

AQA - British Depth Study: Elizabethan England c1568-1603

| Key Question | Approach | Content covered | Time (approx.) | End Product / Assessment |
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| How was Elizabeth's character and reign shaped by events in her early life? | Overview with graph and statements about Elizabeth's character | Background and character of Elizabeth I | 1.5 | |
| What should a BBC web-page tell us about about the problems facing Elizabeth in 1558? | Assessing the problems Elizabeth faced by using sorting frames before evaluating the quality of a web page. | The difficulties of a female ruler: relations with Parliament; the problem of marriage and the succession; Religious matters: the question of religion, English Catholicism and Protestantism | 3 | Improve a web page or exam practice: answer a judgement question: 'The threat of invasion was Elizabeth's main problem when she became queen in 1558.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer. [16] (Note this type of question is not on the examination in this form, but is the style of question used to examine the historical environment section) |
| How did Elizabeth maintain her authority? | Focusing on the 5Ps of Elizabethan power – progresses, portraits, patronage, privy council and Parliament, students gather information in a carousel or a home / expert set up. More challenging classes or those requiring more support can do just as well in small groups or pairs. Students end by attempting an 8 mark interpretations question about how convincing a source is on a given topic. | Elizabeth I and her court: background and character of Elizabeth I; court life, including patronage; key ministers. | 3 | Exam practice: How convincing is Interpretation A about the way in which Elizabeth maintained her authority? [8] |

| What kind of Church did Elizabeth choose in 1559? | Outlining the religious differences in Elizabethan England, the enquiry also highlights the febrile atmosphere in which Elizabeth had to arrive at a Religious Settlement. Students recommend a course of action before discovering what Elizabeth actually settled on. | Religious matters: the question of religion, English Catholicism and Protestantism Elizabeth and her government's responses and policies towards religious matters. | 1.5 | Evaluating an educational diagram and improving it for accuracy. |
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| How serious a challenge did Elizabeth face from the Puritans? | Students select evidence and create their own cards to show how if the Puritan challenge was weak or strong. | The nature and ideas of the Puritans and Puritanism | 1.5 | Using a scales diagram to evaluate both sides and draw a considered conclusion to the big question. |
| How big a threat was Mary Queen of Scots in 1568? | Plotting the early life of MQoS graphically then advising Elizabeth on the best way to deal with her cousin. | Mary Queen of Scots: background; Elizabeth and Parliament's treatment of Mary; the challenge posed by Mary | 1.5 | |
| What made the Northern Earls Revolt in 1569? | Mystery enquiry approach with clues, hypothesising and the use of tentative language. | • The reasons for, the Revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569–70. | 1.5 | Answer the enquiry question. |

| What threats did Catholic plots pose to Elizabeth? | Help a TV documentary maker decide how long to spend on the different Catholic plots for an upcoming TV programme. | Religious matters: the question of religion, English Catholicism and Protestantism; the Northern Rebellion | 2 | Annotate a timing schedule explaining why certain times are given to different plots for a TV documentary. |
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| Can you update Ladybird's explanation for the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots? | Your class sort and classify reasons for MQoS execution. They make links then use this knowledge to critique the Ladybird explanation. | Mary Queen of Scots: plots; execution and its impact. | 1.5 | Improve / update Ladybird's explanation for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots |
| How much does a sixteenth century Dutch painting reveal about the reasons England and Spain went to war in 1585? | Use new knowledge to unlock the message of an allegorical painting, then prioritise the reasons why England went to war with Spain. | Conflict with Spain: reasons, events. | 2 | Exam Question: Explain what was important about English involvement in the Netherlands in Elizabethan times? (8) |
| How accurately does the film 'Drake of England', deal with the Armada and its failure? | Using evidence to work out how accurate a 1930s British movie about the Spanish Armada is. Then can they establish reasons why this interpretation may not be 100% accurate. | Conflict with Spain: reasons; events; naval warfare, including tactics and technology; the defeat of the Spanish Armada. | 2 | Establishing and explaining reasons why an interpretation may not be accurate. Exam practice: <i>How convincing</i> is <i>Drake of</i> <i>England</i> about the <i>events of the Armada</i> ? [8] |
| Was 1568-1603 a 'golden age' of | Students read the reconstruction of a rich chap's visit to London. They chart | A 'Golden Age': living standards and fashions; growing prosperity and the | 3 | Creating an annotated spectrum. Students explain how four different Elizabethans would rate Elizabethan culture on a spectrum |

| culture for Elizabethans? | what he sees which helps them work out the answer to the big question. | rise of the gentry; the Elizabethan theatre and its achievements; attitudes to the theatre. | | from: Dull and uninteresting. Nothing changed. To: A glittering golden age of improved education and cultural opportunities. |
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| Why was there an increase in poverty and vagabondage in Elizabethan England? | Speculate on reasons why poverty increased before adding explanation, linking and prioritising reasons to answer the big question. | The poor: reasons for the increase in poverty | 1 | Improving the Commission for Almshouses report, 1594 |
| Was Elizabethan society really under threat from a 'rascally rabbalage' of vagabonds? | Students will use extracts from contemporary pamphleteers to establish Elizabethan attitudes towards the poor. They investigate the reality of the vagabonds and assess their threat in reality. | The poor: attitudes and responses to poverty; the reasons for government action and the seriousness of the problem. | 3 | Write an internet review for an imagined 16 th century pamphlet. The review should including how Elizabethans feared the poor, how they treated the poor and a more accurate description of vagabonds. |
| Why did so many Elizabethan sailors risk long and dangerous voyages overseas? | Your students will look at the work of a Tudor travel / exploration advocate and work why sailors were prepared to risk their lives | English sailors: Drake; circumnavigation 1577–1580, voyages and trade. | 2/3 | Improve on Hakluyt's writing and create a persuasive argument encouraging Elizabethan sailors to risk more overseas voyages. |
| Who should survive a 'rehang' in the NPG – Raleigh or Drake? | You class will decide which explorer was the more significant. They will evaluate the impact of both using | Drake; circumnavigation 1577–1580, voyages and trade; the role of Raleigh. | 3 | An email to the National Portrait Gallery explaining who should survive the gallery re- hang: Raleigh or Drake |

| | criteria before deciding which deserves to stay in the National Portrait Gallery. | | | |
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| Why did Essex rebel in 1601? | Mystery style approach | The strength of Elizabeth's authority at the end of her reign, including Essex's rebellion in 1601. | 2 | Critique an historians view. |