

EDEXCEL GCSE HISTORY

EARLY ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND 1558-88



Key people

Sir Francis Drake	Famous for circumnavigating the globe and defeating Spanish Armada.
Francis, Duke of Anjou/Alencon	Heir to the French throne, Elizabeth offered a marriage alliance in 1570 and gave him £70,000 in 1581 to support the Protestant rebels in the Netherlands.
Francis Walsingham	Elizabeth's top spymaster. Exposed the Babington Plot.
Mary Stuart (Queen of Scots)	Elizabeth's cousin, forced to abdicate Scottish throne, executed by Elizabeth due to involvement in plots.
Mary Tudor (Mary I)	Elizabeth's half sister, previous Queen of England, Catholic and famous for burning 300 protestants.
King Philip II of Spain	King of Spain, strong Catholic, previously married to Mary I (E's sister)
Robert Dudley (Earl of Leicester)	Member of Privy Council. Close friend of Elizabeth, marriage candidate.
Sir Walter Raleigh	Famous explorer and favourite of Queen Elizabeth
Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk	Powerful noble, involved in the Revolt of the Northern Earls and the Ridolfi Plot. Executed in 1572.
William Cecil, Lord Burghley	Queen Elizabeth's closest advisor. Secretary of State.
Chief Wingina	Local native American chief in Roanoke killed by English settler Ralph Lane.

Timeline of key events

1558	Elizabeth becomes Queen of England
1559	Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis signed ending war with France started by Mary I, but giving up Calais
	Elizabeth's religious settlement (Act of Supremacy, Act of Uniformity and Royal Injunctions)
1560	Treaty of Edinburgh – a protestant uprising in Scotland, supported by Elizabeth, ended. Mary Queen of Scots returned to Scotland.
1563	Statute of Artificers – imprisonment for refusal to pay poor relief
1566	Vestment Controversy - Archbishop Matthew Parker publishes 'Book of Advertisements' showing clergy what vestments to wear
1567	England's first permanent theatre is opened – The Red Lion in London
	Duke of Alba & 10,000 men sent to defeat Dutch Revolt . Council of Troubles (Blood) set up to enforce Spanish rule of Netherlands.
	Mary QoS abdicated for her son James VI and fled to England.
1569	Revolt of the Northern Earls – Dukes of Northumberland & Westmoreland led uprising against Elizabeth. Revolt defeated, 450 executed.
1570	Pope issues Papal Bull – Elizabeth is excommunicated
1571	Ridolfi Plot – plan to launch Spanish invasion & put Mary on the throne. Norfolk executed 1572.
	Treason Act passed – it was treason to claim that the Queen was a heretic or have a copy of the Papal Bull
1572	Drake hired as privateer by Elizabeth. Captured £40,000 Spanish silver.
	Vagabonds Act – Established national poor rate among other changes.
1576	Spanish Fury – Spain's forces mutiny after no pay, 17 Dutch provinces sign the Pacification of Ghent demanding independence. Elizabeth sends £100,000.
	Poor Relief Act – Houses of Correction set up for unemployed.
1580	Jesuits arrive in England from Europe
	Drake circumnavigates the globe, returned with £400,000 Spanish treasure.
1581	Recusancy fines increased to £20
1583	Throckmorton Plot – French Duke of Guise to invade with Papal support.
1585	Treaty of Nonsuch Elizabeth signed with Dutch rebels putting England at war with Spain in the Netherlands.
	Raleigh's failed attempt to colonise Virginia
1586	Babington Plot is discovered by Walsingham, proved Mary's involvement.
1587	Trial and execution of Mary Queen of Scots
	Drake sings the King of Spain's beard – attacked Cadiz
1588	Spanish Armada is defeated

Elizabeth I

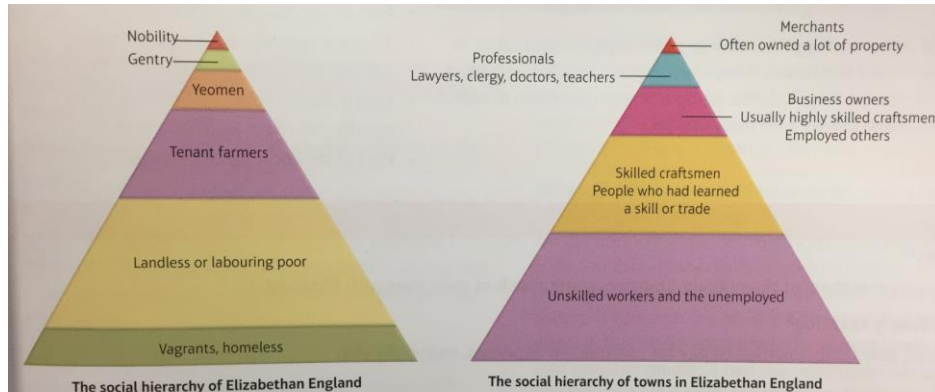


Figure 1.1 Elizabethan society was a hierarchy in which everyone had a clear place in the social order.

Key words

Algonquian	The language spoken by the native Americans in Virginia
Astrolabe	Used stars to calculate the ships position in navigation
Circumnavigate	Travel around (the globe)
Clergy	People ordained by the Church e.g. priests, bishops etc.
Colony	A country or area that is controlled by another e.g. Roanoke
Enclosure	A process where open fields were enclosed by hedges or fences
English Reformation	Henry VIII, Elizabeth's father, created the protestant Church of England, breaking away from the Catholic Church
Excommunicated	Excluded from the Catholic Church by the Pope
Galleons	New ships which were larger, more stable and more cannons
Gentry	A class of people below the nobility, often landowners
Justices of the Peace (JPs)	Kept law and order in local areas
Lords Lieutenant	Each county had one, in charge of raising and training militia (army)
Mercator map	New map designed by Gerardus Mercator using lines of latitude and longitude made navigation easier.
Nobility	Powerful landowners, members of the aristocracy - usually a Duke, Earl, Lord etc.
Papal Bull	A official order issued by the Pope
Parliament	Passed laws and raised extraordinary taxation.
Petty schools	Run in a teacher's home for young boys. Dame schools for girls.
Privy Council	Responsible for the day-to-day running of the country. Most powerful people.
Poor relief	Financial help for the poor paid for by the poor rate (tax)
Privateer	A pirate commissioned by the Queen to raid rival ships
Puritan	An extreme protestant
Recusant	Someone who refused to attend Anglican services.
Royal Court	People who lived in and around the monarch
Royal prerogative	Areas of law that only the monarch could decide on
Secretary of State	Most important Privy Councillor – William Cecil
Supremacy	Elizabeth was the Supreme Governor of the Church of England
Vagabond/Vagrant	A homeless, unemployed person
Vestments	Special clothing that Catholic clergy wear.
Visitations	Inspections of churches and clergy by bishops
Yeomen	Small farmers, the class below gentry

Some key questions

How did education change?

- Literacy rates increased 10%
- By 1577 all towns had a grammar school.
- Skilled craftsmen and yeomen trained through apprenticeships
- 1571 Elizabeth founded Jesus College, Cambridge

Why did poverty increase?

- Population growth of 35%
- Rising prices, wages falling behind
- Sheep farming led to enclosure
- Enclosure – took common land

Why was Drake's circumnavigation of the globe significant?

- Proved England was a great sea-faring nation.
- Encouraged other exploration and colonisation e.g. Humphrey Gilbert.
- Drake claimed 'Nova Albion' – near San Francisco for the Queen
- Damaged Anglo-Spanish relations

Why did colonising Virginia fail?

- **Voyage** – left too late to plant crops, The Tiger got a breach in the hull.
- **Expectations vs reality** – not willing to work hard, poor co-operation, ill disciplined soldiers, not enough farmers.
- **Native Americans** – Local Chief unpredictable, tired of demands, believed English were cursing them through new diseases. English killed the Chief.

How did Elizabethans spend their leisure time?

- Lower classes played football, violent.
- Bear baiting – dogs attacked bears
- Cock-fighting
- Literature – Latin and Greek classics
- Theatre – 2000 people queued
- Music and dancing – lutes, harpsichords, bagpipes and fiddles

Why was the Spanish Armada defeated?

- Superior ship design (galleons)
- Spanish supply issues
- Poor Spanish planning and communication
- English tactics e.g. fire ships before the Battle of Gravelines
- Bad weather

Why did England go to war with Spain?

- Religious differences
- English support of the Dutch rebels in the Spanish Netherlands from 1585
- Spanish support of plots against Elizabeth e.g. Ridolfi
- Elizabeth's privateers raiding Spanish ships and settlements, e.g. Drake

