

# Term 3 Year 10 History: Core Questions & Vocabulary

**Year Group:** 10

**Composite:** GCSE History, Paper 2 - Elizabethan England, 1568 - 1603

**Composite number:** 2 of 4

<b>Core Questions</b>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Who was Queen Elizabeth I?</b>  <i>Queen Elizabeth was the third and youngest child of King Henry VIII. Her mother was Anne Boleyn, who was executed by the orders of her father, Henry, with reasons of adultery and treason. Elizabeth's siblings, Edward VI and Mary I ruled as monarch before her, but because they had no heirs, Elizabeth took the throne when she was just 25 and ruled for nearly 45 years.</i></p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>How was power split in Elizabethan England?</b>  <i>Elizabeth had the most power in the country, as she was head of state and the Church of England (the national religion). There were other institutions (groups) of power though. The Privy Council were the closest men to Elizabeth and advised her, they made decisions on running the country. Parliament was elected from the nobility and gentry and they made decisions on taxation and laws. Lord Lieutenants were put in charge of specific local areas, similar to a modern mayor and could resolve issues and raise an army in their area. Finally, Justices of the Peace were responsible for minor law and order in a specific area, similar to the modern day police. Elizabeth always had final decisions.</i></p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Why was it difficult to be a female ruler?</b>  <i>During the time period women were not as respected as men. Men were seen as stronger and it was believed they should naturally lead the country. This meant people were doubtful of Elizabeth from the beginning, particularly after Mary's weak reign. She was expected to marry a man, who would then take control of running the country, her role would then change to be a child bearer.</i></p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>What problems did Elizabeth face?</b>  <i>Elizabeth faced many, interconnected problems. Religion was a major problem as the country was divided between Catholicism and Protestantism. The Catholics wanted to replace Elizabeth with another ruler leading to problems such as foreign invasion from Catholic nations like Spain; Irish rebellions as they did not want Protestant Elizabeth as their queen; and many plots led by Mary Queen of Scots who wanted to be a Catholic Queen of England. The problem of Mary was made worse by the fact that Elizabeth had no Tudor line of succession due to no husband, and so therefore Mary was in fact the next in line, as Elizabeth's second cousin.</i></p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>What Catholic plots did Elizabeth face?</b>  <i>Elizabeth faced four Catholic plots through her reign, all of which were connected to her second cousin, the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots. They were the Northern Rebellion of 1569; the Ridolfi Plot of 1571; the Throckmorton Plot of 1583; and finally the Babington Plot of 1586. The final plot finally contained enough clear evidence to implicate Mary Queen of Scots, who was subsequently executed in 1587, much to Elizabeth's sadness.</i></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>How and why did the Duke of Essex lead a rebellion against Elizabeth?</b>  <i>The Duke of Essex, once a favorite of Queen Elizabeth I, lost her trust after becoming too arrogant in Court, once nearly drawing his sword on her. After failing to regain her trust by not crushing a rebellion in Ireland, and desperate to regain power, he led a rebellion in 1601, hoping to remove her advisors and control the government. The rebellion quickly failed, and Essex was arrested. He was found guilty of treason and executed. His actions were driven</i></p>

	<i>by pride, ambition, and a fall from royal favor. Losing his sweet wine monopoly from Elizabeth had left him bankrupt and in debt.</i>
7	<b>What was it like to be wealthy in Elizabethan England?</b> <i>Besides the Royal Family, wealth was held by the nobility and the gentry classes. The nobility consisted of old families who held titles awarded by the monarchs and vast estates full of surrounding countryside. They had titles such as baron, earl or duke. The gentry class were often small business and landowners who had made their money more recently through clever business deals and investments. Both classes enjoyed their wealth and employed peasants to work their land.</i>
8	<b>What was the role of the theatre?</b> <i>The theatre was a popular form of entertainment in Elizabethan England, enjoyed by both the rich and poor. It brought people together to watch plays by writers like William Shakespeare. Theatres like the Globe were lively places, with music, acting, and special effects. Theatre also helped spread ideas and reflected the concerns, values, and politics of the time.</i>
9	<b>Why were the voyages of discovery significant?</b> <i>Voyages of discovery were important for England during Elizabeth I's reign because they helped expand trade, find new lands, and gain wealth. Explorers like Sir Francis Drake brought back valuable goods like spices, gold, and silver. These voyages also increased England's power and challenged Spanish control of the seas, helping to build the foundations of the British Empire.</i>
10	<b>Why was there so much poverty in Elizabethan England?</b> <i>There was so much poverty in Elizabethan England because of population growth, rising food prices, and a lack of jobs. Many people lost their homes due to changes in farming, like enclosure, which turned land into private fields. Poor harvests and disease made life even harder. Without enough support, many were left homeless and forced to beg or steal to survive.</i>
11	<b>How did Elizabeth respond to poverty?</b> <i>Queen Elizabeth I dealt with poverty by introducing Poor Laws. These laws made local towns responsible for helping the poor. The deserving poor, like the sick and elderly, were given food or money, and helped in new almshouses (similar to the now dissolved monasteries). Those who could work were given jobs. Begging was banned, and punishments were given to those who refused to work (undeserving poor).</i>
12	<b>Was Elizabethan England a 'Golden Age'?</b> <i>Elizabethan England is often called a golden age because it was a time of great progress and achievement. Literature and theatre thrived, with writers like William Shakespeare becoming famous. Exploration grew, with explorers like Sir Francis Drake expanding England's power. Elizabeth was able to get control over religion in the control, ending her reign with relative stability in the church. England also became stronger politically and defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588. However, poverty and inequality still existed, so not everyone experienced this golden age equally.</i>
13	<b>How did religion change under Elizabeth?</b> <i>Religion changed under Queen Elizabeth I as she made England Protestant again after her Catholic sister Mary's reign. She created the Elizabethan Religious Settlement in 1559, which made the Church of England the official church. It tried to keep both Protestants and moderate Catholics happy, bringing more religious stability after years of conflict.</i>
14	<b>How were Catholics and Puritans treated by Elizabeth?</b> <i>Catholics and Puritans were both seen as threats by Elizabeth I. Jesuits were extreme Catholic priests and monks who tried to spread Catholicism and were often arrested, tortured, or executed for treason. Puritans were Protestants who wanted to "purify" the Church of England, but Elizabeth disliked their extreme views. She punished them with fines, censorship, and imprisonment to keep control and maintain religious unity.</i>
15	<b>How was Mary Queen of Scots a threat to Elizabeth?</b>

	<i>Mary Queen of Scots was Elizabeth's second cousin and next in line for the English throne for much of Elizabeth's reign due to the fact she had no husband or legitimate heirs. She was Catholic and so the Catholic side of England and much of Europe supported Mary's claim to the English throne, wishing to remove England and restore Catholicism. Mary was involved in four plots to have Elizabeth assassinated and Mary put on the throne instead.</i>
16	<b>Why was there conflict between England and Spain?</b> <i>There was conflict between England and Spain before the Armada because of religious differences—England was Protestant, and Spain was Catholic. England also supported rebels in the Spanish-controlled Netherlands and allowed pirates like Sir Francis Drake to attack Spanish ships. These actions angered King Philip II of Spain, leading to growing tension and eventually war.</i>
17	<b>What happened to the Spanish Armada?</b> <i>The Spanish Armada was defeated by the English in 1588. England's smaller, faster ships and clever tactics, like using fire ships, broke the Spanish formation. Bad weather also damaged the Armada as it tried to sail home around Scotland and Ireland. Many ships were wrecked, and thousands of sailors died, marking a major victory for England.</i>

### Core Vocabulary

1	<b>Heir</b> – next in line to become king of queen
2	<b>Succeed</b> – to take over the throne
3	<b>Illegitimate</b> – a child born without their parents being married, not able to rule
4	<b>Suitor</b> – a man who pursues a relationship with a particular woman, with a view to marriage.
5	<b>Progresses</b> – Visits around the country made by the monarch and the Royal Court. Often at the houses of wealthy nobles, and at great expense
6	<b>Patronage</b> – land, titles or power given to ensure an individual's support
7	<b>Nobility</b> – the most powerful and wealthy in society. Their titles passed from father to son, and they often held senior positions
8	<b>Gentry</b> – often wealthy landowners, they could be richer than nobles but were considered below them in society.
9	<b>'Golden Age'</b> – a period of great achievement in a country's history. This idea was encouraged by Elizabeth and her government
10	<b>Deserving Poor</b> – either sick and old who were unable to work, or those that could not find appropriate work
11	<b>Undeserving Poor</b> – those who were considered idle and lazy. They were
12	<b>Almshouse</b> – charity building set up to provide food and rest for the poor
13	<b>Circumnavigate</b> – to travel all the way around something
14	<b>The 'Middle Way'</b> – term used to describe Elizabeth's religious settlement
15	<b>Recusancy</b> – when a person refused to attend services of the Church of England
16	<b>Jesuit</b> – a radical group within Elizabethan Catholicism who opposed Elizabeth and her settlements
17	<b>Puritan</b> – extreme Protestants who wanted to purify the Church of England by returning to simple and uncomplicated worship
18	<b>Papal Bull</b> – special message issued by the Pope from Rome
19	<b>Armada</b> – the Spanish naval fleet which sailed to England in 1588. It was successfully defeated and any survivors returned to Spain