys. Most stayed as ordinary seaman although a few gained apprenticeships (often through family connections), which could lead to officer status. Merchant sailors normally negotiated their own wages and signed up for just one voyage. The casual nature of this employment was the source of the seaman's relative freedom, but it could also be the freedom to starve. Work was often uncertain and, if a ship was lost, any survivors were paid nothing. Many sailors were highly skilled, but they worked in difficult, dangerous and frequently violent conditions and they often behaved accordingly. They were constantly at risk from shipwreck, attack, drowning and shipboard accidents and while some were incredibly ruthless, others showed mercy to their enemies or risked their lives to save shipmates. Religion was a constant presence at sea, with services held once or twice a day aboard most ships. Also, it was not unknown for sailors, whose standards of literacy seem to have been higher than those of the general population, to possess religious texts.

Given its discomforts and dangers, why did men go to sea? Family tradition or the prospect of freedom motivated some, but most became sailors because it gave them the chance to escape poverty and perhaps even get rich. Working on a merchant ship provided a poor man with wages, accommodation and regular meals, while privateer and pirate crews received shares in the ships and cargoes they captured. The profit motive ran through the seafaring community from top to bottom and the prospect of loot even led Drake to desert his station temporarily during the 1588 Armada campaign to pursue a disabled Spanish warship.

Piracy was widespread in the 16th century and many merchant ships were armed. The war with Spain turned privateering into a major industry with between 100 and 200 (and sometimes more) English ships a year engaged in privateering and piracy during the conflict. Over half the ships seized by the High Court of Admiralty between 1579 and 1590 had weapons of some kind, although few merchantmen could match the firepower of the Queen's warships with their many cannon. However, in trying to tackle piracy, the Elizabethan government faced a problem as the most successful pirates were often the people most needed to defend the country at sea.

**What were other challenges facing sailors on both sides?**

**Did the ships follow the great chain of being?**

**What type of freedoms did sailor have?**

**What risks did sailors faced?**

**Why would people become sailors?**

**Why was piracy a problem?**

# An extract adapted from 'Guns, Gales & God: Elizabeth I's 'Merchant Navy'' by Ian Friel (2010).

England was a much more significant force in trade and conflict at sea when Elizabeth I died in 1603 than it had been in the 1550s. Before her reign, England had been little more than a northwest European maritime power but the voyages of trade, privateering, piracy and exploration made English ships a regular presence from northern Russia to the Mediterranean, as well as in parts of the Americas, Africa and Asia. However, it was not the superpower that later myth has made it, nor were its sailors always the stuff of legend, motivated as they were, more by poverty or greed, than by a desire for glory. Yet without the sailors and ships of the merchant fleet, it is unlikely that the royal navy could have kept the country free from a Spanish invasion. The fleet allowed England to 'punch above its weight' in the conflict at a time when the country's growing merchant navy and experienced seafaring community enabled England to move onto the world stage for the first time.

**How did trade develop in Elizabethan England?**

**How did changes to ships influence the Armada?**



# Timeline of the Armada

The Armada may have been more than two years in the making for Philip II of Spain, but its engagements with the English fleet took place over the course of just a few days in 1588. Meanwhile, a vital cog in Spain's plan to invade England never came to fruition at all; a Spanish army from the Netherlands had been waiting to join up with the Armada but, in the end, never left land.

**4 May New Style 1588**

Pope Sixtus V blessed the Armada's banner (flag) in a sign of his support for the campaign to invade Protestant England, overthrow Queen Elizabeth I and reinstate Catholicism. Pope Sixtus V saw the planned invasion of England as a crusade against the Protestant country.

**28 May**

The Armada set sail from Lisbon and headed for the English Channel, its intention being to meet up with a Spanish army coming from the Netherlands. This army was headed by the governor of the Spanish Netherlands, the Italian Duke of Parma. It took the 130-ship Armada two days to leave port. In the Spanish Netherlands, meanwhile, Elizabeth's representative there, Valentine Dale, held peace negotiations with representatives of the Duke of Parma.

**6 July**

The negotiations between Dale and the duke's representatives collapsed.

**19 July**

The Armada entered the English Channel and was sighted for the first time by the English, off a peninsula in southern Cornwall called "The Lizard". Later that day, the Armada caught a fleet of 66 English ships unawares at Plymouth, but the Spanish commander, the Duke of Medina Sidonia, declined to attack them. Instead, the Armada sailed east, towards the Isle of Wight.

**21 July**

An English fleet of around 55 ships soon gave chase to the Armada, engaging the Spaniards at daybreak on 21 July near a rock grouping known as Eddystone Rocks. But by the end of the day, neither side had gained much of an upper hand. After nightfall, however, English Vice Admiral Francis Drake made the mistake of snuffing out

**What was happening in the 1580s to encourage the Armada?**

**Why would the pope bless the banner?**

**What is a crusade?**

**Who was the Armada planning to meet?**

**How many ships did the Armada have?**

**Who was the English representative? Why might Elizabeth want to negotiate?**

**Where were the Spanish ships sighted?**

**Who refused to attack?**

**How many ships chased the Armada?**



a lantern he had been using to guide the English fleet, in order to slip away from the Spanish. The unintended consequence was that his fleet was scattered and the Armada was given a day's reprieve.

The commander of the English fleet, Lord Howard of Effingham, ceded some of his control to Vice Admiral Francis Drake due to his battle experience.

### **23 July**

The two sides engaged again, this time off the Isle of Portland. As the English launched a full-scale attack, the Duke of Medina Sidonia ordered the Armada out of the Channel to avoid the Owers, a group of ledges and rocks.

### **27 July**

The Armada anchored in open seas, off the port of Calais in the north of modern-day France. At that point, it looked as though the goal of joining up with the Duke of Parma's army could be within sight. But it had previously been difficult for the Armada to stay in touch with the Duke of Parma's army, and it was only at this point that the Duke of Medina Sidonia became aware that the army was not yet assembled at the nearby port of Dunkirk as expected.

Furthermore, boats belonging to Dutch rebels had blockaded Dunkirk.

Waiting in open seas, the Armada was vulnerable to attack.

### **29 July**

In the early hours, the English sent eight so-called "fireships" to attack the Armada. These sacrificial ships were filled with combustible material before being set alight and sent towards the enemy fleet in order to cause destruction and chaos. In this case, none of the Spanish ships were burnt, but the fireships were successful in causing the fleet to break formation and scatter.

The Duke of Medina Sidonia tried to reform near the small port of Gravelines, further up the coast. But the English soon attacked, with the ensuing clash becoming known as the Battle of Gravelines. The English fleet had learned something of the Armada's strengths and weaknesses during its previous engagements with the Spanish fleet. This, coupled with its superior manoeuvrability, meant it was able to provoke the Armada's front line ships into using up much of their ammunition, while many Spanish gunners were killed.

By late afternoon, however, the weather was worsening, and the English were out of ammunition. So they chose to withdraw.

When the winds shifted to blow northwards, the Armada was able to escape into the North Sea.

**What error did the Vice Admiral make?**

**Who gave more control to Sir Francis Drake and why?**

**What did Medina Sidonia want the Armada to avoid?**

**Who was the Armada meant to meet in Calais?**

**Give three problems the Armada faced:**

1. .

2. .

3. .

**How many fireships did the English send?**

**What was a fireship?**

**What was the impact of these fireships?**

**Where did the English and Spanish ships meet?**

**Why did the English have an advantage?**

**What happened in the afternoon?**

1. .

2. .

### 30 July

The Duke of Medina Sidonia held a council of war to decide whether to return to the Channel or travel home to Spain via a route that would take them around the top of Scotland. Strong south-westerly winds ultimately made the decision for the Spanish, however, pushing the Armada even further north. Despite being out of ammunition, the English fleet still pursued the Armada up the east coast of England, not wanting it to return to meet up with the Duke of Parma's army.

### 2 August

The commander of the English fleet, Lord Howard of Effingham, called off the pursuit of the Armada in the Firth of Forth, off Scotland's east coast.

### 9 August

Elizabeth visited English troops at Tilbury, Essex, giving her famous battle speech. By this point, the Armada had already rounded Scotland on its journey home but there was still the potential for the Spanish army led by the Duke of Parma to attack from the port of Dunkirk in modern-day France. Meanwhile, as long as the Armada was still in waters close to the British Isles, it still posed a threat.

Ultimately, the feared Spanish invasion never came and troops at Tilbury were discharged shortly after Elizabeth's visit. But her appearance on the north bank of the River Thames would go down as a defining moment, not just of her reign but of British history as a whole.

Elizabeth's public presence among commoners was in itself remarkable, but the stirring speech she gave to the troops was particularly extraordinary and included the lines:

*"I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too"*

### 11 August

The troops were discharged from Tilbury. Meanwhile, the Armada was still doing okay. It may not have pulled off joining up with the Duke of Parma's army but it had escaped the English fleet relatively unscathed and was on its way home. But this situation was not to last.

### 1-14 September

During this time, the Armada experienced some of the worst weather to ever hit the region and the result for the fleet was catastrophic. Nearly a third of its ships were wrecked on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland, while the vessels that survived would return to Spain severely damaged by the storms.

Some 5,000 men are believed to have died in the wake of storms, some at the hands of English forces after their ships were driven ashore in Ireland. And many of the survivors were in a bad state – lacking food and water and suffering from diseases.

Which route to Spain did the Spanish take and why?

How did the English react?

Who called off the pursuit?

Why do you think Elizabeth gave a speech to soldiers?

What impression do you think Elizabeth wanted to give to the soldiers?

How was the Spanish Armada fairing at this point?

What happened on the journey back to Spain?

# An extract adapted from 'The Chief Business: the Spanish Armada, 1588', by Patrick Williams, published in 'History Review' (2009).

Elizabeth's advisers were deeply divided over the Armada. Drake and Hawkins urged the queen to destroy the Armada in Lisbon but her political advisers insisted that the English fleet had to remain in home waters at a time of national peril and it was to these men that Elizabeth listened. She, like Philip, chose a leading nobleman, Charles Howard, Lord of Effingham, to control her argumentative sailors. Drake, who terrified his colleagues almost as much as he did the Spanish, was fobbed off with the position of Vice-admiral. By 3 June, Howard and the main fleet were stationed at Plymouth while Lord Henry Seymour guarded the Strait of Dover.

On 9 May, Medina Sidonia gathered his men and sealed his fleet in Lisbon harbour (not least so that no one could flee from it) but it was still not ready to sail for another three weeks, so its men continued to use up provisions and to put up with worsening sanitary conditions. When on 30 May the Armada at last edged out to sea, it consisted of 141 ships and 26 961 men (7 666 seamen and 19,295 soldiers). The weather would not let up, however, and Medina Sidonia decided to re-provision at Corunna where the fleet was struck on 19 June by a powerful storm that threw many ships into the Atlantic and Bay of Biscay. This was the last straw for Medina Sidonia who urged Philip to abandon the enterprise and negotiate an honourable settlement with Elizabeth. Outraged, Philip ordered him to sail at once. On 21–22 July, ten weeks after the last men had gone on board, the Armada set sail again. It now consisted of 127 ships – 20 galleons and four fighting galleys, 44 armed merchantmen, 38 auxiliaries and 21 supply ships.

## Victory and Defeat

At about 4.00 pm on 29 July the Armada sighted England. Some commanders urged Medina Sidonia to attack the English fleet in Plymouth Sound but he insisted on pressing ahead to the Strait of Dover. Unknown to him, in the late afternoon the English had sailed out of Plymouth against the prevailing wind and sailed around the Armada to take up position to the windward giving it a crucial advantage. The Armada was now in a crescent formation to protect its fighting galleons in the centre but the formation had the disadvantages of preventing it from using most of its guns and of making it more likely that ships could collide with each other.

**When did Mary Queen of Scots arrive in England?**

**Why was she a threat?**

**Why would Philip help Mary, Queen of Scots?**

1.

2.

3.

**What did Elizabeth do to Drake which upset Philip?**

**Why was Elizabeth concerned about Spain in the 1580s?**

**What happened to William of Orange? How would this affect Elizabeth?**

**What did Philip do to cause Elizabeth to send privateers?**

**Who did Elizabeth send to cause problems for Philip?**

## An extract adapted from 'The Chief Business: the Spanish Armada, 1588', by Patrick Williams, published in 'History Review' (2009).

At 9.00 am on 31 July the English opened fire with the *San Juan de Portugal* receiving over 300 rounds. At about 5.00 pm the *San Salvador* was disabled by an explosion and captured by the English. Shortly afterwards, Medina Sidonia reluctantly abandoned the *Nuestra Señora del Rosario*, which had been damaged in a collision. Drake sneaked up on her during the night and claimed her as his prize. Taking the two ships would have encouraged the English who realised that the men on the enemy fleet were enduring dreadful hardship and squalor.

On 2 August, Howard launched the first full assault, attacking Medina Sidonia's own galleon, the *San Martín*, for ten hours. This action convinced the English commanders that although they could not easily sink Spanish galleons they had little to fear from the long-range guns of the Armada because while the English fired over 500 cannon balls, the *San Martín* had responded with only 80 shots, and all of them were from one side. As a result Howard decided to save his ammunition for the decisive battle in the Strait, although there was some heavy fighting off the Isle of Wight, as the English made sure that the Spanish could not land there. Despite the Armada not being attacked for three days, all this time it was using up its valuable (and rotting) supplies and water.

By about 4.00 pm on 6 August, the Armada was close to Calais where Medina Sidonia received the shattering news that Parma would not be able to join him for at least a week, even assuming that he could escape the Dutch ships barricading the coast. Anxious about the situation, Medina Sidonia now gave the fatal order to anchor 35 kilometres from Dunkirk. Lord Seymour now joined Howard and the combined English fleet of 160 ships took up position facing the Armada. As the sun went down the Spanish were terrified to see eight fire ships being towed towards them and believing that they were packed with explosives and incendiaries, Medina Sidonia ordered his fleet to disperse and regroup after the danger had passed. In fact, the fire ships were not laden with bombs and did hardly any damage, but their appearance broke the formation of the Spanish fleet, something which the English commanders had been unable to do. As panic spread through the Armada, some captains even cut their anchors which would have a dreadful effect in the hours and weeks to come.

At dawn on 8 August, the English, with the wind and currents in their favour, launched a ferocious and relentless attack on the Armada. This Battle of Gravelines, involving a score or so fighting galleons on either side, lasted for nine hours. Much of the battle was fought at such close-quarters that sailors could hurl abuse at each other, though the English were careful not to allow the Spanish to come close enough to use grappling irons. The wisdom of Howard's decision to save his ammunition now became clear as the firepower of the Armada was only three-quarters of that of the English. The Spanish ships had less than one-third of the long-range guns that the English had (172:497) and fewer of the heavy and medium guns (165:251). Worse still, the Spanish heavy guns could not be reloaded and fired quickly, and since many of them had been acquired from across Europe, the ships often did not have the correct cannon balls to use in them. As a result the Battle of Gravelines was desperately uneven.

**How many shots did the English fire?**

**Name two boats that were attacked by the English.**

**What did the English discover about the Spanish sailors?**

**What did Howard plan to do?**

**What was a problem with the Spanish provisions?**

**What had happened to the Duke of Parma?**

**How many English ships attacked the Spanish?**

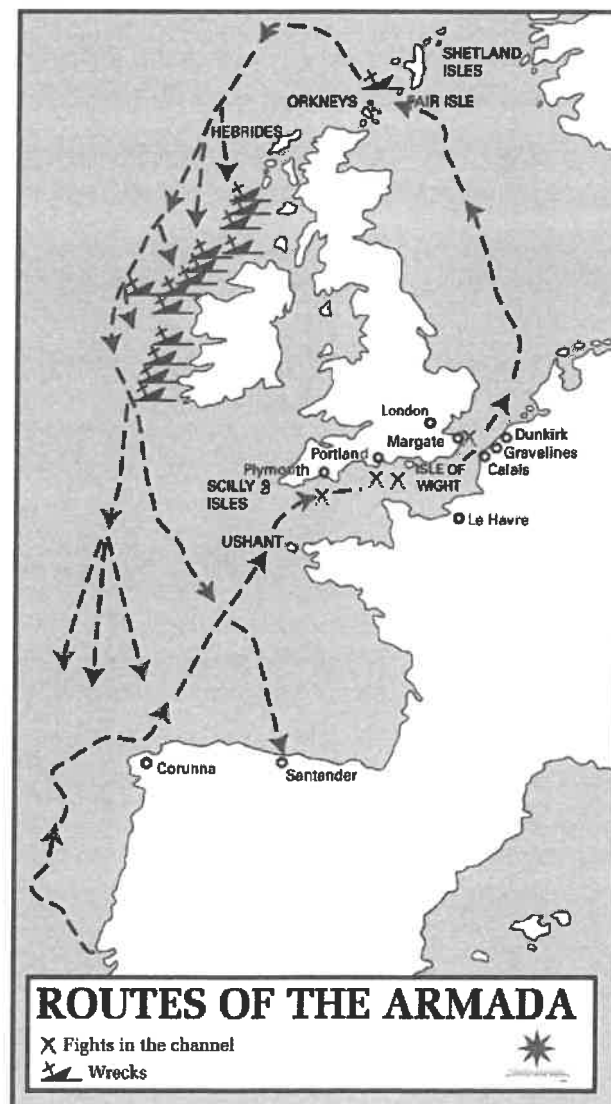
**Why were the fireships a successful tactic?**

**How did the Spanish respond to the fireships? Why would this be a problem?**

**What did the Spanish want to use against the English?**

**Why were Spanish cannons a weakness?**

Add details to the map – what happened at each location



# Timeline

1560s



1588

# Key Statistics

Date	July–August 1588	
Location	North-west Europe	
Result	Decisive Spanish defeat <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Militarily indecisive</li><li>• Spanish invasion failure</li><li>• Protestant propaganda victory</li></ul>	
Belligerents		
Kingdom of England Dutch Republic	Habsburg Spain	
Commanders and leaders		
Lord Howard of Effingham Francis Drake – a famous privateer, known by the Spanish as El Draco with a £6 million reward for his capture John Hawkins – famous privateer, he had been in charge of the English navy since 1577 and had been instrumental in the modernising of ships Justinus van Nassau	Duke of Medina Sidonia – Philip’s second choice after the death of Santa Cruz; he sent many letters to Philip criticising the plan which were never delivered to him as his courtiers refused to hand them over. Juan Martínez de Recalde – had pushed for a pre-emptive attack but was refused; he didn’t get on well with Medina Sidonia Duke of Parma	
Strength		
34 warships 163 armed merchant vessels (30 more than 200 tons) 30 flyboats	22 galleons of Portugal and Castile, 108 armed merchant vessels (including four war galleasses of Naples) 2,431 artillery pieces 7,000 sailors 17,000 soldiers (90 percent were Spaniards, and 10 percent were Portuguese)	
Weapons		
2000 cannons, including culverins, long range – light and could be fired quickly	2000 cannons – mainly to fire heavy cannon balls over short distances 125000 cannon balls Bullets, pikes, swords, armour, gunpowder	
Income		
£300,000	3 million (around 10 times that of Elizabeth)	
Food		
Daily restock of beer, ship biscuits, fish, cheese, bacon, butter, salted beef	No restocking. Barrels damaged by Drake’s raids on Cadiz so the food and water supplies leaked and rotted.	
Casualties and losses		
<b>Battle of Gravelines:</b> 50–100 dead 400 wounded Eight fireships burnt <b>Disease:</b> 6,000–8,000 dead	<b>Battle of Gravelines:</b> More than 600 dead 800 wounded 397 captured Five ships sunk or captured <b>Overall:</b> ~35 ships lost (10 scuttled) 20,000 dead	

**Which army seemed stronger in the run up to the battle? Why?**

# An extract adapted from 'Why the Armada Failed', by Geoffrey Parker, (1988).

In the autumn of 1585 reports poured into the Spanish court concerning both the build-up of English forces in the Netherlands and the trail of destruction left by Drake and his ships. The king responded by asking his two most senior serving officers, the Marquis of Santa Cruz and the Duke of Parma, to devise a strategy for the rapid conquest of England. In March 1586 Santa Cruz proposed launching a full-scale invasion from Spain the following summer using overwhelming force. He would strike in southern Ireland to draw Elizabeth's forces away and then mount a surprise attack on the south coast of England. Philip was impressed, and in April 1586 orders went out to start collecting the 286 ships, 60 000 men, supplies, and heavy artillery envisaged by Santa Cruz. But then, late in June, the Duke of Parma submitted another plan which proposed a lightning attack by some 30 000 troops from Flanders. This Spanish army led by Parma would land in secret on the Kent coast and march on London to capture the queen and her ministers. Since Parma thought the crossing could be achieved in twelve hours, and the march on London within a week, there was no part in his plan for a fleet from Spain except to cover their retreat if things went badly wrong.

Which of these plans would the king choose?

Only someone with no military experience could have done what Philip did and attempt both strategies at the same time! In July 1586, Philip decided to continue gathering an enormous fleet in Spain, which would sail up the English Channel and shepherd Parma's army in barges across the Channel to land in Kent. This expedition was expected to capture London almost at once and set up a temporary government of occupation under Cardinal Allen, leader of the English Catholic exiles.

By April 1587, the plans were well advanced. Parma had organised a strong build-up of forces in the Netherlands, while at Lisbon Santa Cruz had a strike-force of fifty fighting ships, plus a few supply vessels, with a large convoy of auxiliaries and transports, guarded by the galleons of the American treasure fleet at Cadiz. These preparations were known about in England where Elizabeth's government received regular intelligence reports both from Portuguese exiles in London with links in Lisbon, and from English spies abroad, particularly in Italy, where Philip looked for financial support from the Pope.

Acting on this information, Elizabeth launched a pre-emptive strike by authorising Drake to make his famous raid on Cadiz in April 1587, commonly known as 'the singeing of the king of Spain's beard'. This was not as damaging as was once thought. Despite the loss of twenty-four ships, the destruction of some supplies, and the annoyance to Spain of the disrupted shipping between Andalusia and Lisbon for six weeks, it was not critical. The real damage resulted from Drake's departure to the Azores afterwards. He aimed to intercept and capture the rich treasure ships returning from India and America, and it was that possibility which forced Santa Cruz to lead the Lisbon fleet in pursuit. Drake's menacing presence in mid-Atlantic forced Santa Cruz to stay at sea until September 25, despite storm damage to his vessels and serious losses of men and munitions, as he tried to stop the English from capturing or destroying more Spanish shipping. When the battered royal fleet finally returned to Lisbon, it brought the treasure ships home safely but it was obvious that the Armada could not now sail against England in 1587. Drake had given his country one more year to prepare.

**Where had Drake been destructive?**

**Describe the Spanish plans.**

**What was the Spanish back up plan?**

**Who would be in charge of the temporary English government? Why?**

**What type of preparations did the Spanish do?**

**How did Elizabeth know about these plans?**

**What was the singeing of the king of Spain's beard?**

**How did Drake further influence the Armada's preparations?**



# An extract adapted from 'Why the Armada Failed', by Geoffrey Parker, (1988).

Philip II, realising that a surprise attack was no longer possible, had to devise a new invasion strategy. He decided to drop any diversionary attack on Ireland and his Armada would now sail in a single, unwieldy, but overwhelmingly powerful fleet directly to the Channel to join forces with Parma and his army.

In February 1588 Santa Cruz, died from typhus and the task of implementing the new strategy fell to his replacement, the Duke of Medina Sidonia. Medina Sidonia was remarkably successful in supervising the vast work of assembling more ships, troops and munitions than had ever been collected in a European port before. Only three months after the Duke took command, everything was ready. On May 28th, 1588, the Armada put to sea but before long rations were being used up faster than they could be replaced and the daily allowance was cut by a third. Furthermore, some of the guns, powder and stores produced in the spring of 1588 turned out to be unfit for use. Nevertheless this was not what caused failure. If the Armada had landed successfully in Kent, there would have been enough of everything to secure the Spanish position. Philip II failed to conquer England, not because of defective supplies, but through unsound strategy and faulty tactics.

The Duke of Parma has taken much of the blame for the failure of 'the Enterprise of England', because, it is said, his forces were not ready to join the Spanish fleet when it arrived. Records show, however, that enough boats to transport his army were ready from September 1587 until August 31 1588. Ready, that is, except for final departure because the boats were too small for either men or stores to be left on board for long. Parma repeatedly told the king that his little ships could only transport troops, not fight and that, 'four warships could sink every boat we have'. Although ready, Parma's men and ships were confined to port until the Armada could make the seas safe. In the end, as a result of the thorough drills which Parma had insisted on, the final embarkation of his troops took just 48 hours.

The problem was that, when the Armada finally reached the Narrow Seas, Parma did not have 48 hours. Philip II underestimated the problems of co-ordinating two huge military undertakings separated by one thousand miles of water. Medina Sidonia's messages informing Parma of his progress, took days to arrive so the courier he sent on August 6th did not arrive until the evening of the 7th. But unfortunately for the two dukes, on August 6th, the Armada was already waiting at Calais, and by the evening of the 7th it was facing attack by English fire ships. It was already too late by the time Parma knew for certain that the fleet had arrived.

But why was it too late? Why could the Armada not wait? Despite enjoying ideal weather, the Armada could only travel as fast as the slowest ship (roughly the speed of a rowing boat). It is to Medina Sidonia's credit that his fleet's tight formation and excellent discipline brought it to Calais with only three losses, but anchored in the powerful tides off the port, he lost strategic control of the situation. Medina Sidonia simply did not know what to do next. He waited there for a day and two nights, not realising that Parma did not know that he had arrived. It was also here that the Armada campaign fell apart. Philip II's masterplan now depended on the Spanish having command of the sea but the English navy had not been decisively defeated. Philip II had never considered this, and the English were not simply going to wait patiently for the Duke of Parma to embark his troops.

**How did Philip change the plan?**

**Who was the new leader of the Spanish navy?**

**Why were provisions an issue?**

**Why does Parker think Philip failed?**

**Why were the ships a problem for the Spanish?**

**What had Philip underestimated? Why was communication a problem?**

**Why were ships a problem for the Spanish?**

**What problem did Medina Sidonia face?**

# An extract adapted from 'Why the Armada Failed', by Geoffrey Parker, (1988).

Why were the English victorious in the battle that followed? John Hawkins's achievement in rebuilding or laying down a fleet of 'race-built' warships was important as they were probably the best warships anywhere in the world. By 1588, however, only twenty-four galleons out of a fleet of over 135 were of the new design. Perhaps the number of older vessels explains the cautious reaction of the English fleet as it failed to prevent the Armada's orderly progress up the Channel. After an initial skirmish off the Isle of Wight on August 3rd/4th, they did not attack again until four days later, off Gravelines.

This attack showed that the English had got the measure of the enemy. They launched an aggressive and devastating close-range cannon assault on the Spanish fleet. Surprisingly in this battle the Queen's ships, unlike the Spanish, sustained no substantial structural damage, only some minor damage to spars and ship's boats. Why was this, when we know that, at close range, the Spanish guns should have been at their most destructive?

Medina Sidonia said that the Armada at Gravelines had almost completely run out of shot, particularly of the heavier type. But we know that this was not true as many ships which survived the fight had substantial stocks of round shot and powder still on board, including of the 'ship-smashing' calibre. Accounts of the battle show that a Spanish ship fired one or two rounds a day, so why couldn't the Armada fire more frequently and effectively? Spanish guns were always kept loaded and a ship was expected to fire its close-range cannonade just before it rammed and boarded its enemy. The Spanish did not expect to have to fire a second round, so both their training and equipment were unsuited for reloading during a battle such as Gravelines where the English delivered a close range continuous bombardment.

This was because there were only two ways to reload muzzle-loading guns at sea in the sixteenth century. The guns could either be untied and dragged inboard and reloaded within the ship, or they could be left in the fully run-out position and loaded outboard. Outboard loading was awkward and dangerous because the loader had to uncomfortably straddle the hot barrel outside the gun's porthole and carry out the reloading from this exposed and difficult position, all within small-arms range of the enemy. It was equally impractical for cannon to be loaded inboard while a ship was closely engaged with the enemy due to a lack of working space on Spanish gun decks and the inefficient design of their gun carriages. Therefore, once close action began, most Spanish ships only managed to fire their previously prepared salvo, and were never able to apply a continuous close range cannonade against the enemy. Although smaller weapons could still be used, they would not sink ships.

It was not an inequality of guns that explains Spain's defeat at Gravelines, so much as the four small wheels on the English gun carriages, which can be seen as England's decisive secret weapon in 1588. These small wheels meant that the gun muzzles could protrude much further through the gunports, with no awkward wide wheels to obstruct the sides or rear. This contrasted with the clumsy and inefficient Spanish gun mountings, which made reloading in action virtually impossible. As a result English broadsides could be delivered consecutively during the course of a fight with the range of fire being dictated by the superior sailing qualities of the English ships.

**What was John Hawkins' impact on the battle?**

**Were new galleons important?**

**What advantage did the English have in battle?**

**What problem did the Medina Sidonia point out about the Spanish at Gravelines?**

**What was a flaw of the Spanish tactics and training?**

**Why did Spanish cannons have a disadvantage?**

**How did wheels help the English win?**

# An extract adapted from 'Why the Armada Failed', by Geoffrey Parker, (1988).

Philip II had realised this danger and warned Medina-Sidonia that 'the enemy's objective will be to fight at long distance, to get the advantage of his guns, so our fleet should attack and get close to them, ready for hand-to-hand combat.' Unfortunately Philip chose a strategy that made his fleet a sitting target for tactics known to favour the English. Although he had maps and reports, he never met his senior commanders to discuss the best way to carry out the grand design, nor did he let them question the strategy he intended to force upon them. Instead, he did everything he could to silence their criticisms. None of Philip's plans followed the proposals they had made and the final version depended for success upon a tactical edge which Spain's ships did not possess. Most of the blame for the failure of the Spanish Armada should go, not to Parma or Medina Sidonia, but to Philip II. The king had created the Armada, and the king destroyed it.

**Why was Philip's plan so flawed?**

**How convincing is the view that "The king had created the Armada, and the king destroyed it"?**

# Role of Sir Francis Drake



*Sir Francis Drake at Plymouth*

On 19th July, word came that the Armada had been sighted and so an English force led by Sir Francis Drake left Plymouth to meet it. It is said that when Drake was told of its approach, he simply replied that he had plenty of time to finish his game of bowls before defeating the Spanish. A touch bravado perhaps, or is just possible that he recognised that the tide was against him getting his ships out of Devonport harbour for an hour or two! When Drake eventually did get his ships into the Channel however, there was little he could do to inflict much damage against the solid well built hulls of the Spanish ships. The crescent shaped sailing formation they adopted also proved very effective in ensuring that in the main, all Drake could achieve was to waste a lot of ammunition firing at the Armada.

After five days of constant cannon exchanges with Drakes ships the Spanish were now running desperately short of ammunition. In addition, Medina Sidonia had the extra complication that he also needed to pick up the extra troops he needed for the invasion from somewhere on the mainland. On 27th July the Spanish decided to anchor just off Gravelines, near modern day Calais, to wait for their troops to arrive.

The English were quick to exploit this vulnerable situation. Just after midnight eight "Hell Burners", old ships loaded with anything that would burn, were set adrift into the resting and closely packed Armada. With ships made of wood sporting canvas sails and loaded with gunpowder the Spanish couldn't help but recognise the devastation these fire-ships could cause. Amidst much confusion, many cut their anchor cables and sailed out to sea.

**What impression does this picture give of Drake?**

**When did Drake hear about the Armada?**

**Why might Drake have delayed leaving for battle?**

**How were the Spanish ships arranged?**

**What problem did Drake face?**

**What problem did the Spanish face?**

**Where did the Spanish stop?**

**What was a Hell Burner? How many were there?**

# Role of Sir Francis Drake

New World voyages	Role of a privateer
During many of his voyages 1570-71, he attacked Spanish ships that were carrying goods from the New World Colonies, such as silver. He would seize their cargo. Some thought that this was piracy.	Drake was hired as a privateer in 1572. He went to Panama and captured Spanish ships that were carrying £40,000 worth of silver. Philip II was furious about this and considered Drake to be a pirate. Elizabeth did not want to provoke Philip, so she made sure that she did not publicly welcome him home and only did so in privacy.
Secret Orders 1577	Circumnavigation
Elizabeth asked Drake to sail to the New World (around the bottom of South America) and retrieve treasures such as gold and spices. In November 1577 he was due to set sail in the Golden Hind when Elizabeth told him that there were secret orders that made up part of her plan. Drake was told that he could attack Spain's colonies in the New World - take its goods and disrupt their trade. Drake returned with a good haul of treasures - £400,000. This was great for England's treasury which needed the money. He also claimed part of California, which he named New Albion. Elizabeth I knighted him for his work. Philip I was furious as he saw Drake as a pirate and this was clearly Elizabeth and England defying Spain's control of most of the New World colonies.	As part of his official trip on the Golden Hind in 1577-80, Drake's route led him to circumnavigate the globe. This made him only the second person to do this and the only Englishman. This boosted England's reputation as a naval power and it was evidence of their ability at sea.
'Singeing of the King of Spain's Beard' 1586	Attacking Portugal 1586
By the end of 1485, Philip II had decided he was going to attack England and so began preparing an Armada at the start of 1486. Drake was ordered by Elizabeth in March to attack Spain's navy at Cadiz (their key port). In April, Drake sailed into the port and set fire to 30 ships and greatly damaged the resources they had there.	In mid-1486, after the attack on Cadiz, Drake attacked the Portuguese coastline (Spain controlled Portugal) and the Azores. He hoped to attack Spanish ships and take cargo such as silver, which they were bringing back from the New World. This caused a disruption for Spain because it meant they had to interrupt their Armada preparations and instead use ships and time to defend itself against Drake. This cost Philip and the Armada precious time as it meant the attack on England was delayed for a year. This was good news for Elizabeth as it gave England an extra year to prepare for the attack.

How did Sir Francis Drake influence Anglo-Spanish relations?

# An extract adapted from 'The Spanish Armada' by Robert Hutchinson, (2013).

It was obvious that England could not just sit back and wait meekly to be defeated by the invading Armada. John Hawkins, now treasurer of the Navy, wrote to Walsingham on 1 February 1587 calling for a naval reconnaissance expedition of six warships to disrupt Spanish preparations for war by imposing a blockade on their ports. Drake also argued for urgent action, believing that a pre-emptive strike on the Spanish fleet was vital to allow time for England's land and sea defences to be strengthened. After much characteristic dithering and without much enthusiasm Elizabeth agreed to Drake's mission on 25 March, but would only allow four of her own warships and two smaller vessels to take part. The rest of Drake's fleet of twenty five ships would be fitted out and paid for by nineteen London merchants who hoped to benefit from rich pickings and plunder gained during the expedition. Elizabeth's government was very careful to hide preparations for the expedition and its purpose was kept secret from all but its most senior officers. Speed was essential not just for the element of surprise, but because Drake rightly feared that his assault on Spain could be halted even before it had sailed, by fresh orders from Elizabeth. Stocked up with food, water and munitions, Drake left Plymouth on 12 April and sighted the Spanish coast three days later. Meanwhile Elizabeth was having second thoughts about Drake's expedition as reports reached her that preparations for a Spanish invasion were slowing and that the Duke of Parma had sent an envoy with tempting promises of peace. Nine days after Drake had left, Elizabeth sent urgent instructions that he was not to attack any Spanish ports or towns but he could attack Spanish ships.

From personal experience, Drake understood that the Spanish fleet could not operate effectively without adequate stores of food, water and ammunition so instead of striking at heavily defended Lisbon where the Armada ships were gathering, he planned to attack their main supply base at Cadiz. There was only one entrance channel for large ships, which had to pass under the guns of the city walls. Drake's second in command, privately and forcibly argued against an immediate attack on the Spanish but Drake dismissed his concerns.

Drake's fleet arrived outside Cadiz about one hour before sun set under strict orders to fly no flags until the very last moment to confuse the lookouts on the city walls. It was a warm spring evening. Cadiz's central square was packed with spectators watching an acrobat, as the first English cannon shots boomed across the bay. There were 32 large ships in the port, loaded with supplies for the Spanish fleet. Over the next two days Drake's fleet set them alight while under constant fire themselves from onshore cannon although these did little damage to the English ships. Spanish galleys attacked Drake's ships but they were no match for the English heavily armoured warships and when the Spanish used smaller vessels as fire ships they were towed away by English sailors and harmlessly run aground in shallow waters. Although the arrival of the Duke of Medina Sidonia with 6000 local militia prevented the English from landing on the inner harbour, Drake still restocked his ships with Spanish wine, oil, biscuit and dried fruits, while around 500 tons of bread were set alight, along with 40 tonnes of wheat. Most important was the destruction of a year's supply of iron hoops and wooden staves used to make barrels. This was to be a disaster for the Armada as food and water had to be stored in unseasoned, leaky casks which resulted in depleted water supplies and quickly rotting food.

**What was John Hawkins' impact on the battle?**

**What did Drake want to happen?**

**How did the rise of the gentry help the English navy?**

**What did Elizabeth instruct Drake to do?**

**Why did Drake attack Cadiz?**

**How many ships were in Cadiz?**

**What did Drake do?**

**What was the role of Medina Sidonia?**

**What impact did this raid have?**

# An extract adapted from 'The Spanish Armada' by Robert Hutchinson, (2013).

Overall the Spanish had lost 24 ships valued at more than £750 000 (£137 000 000 at today's prices) which horrified Philip when he heard the news in Madrid. Drake and his English ships sailed off westwards leaving behind them confusion and panic stricken messages sent hastily around Spain and Portugal warning of the danger that Drake still posed. Medina Sidonia also sent a ship to the West Indies ordering the treasure fleet to stay in Cuba until it was known that Drake was safely back in England. Meanwhile Drake was receiving information about shipping movements and one piece of information must have made his eyes light up. The San Felipe, laden with expensive exotic spices, silks and precious stones worth £108 000, was shortly to arrive from the East Indies and was duly captured on 18 June making a handsome profit for those merchants who had invested in Drake's expedition. All Elizabeth's doubts about the expedition had now disappeared and she was able to boast of its success to an astonished and disbelieving French ambassador in May. One of Walsingham's agents also reported the fear as well as the damage that Drake's expedition had caused to the Spanish. The English expedition arrived back in Plymouth with the San Felipe on 26 June 1587 to an outburst of national hero-worship for 'singeing the King of Spain's beard', as government propaganda described it. Drake had destroyed over 10,000 tons of Spanish shipping, much of the Armada's supplies, and had delayed it from sailing for at least 12 months.

**What impact did the raid have?**

**Why were the Spanish concerned about Drake?**

**How did the Spanish feel after the attack?**

**Where did the English ships arrive back at?**

**How did Drake help the English against the Armada?**

**Was Drake helping or hindering Anglo-Spanish relations?**

**Do you think the Queen agreed with Drake's actions?**

**Should we see Drake as a hero or a villain?**

# Key Individuals

Person	Achievements, facts and details
Elizabeth I	
Philip II	
Medina Sidonia	
Howard of Effingham	
Francis Drake	
John Hawkins	
Juan Martínez de Recalde	



# Dan Snow's Armada from *Empire of the Seas*

1. What type of provisions were kept on board ships?
2. What was an advantage of Plymouth's location? Where could it see?
3. How long was a round trip to the New World?
4. What products did Hawkins and Drake transport to the New World?
5. Where was Spain's empire in the New World?
6. Where did Hawkins and Drake end up? And what happened to them?
7. What motivated Hawkins and Drake to attack Spanish ships?
8. What ship did Hawkins plan? How was it different?
9. How many sailors were able to be mobilised to defend England?
10. How many ships did Drake sink
11. How long did it take to mobilise the English fleet?
12. Why does Dan Snow think that the English won the battle with the Armada?
13. How did Elizabeth respond to the victory over the Armada?
14. How did victory over the Armada shape the attitudes of the English? What did people want now?
15. How did the defeat of the Armada shape the future of England?

# Richard Hakluyt's *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation* (1589)

I meane (among others) that glorious triumphant, and thrise-happy victory atchieued [achieved] against that huge and haultie Spanish Armada (which is notably described in the ende of this volume) wherein being chiefe and sole Commander vnder her sacred and roiall [royal] Maiestie, your noble gouernment and worthy behauior, your high wisdom, discretion and happinesse, accompanied with the heauenly blessing of the Almighty, are shewed most euidently [evidently] to haue bene such as all posteritie and succeeding ages shall neuer cease to sing and resound your infinite prayse and eternall commendations. As for the late renoumed expedition and honorable voyage vnto Cadiz, the vanquishing of part of the king of Spaines Armada, the destruction of the rich West Indian Fleete, the chasing of so many braue and gallant Gallics, the miraculous winning, sacking, and burning of that almost impregnable citie of Cadiz, the surprising of the towne of Faraon vpon the coast of Portugal, and other rare appendances of that enterprise, because they be hereafter so iudicially set downe, by a very graue [grave] and learned Gentleman, which was an eye witnesse in all that action, I referre your good Lord to his faithfull report, wherein I trust (as much as in him lay) he hath wittingly depriued [deprived] no man of his right. Vpon these and other the like considerations, I thought it fit and very conuenient [convenient] to commend with all humilitie and reuerence [reverence] this first part of our English Voiages & Discoveries vnto your Honors fauourable censure and patronage...

But to leaue [leave] our ancient shipping, and descend vnto later times, I thinke that neuer [never] was any nation blessed of IEHOVAH [Jehovah, God], with a more glorious and wonderfull victory vpon the Seas, then our vanquishing of the dreadfull Spanish Armada, 1588. But why should I presume to call it our vanquishing; when as the greatest part of them escaped vs, and were onely [only] by Gods out-stretched arme ouerwhelmed [overwhelmed] in the Seas, dashed in pieces against the Rockes, and made fearefull spectacles and examples of his iudgements vnto all Christendome.

**The book is dedicated to Lord Howard. How does Hakluyt make him sound?**

**Who does Hakluyt thank?**

**Which events does Hakluyt mention helped to defeat the Armada?**

**Where did the English ships arrive back at?**

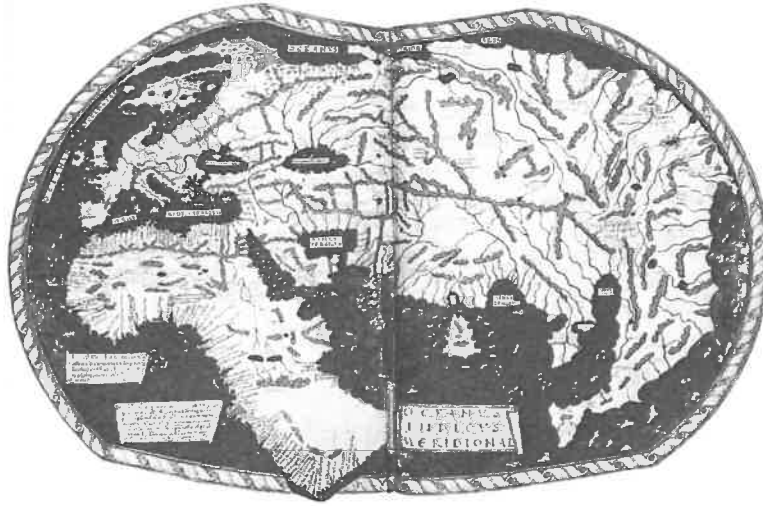
**How does Hakluyt link to the idea of a Protestant wind?**

**What does he point out happened to the Armada?**

**Why might Hakluyt show the Armada in this way?**

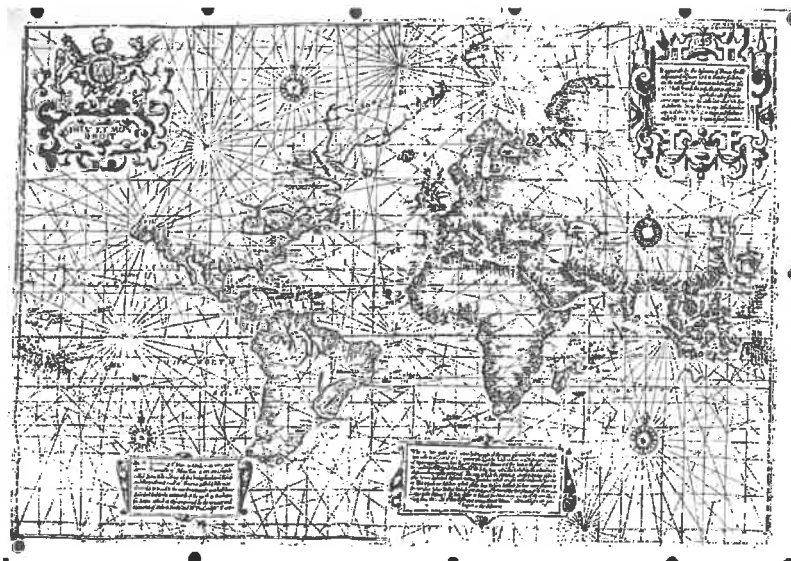
**Why might he dedicate the book to Lord Effingham? (think what he might achieve or gain)**

# Impact of the Armada – World View

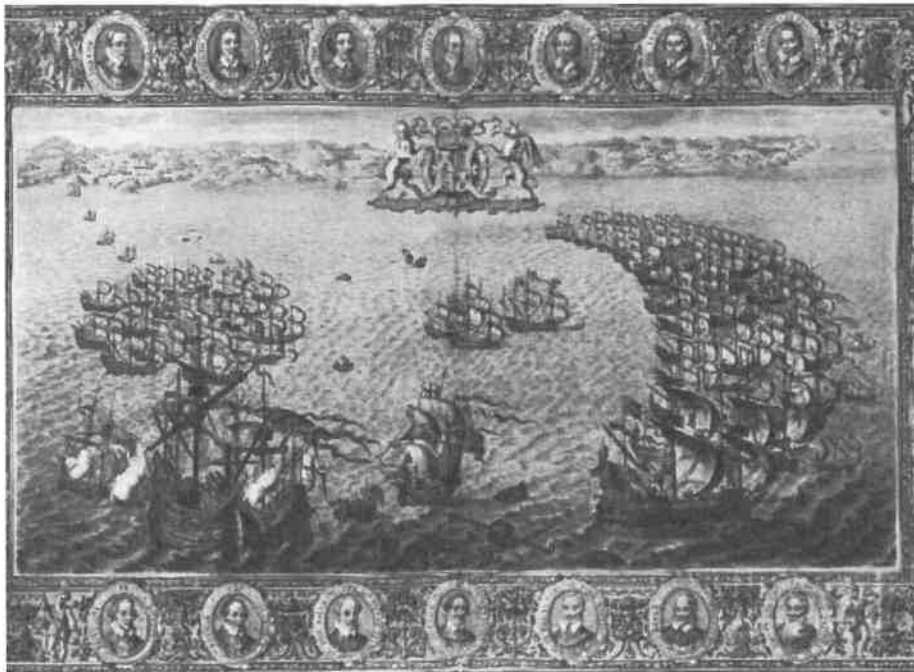


Look at the map above (from the 1480s) and the map below from Richard Hakluyt in 1589. How will the change in maps help sailors?

How does England look in the two maps? Where is it located? What might this suggest about people's attitudes?



A painting of 1739 showing the Spanish Armada moving up the English Channel.



**A modern artist's impression of the Spanish Armada heading to England under full sail.**



A painting showing the Battle of Gravelines.



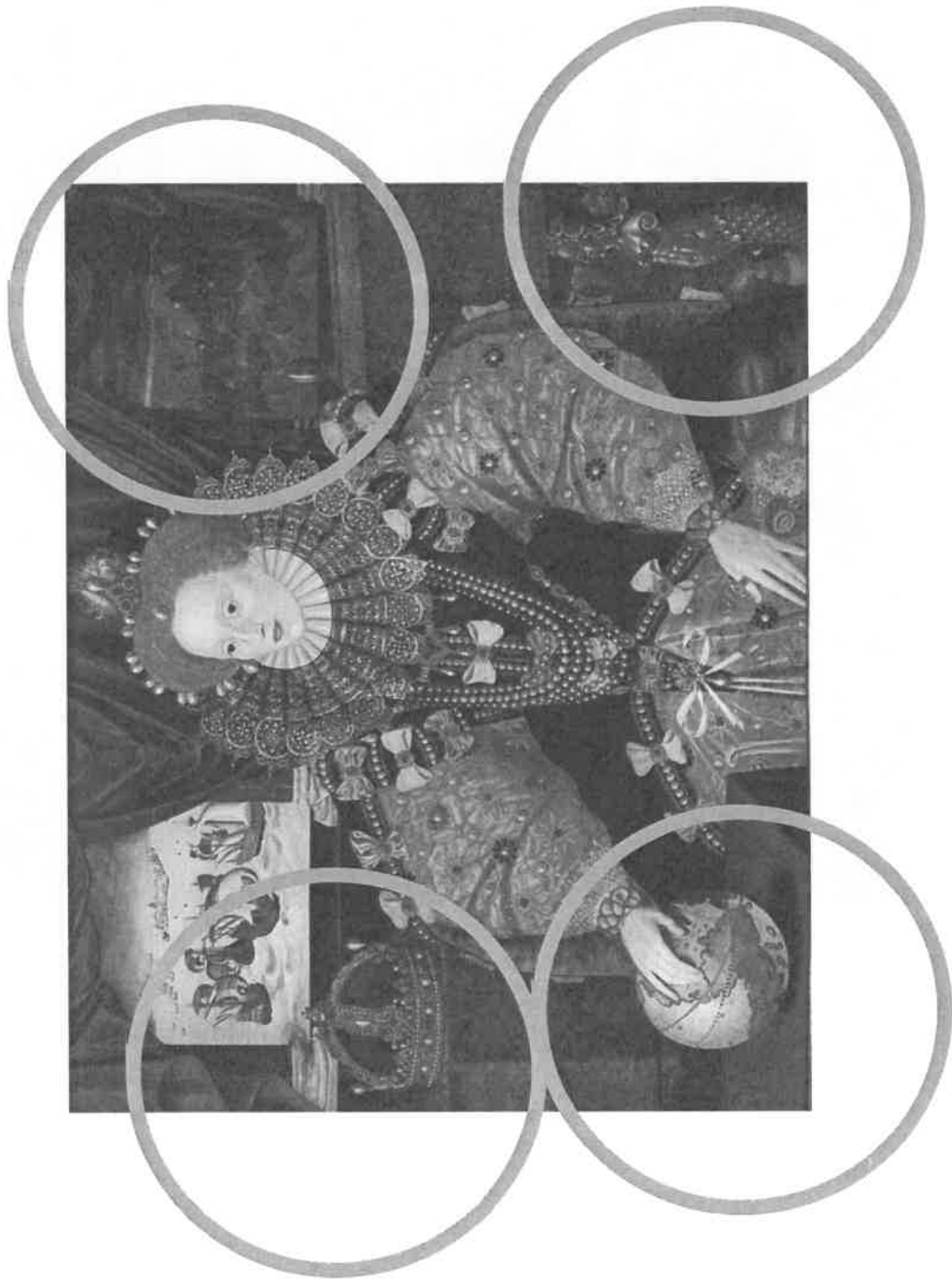
A Dutch painting of 1590 showing the fire ships sent into the Spanish Armada.



What tactics can you see in the pictures?

Why might the artist have chosen to show these events in this way?

The 'Armada portrait' to commemorate the English victory in 1588. What can you see?



THE PROTESTANT WIND: The Silver Victory medal given to her admirals by Queen Elizabeth I after the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. The caption around the image says, 'God blew and they (the Spanish fleet) were scattered'.



Describe what you can see on the coin.

What is the caption referring to?

Why might the English want to portray the Armada in such a way?

# Impacts of Victory over the Armada

The defeat and destruction of the Spanish Armada in 1588 is seen by many as the high point of Elizabeth I's of England's reign. If the Armada had been successful, it could have changed the course of English and world history. The defeat of the Armada had profound consequences for England. The first consequence of the English victory was that it secured its independence.

With defeat of the Armada, England became a serious European naval power. Britain's navy was the foundation of the future British Empire. As a result of the failed invasion, by Catholic Spain, England became more self-consciously Protestant and Catholicism became increasingly unpopular and was viewed as anti-English. The English also saw the defeat of the Armada as an act of divine providence. It confirmed to them that England was a kingdom destined for greatness..

The Spanish Armada is one of the great 'ifs' in history. If the Spanish ships had been able to rendezvous with the army of Flanders and transport it across the Channel, then England may have been defeated. The Spanish army was considered to be the best in Europe at this time and it was composed not only of Spanish but German veterans. The English army was mainly composed of local militias and was poorly led and trained. In a set piece battle, on land, the Spanish forces would most likely have been victorious and deposed Elizabeth I. The kingdom of England would have become part of the Spanish Empire. Phillip II did not plan to rule it directly but planned to place a Catholic on the throne. Philip wanted an ally that would become dependent on Spain. The defeat of the Armada prevented this from happening and secured the independence of England. England's victory allowed her to become a major world power by the eighteenth century.

It has often been stated that the defeat of the Armada ended the Spanish superiority at sea and begun England's rise as a global naval power. This was not the case. The year following the defeat of the Spanish Armada the English monarch launched the 'English Armada.' This was a naval attack on Spain, but it was heavily defeated with substantial English losses. Madrid changed its strategy and a series of fortifications were built in the Americas that gave greater protection against English and other privateers. Spain, after the defeat of the Armada, remained the premier maritime power outside China. However, the defeat of the Armada did lead to long-term changes that proved to be very important in the rise of England as a naval power. There was a recognition, after the attempted Spanish invasion that the English needed a strong navy and successive English administrations pursued policies that helped to expand the navy. England focused on developing new technologies and building 'modern shipyards.' These changes laid the groundwork for England naval power.

**How was England able to remain independent?**

**How did the defeat of the Armada affect religion in England?**

**How did luck play a role in the Armada?**

**What did Philip plan for England?**

**Was the English Armada a success?**

**How did Spain react after the Armada's defeat?**

**How did the defeat of the Armada impact the English navy?**



## Exam Style Questions

### Interpretation A

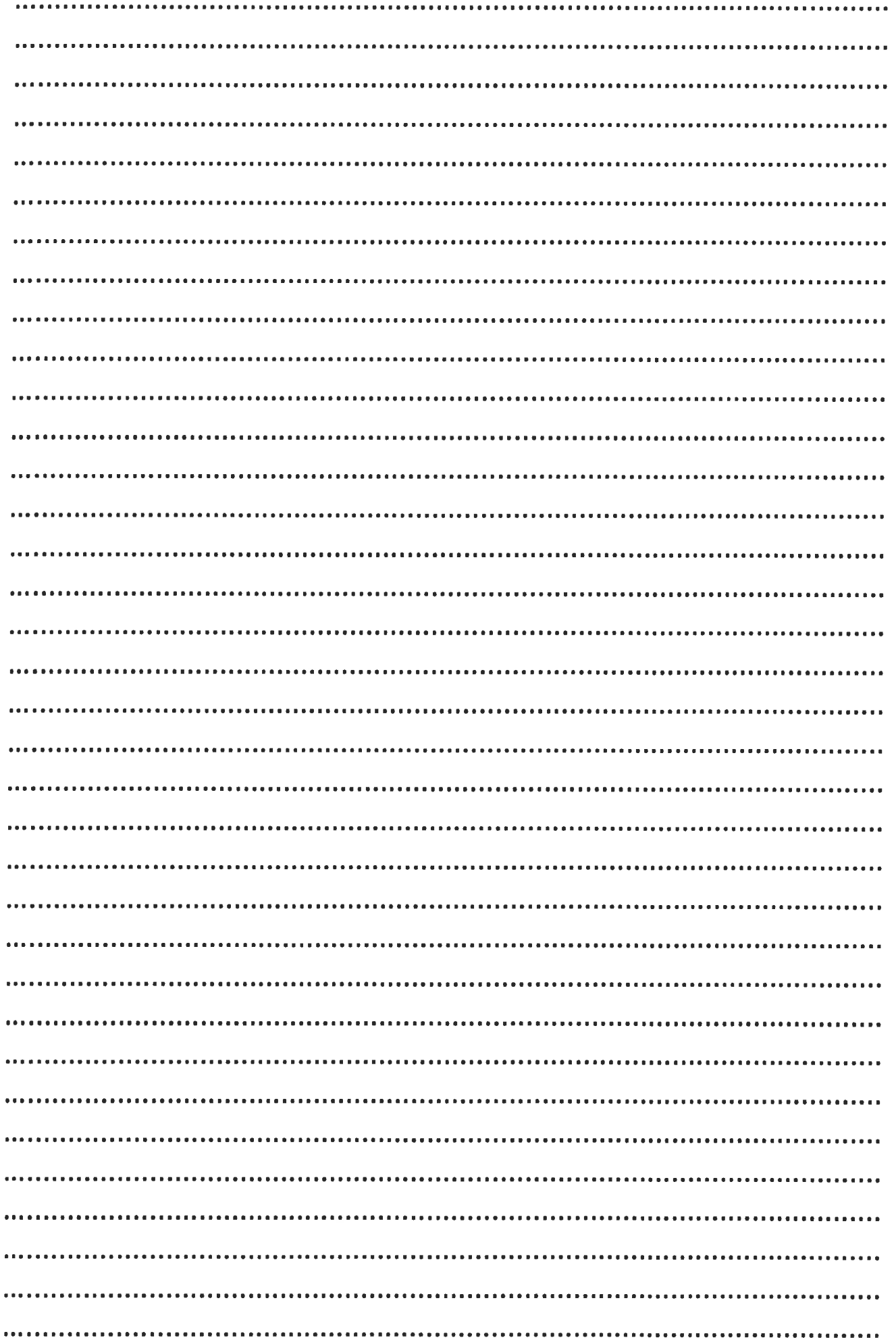
From *The Spanish Armada* by F. Fernandez-Armesto (1989)

*Good weather...was essential for Spanish success...They needed good weather to preserve their fragile Mediterranean shipping, calm seas to maximise the effectiveness of their galleasses [ships]...a moderate swell to compensate for the inexperience of their gunners...*

1. How convincing is Interpretation A about reasons for the defeat of the Spanish Armada. [8 marks]
2. Explain what was important about English tactics during the battle with the Armada. [8 marks]
3. Write an account of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. [8 marks]

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

[illegible]



# Pyramid activity

Line 1 Use one adjective to describe the English view interpretation) of the outcome

**Line 2 Name the two leaders**

Line 3 Three advantages the English had over the Spanish in terms of ships and guns

**Line 4 Four facts about the lack of English resources and intelligence**

**Line 5** A sentence of five words to describe the impact of fireships

Line 6 Six words to sum up what happened at Gravelines & Tilbury

**Line 7 Seven words to sum up the defeat of The Armada**

**Line 8** Eight words to sum up the impact of the English victory

Spanish

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8

# Weighty Words – language of judgement



# RECAP: What happened during the Spanish Armada?

## The Spanish Plan

- Troops and ships
- Sailing
- Weapons on the ships

## The English Strike First

- Where did they attack?
- Who led the attack?

## The Storm

- Where did the ships end up?
- Why did the Spanish fail?
- How many ships returned to Spain?

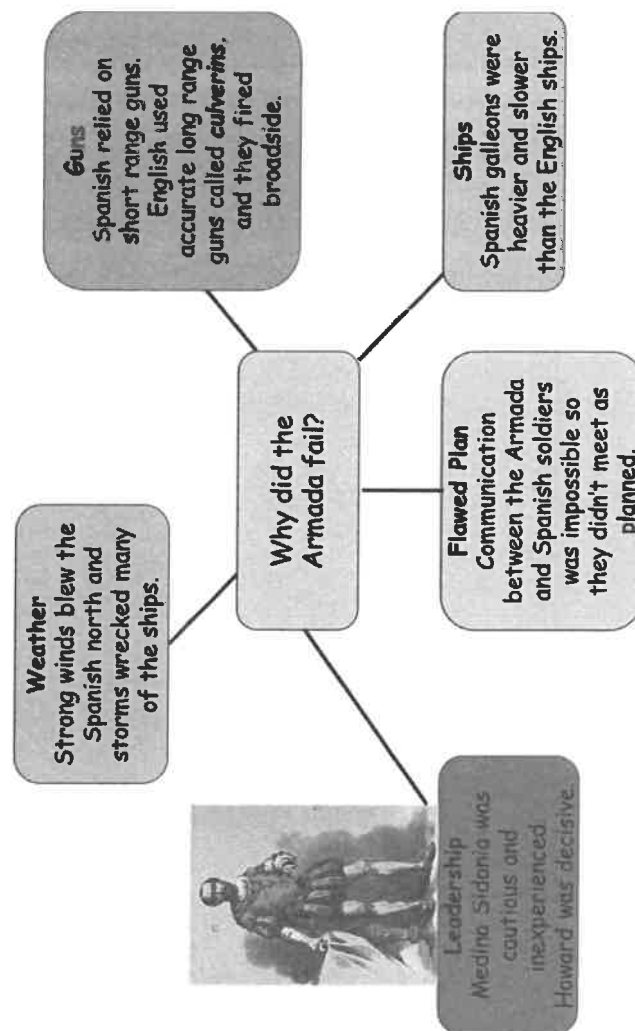
## The Battle

- How did the English fight?
- Why were they able to do this?
- What did the Duke of Medina Sidonia do?

## The Consequences of the Armada

# Why did the Armada fail?

Add details to this mind map.



# Sample question and plan

**“Luck was the main reason for the outcome of battles in this period.” How far does a study of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 support this statement?**

**16marks**

Use the boxes to plan what you could discuss in each paragraph.

<b>Preparations</b> Resources and build up	<b>Location</b> Why was this place chosen?	<b>Personnel</b> Commanders, leaders and monarchs
<b>Plans and tactics</b>	<b>Luck</b> Things that are unexpected	<b>Conflict</b> Ongoing tension between Spain and England



# Sample question and plan

**“Luck was the main reason for the outcome of battles in this period.” How far does a study of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 support this statement? 16marks**

Luck in its widest sense played a part in the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Some events could be described as bringing good or bad fortune to both sides. For instance fate played a hand in that Philip's original choice of commander, Santa Cruz died of a short illness early in 1588 preventing him from leading the enterprise. The outcome might have been different if he had survived but we are speculating. The 'Protestant wind' brought English good fortune too on 9th August blowing the Armada into the North Sea and away from Parma's army. There was still the choice to hold firm or head home and Medina Sidonia decided upon the latter. The Spanish 'vanished into smoke'. How had what Hawkins described as 'the greatest and strongest combination of arms that was ever gathered in all Christendom' been defeated?

A more convincing reason than 'luck' for English success was the superior ships of the English navy. Elizabeth fearing Spanish aggression had been preparing her fleet since the 1570s on the advice of John Hawkins. Thanks to his research and design the new 'race built' razed warships were nimbler, more manoeuvrable, operational and well equipped making them 'probably the best warships anywhere in the world' Parker. They had already proven their worth on privateering raids and Drake's circumnavigation. However they made up only 24/135 ships in 1588 so they don't provide the sole explanation. Planned raids on Spanish ships in the Azores showed how vulnerable the Spanish were making the English approach 'self-sustaining' this was not lucky it was strategic, measured and planned.

Spanish defeat was made more likely by the firepower on the English ships which led to a revolution in military tactics. Superior English weapons created by new English technology were decisive. The introduction of the blast furnace meant the mass production of consistently standardised shaped cannon balls and cannon. This made for much easier and quicker re-loading. The culverins were more efficient and better used. This involves precision and planning. This was not down to luck, it was not left to chance. The English had five times the fire power of the Spanish. The small wheels on the English gun carriages were a 'decisive secret weapon'. The disparity in the rate of firing was most evident during the battle of Gravelines after the English had chased the Spanish up the channel, the damage inflicted meant that the ill thought out plan to 'join hands' with Parma would certainly not happen.

# Easy Peasy P words for the Spanish Armada

Explain how these words link to the Spanish Armada

Philip	
Privateers	
Protestant	
Proposal	
Privy Councillor	
Plots	
Pope Sixtus V	
Preparation	
Paper vs practices	
Protestant Wind	
Provisions	
Pillage	
Parma	
Personnel	
exPlorers	
piecemeal	
Plymouth	
Patronage	
Papal bull	

# Key Words

Shot	
Rigging	
Cannons	
Armada	
Fireships	
Pesos	
Colonies	
Excommunication	
Spanish Netherlands	
Vice Admiral	
Crusade	
Joining hands	
Broadsides	
Salvo	
Culverins	
Frobisher	
Grappling	
Recalde	
Singing of the Spanish king's beard	
convoy	
Crescent formation	
embargo	

# A virtual tour of the Tudor Ships exhibit at the Royal Maritime Museum, Greenwich



- BBC Battlefield Britain; Dan and Peter Snow Dan Snow – Armada Episode
- Dan Snow 12 Days to Save England – on youtube
- History's Mysteries - The Spanish Armada (History Channel Documentary) – on youtube