

GCSE History:

Paper Two




Early Elizabethan England
1558-1588

Option B4: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88

Key topic 1: Queen, government and religion, 1558–69	
1 The situation on Elizabeth's accession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabethan England in 1558: society and government. The Virgin Queen: the problem of her legitimacy, gender, marriage. Her character and strengths. Challenges at home and from abroad: the French threat, financial weaknesses.
2 The 'settlement' of religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious divisions in England in 1558. Elizabeth's religious settlement (1559): its features and impact. The Church of England: its role in society.
3 Challenge to the religious settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature and extent of the Puritan challenge. The nature and extent of the Catholic challenge, including the role of the nobility, Papacy and foreign powers.
4 The problem of Mary, Queen of Scots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary, Queen of Scots: her claim to the English throne, her arrival in England in 1568. Relations between Elizabeth and Mary, 1568–69.
Key topic 2: Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad, 1569–88	
1 Plots and revolts at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reasons for, and significance of, the Revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569–70. The features and significance of the Ridolfi, Throckmorton and Babington plots. Walsingham and the use of spies. The reasons for, and significance of, Mary Queen of Scots' execution in 1587.
2 Relations with Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political and religious rivalry. Commercial rivalry. The New World, privateering and the significance of the activities of Drake.
3 Outbreak of war with Spain, 1585–88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English direct involvement in the Netherlands, 1585–88. The role of Robert Dudley. Drake and the raid on Cadiz: 'Singeing the King of Spain's beard'.
4 The Armada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish invasion plans. Reasons why Philip used the Spanish Armada. The reasons for, and consequences of, the English victory.
Key topic 3: Elizabethan society in the Age of Exploration, 1558–88	
1 Education and leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education in the home, schools and universities. Sport, pastimes and the theatre.
2 The problem of the poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reasons for the increase in poverty and vagabondage during these years. The changing attitudes and policies towards the poor.
3 Exploration and voyages of discovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factors prompting exploration, including the impact of new technology on ships and sailing and the drive to expand trade. The reasons for, and significance of, Drake's circumnavigation of the globe.
4 Raleigh and Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The significance of Raleigh and the attempted colonisation of Virginia. Reasons for the failure of Virginia.

Timeline of Early Elizabethan England

1558-1588

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- 1558 Elizabeth I is crowned Queen of England after the death of her sister Mary I.
 - 1559 Elizabeth implements her religious settlement, including the Act of Supremacy, Act of Uniformity and the Royal Injunctions.
 - 1560 Treaty of Edinburgh was signed.
 - 1566 Dutch Revolt.
 - 1568 Mary, Queen of Scots, flees to England from Scotland.
 - 1569 The Revolt of the Northern Earls to place Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne.
 - 1570 Pope Pius V excommunicates Elizabeth from the Catholic Church.
 - 1571 The Ridolfi Plot.
 - 1572 Vagabonds Act.
 - 1576 Poor Relief Act.
 - The Spanish Fury and Pacification of Ghent.
 - 1577-80 Francis Drake, circumnavigates the world and is knighted in 1580 on the deck of the Golden Hind.
 - 1583 The Throckmorton Plot
 - 1584 Treaty of Joinville
 - 1585 All Catholic Priests were ordered to leave England.
 - Treaty of Nonsuch
 - War begins with England and Spain
 - First English colony in Virginia is established.
 - 1586 The Babington Plot
 - Surviving colonists abandon Virginia and return to England.
 - 1587 Mary, Queen of Scots was executed.
 - Colony in Roanoke is established.
 - Drake 'singes the King of Spain's 'beard' by leading an assault on the Spanish fleet in Cadiz harbour.
 - 1588 Philip II of Spain launches the Armada but the Spanish are ultimately defeated at The Battle of Gravelines.
 - 1590 English sailors arrive at Roanoke to find it abandoned.

Glossary of key terms
Early Elizabethan England
1558-1588

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Act of Supremacy	A law passed in 1559 that recognised Elizabeth I as the supreme governor of the Church of England.
Act of Uniformity	A law passed in 1559 that reinstated the English book of common prayer and said all services were required to follow the order of prayer.
Monopoly licence	A royal licence which gave individuals the sole right to manufacture or sell a product.
Parliament	The law-making body of a country.
Privy Council	A group of senior politicians who advise the monarch.
Puritan	Strict Protestants who wanted to get rid of ritual in church services and lead a plain and simple life.
Sovereign	A person who has supreme authority or power – A monarch.
Succession	The issue of who was going to succeed the throne after the death of the existing monarch.
Roman Catholic	A form of Christianity followed throughout the whole of Western Europe until the 16 th Century. A Roman Catholic has an allegiance to the Pope, head of the Catholic Church.
Reformation	A challenge to the teachings and power of the Roman Catholic Church. This movement is said to have begun in Europe in 1517.
Recusants	Catholics who were unwilling to attend church services laid down by the Elizabethan religious settlement.
Heretics	People who deny the teaching of the Catholic Church
Papacy	The system of Church government ruled by the Pope.
Excommunicated	A severe punishment, imposed by the Pope, expelling people from the Catholic Church
Conspiracy	A secret plan with the aim of doing something against the law
Papal Bull	A written order issued by the Pope (Head of the Catholic Church)
Foreign Policy	The aims and objectives that guide a nation's relations with other countries.
New World	North and South America. Europeans were only aware of their existence from 1492.
Privateer	Individuals with their own-armed ships that capture other ships for their cargoes, often with the support of their government.

Feedback from the 2019 exam series about Explain questions from Edexcel.

- The 16-marker question means that students need to analyse a statement related to a debate from the topic and reach an evaluative conclusion.
- Where students achieved Level 4, this evaluation was most often evidenced throughout the essay, demonstrating linked analysis. Conclusions usually involved discussion of the conceptual focus and a weighing up of the different evidence to reach an overall judgement.
- Responses in Levels 2 and 3 often included a judgement, but this was often stated or repetitive and did not supply justifications and select criteria that were relevant to the question. These responses also typically failed to display a running judgement throughout their answer, instead giving evidence relevant to the question and not analysing that evidence in relation to the question.

Mark scheme for a 16 mark Elizabeth exam question.

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A simple or generalised answer is given, lacking development and organisation. [AO2] • Limited knowledge and understanding of the topic is shown. [AO1]
2	5-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation is given, showing limited analysis and with implicit or unstated links to the conceptual focus of the question. It shows some development and organisation of material, but a line of reasoning is not sustained. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is included, showing some knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1] • The overall judgement is given but its justification is asserted or insecure. (AO2) <p><i>Maximum 7 marks for Level 2 answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</i></p>
3	9-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation is given, showing some analysis, which is mainly directed at the conceptual focus of the question. It shows a line of reasoning that is generally sustained, although some passages may lack coherence and organisation. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the required features or characteristics of the period studied. [AO1] • The overall judgement is given with some justification, but some criteria selected for the required judgement are left implicit or not validly applied. (AO2) <p><i>Maximum 11 marks for Level 3 answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</i></p>
4	13-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analytical explanation is given which is directed consistently at the conceptual focus of the question, showing a line of reasoning that is coherent, sustained and logically structured. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is precisely selected to address the question directly, showing wide-ranging knowledge and understanding of the required features or characteristics of the period studied. [AO1] • Criteria for the required judgement are justified and applied in the process of reaching the overall judgement. (AO2) <p><i>No access to Level 4 for answers that do not go beyond aspects prompted by the stimulus points.</i></p>

Model Answer from 2019 student from the actual exam.

(c) (ii) 'Drake's most significant achievement, in the years 1558-88, was the raid on Cadiz.'

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16)

You may use the following in your answer:

- 'singeing the King of Spain's beard'
- privateering

You **must** also use information of your own.

Although it is undeniable that the Raid on Cadiz was a great achievement, when compared to Drake's other ~~one~~ achievements, (e.g. his circumnavigation of the world and his victory against the Spanish Armada) the Raid on Cadiz declines in significance making the statement easy to disagree with.

On the one hand, the Raid on Cadiz does hold some significance in that it had a large effect on the subsequent plans for the Spanish Empire.

During the 'singeing of the King of Spain's beard', Drake destroyed around 30 Spanish ships harbored on Cadiz, attacked various provisions, disrupted the Spanish and Portuguese coasts and stole wealth from the Azores. The result of these actions was that the Spanish Armada was delayed for around a year (with Drake's attack occurring in 1587 and the Spanish ~~fleet~~ fleet approaching in 1588); the Spanish ^{also} lost wealth and ~~that~~ Elizabeth and the Crown grew in wealth and Drake grew in influence.

Although at first this ~~appears~~ appears to be a great

achievement, the Raid on Cádiz would not hold any significance if it was not for the Spanish Armada and thus Drake's victory over them. Following years of tension between England and Spain due to provocation and conflicting religious ideology, King Philip II decided to launch an invasion of England however the defence made by Drake resulted in its failure (an event which holds arguably much more gravitas than Cádiz as the Armada had the potential to result in England becoming a Spanish nation). Drake employed various tactics due to his privateering skills and knowledge of the sea; although Spain outnumbered the English ships, Drake took advantage of the slow moving and slow firing vessel formation of the Armada and employed a tactic of using a line formation to attack the fleet from behind and going as far as lighting his own ships on fire to disperse the Armada proving his skills as a privateer. Arguably, this is the most significant achievement when regarding Drake's significance in warfare.

On the other hand, Drake also had significant personal achievements, the greatest being that Drake was the first English man to circumnavigate the world. Drake sailed the eastern coast of South America and

~~challenges~~
Challenges

endured many challenges including the stormy weather of the Straits of Magdalen which left him with one ship 'The Golden Hind' after 'The Elizabeth' was lost and another ^{sank} ~~sunk~~. Along the way up the western coast, Drake seized a large bounty of Spanish treasure through attacks on Spanish colonies like Mocha and the robbery of Spanish ships like Cacafuego. Upon reaching California (which he named Nova Albion, 'New England') he decided to traverse Oceania opposed to visiting the dangerous Peruvian coast again; during this journey he struck spice deals with the king of the ^{PP} ~~PP~~ archipelago ^{prinsida} and also made various geographical discoveries (like Java being an island not a subcontinent) which expanded the knowledge of the world.

In conclusion, although the Raid on Cadiz was an important moment in English/Spanish relations, it was not Drake's most significant achievement. His victory of the Spanish Armada was an enormous achievement which marked the conclusion of the Spanish threat and could very much be considered his most significant achievement as it asserted England's dominance as a Protestant country in Catholic Europe (having many religious consequences like many

ignoring Pope Pius V's excommunication of Elizabeth as the victory proved that she had 'God's favour') and also proved the flaws in the Spanish Empire.

Regarding other achievements, Drake's circumnavigation is a close contender to be his most significant achievement due to geographical and personal gains however it does not have as great an impact on England, as the Armada had a much greater national influence.



From the outset, this response is organised according to the judgement criteria laid out by the candidate, and each point of content is assessed against the criteria in a balanced way throughout the answer. The candidate has made some sophisticated points about the nature of a significant achievement, showing a good grasp of the relevant second order concept. This response demonstrates wide-ranging knowledge and includes some very specific details and achieves Level 4 against each of the strands. Therefore, under the principles of 'best fit', it was awarded 16 marks.



The best answers will make the overall answer to the question clear at the start and use the subsequent paragraphs to exemplify why that judgement is correct, referring back to it to build a convincing and sustained argument.

'Religion was the main cause of the growing tensions between England and Spain between 1570 and 1588.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Pope's excommunication of Elizabeth
- The Dutch revolt

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'Religion Elizabeth's main problem when she became queen of England in 1558.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Elizabeth's religious settlement of 1559
- The Puritans

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'The main consequence of the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569 was the setting up of the Council of the North.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Council of the North
- Mary, Queen of Scots

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'The Elizabethan religious settlement largely resolved religious tensions in England.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The crucifix controversy
- The Revolt of the Northern Earls, 1569

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'Entertainment continued to be very violent during Elizabethan times.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Cock-fighting
- theatres

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'Education made great progress in Elizabethan England.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- grammar schools
- universities

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'Religion caused the decline in Anglo-Spanish relations 1567-1580.' How far do you agree?
Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Francis Drake
- The Netherlands

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'Native American resistance was to blame for the failure of the Virginia colonies 1585-1588.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The voyage to Virginia
- Wingina

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'Seeking wealth was the most important reason for Elizabethan voyages of discovery.'
How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Spain
- Sir Francis Drake's circumnavigation of the globe

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'sheep farming was the most important cause of poverty in Elizabethan England.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Enclosure
- Price rises

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'Elizabethan poor laws significantly improved the lives of the poor.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- 1572 Vagabonds Act
- Unemployment

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'Elizabeth I was never in any real danger from the plots against her.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Francis Walsingham
- Spain

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'The main reason Mary, Queen of Scots was executed was her claim to the English throne.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Spanish invasion plans
- The Babington Plot

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'The main reason the Catholic threat increased in England during 1566-87 was because of the Netherlands.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Revolt of the Northern Earls
- Philip II

You must also use information of your own.

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>

Conclusion:

'The Puritans posed the most significant threat to the Elizabethan religious settlement in 1558-69. .' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The vestments controversy
- The oath of supremacy

You must also use information of your own.

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>

Conclusion:

'The most important consequence of Drake's voyages 1577-87 was that they made Philip II of Spain angry.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Elizabeth I's knighting of Drake
- Philip II's decision to build the Armada

You must also use information of your own.

<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>

Conclusion:

'The most significant consequence of changes in education in Elizabethan England was the increase in literacy.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Universities
- Girls' education

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'the problem of the succession was the most important reason for the Revolt of the Northern Earls of 1569-70..' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Duke of Norfolk
- Roman Catholicism

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'The Armada failed due to Spanish mistakes.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Fire ships
- Francis Drake

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion:

'The main reason for the plots against Elizabeth I was religion.' How far do you agree?
Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Revolt of the Northern Earls
- Philip II

You must also use information of your own.

Agree

Disagree

Conclusion: