

## **Paper 2- Option B4: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88**

### **Key topic 1: Queen, government and religion, 1558–69**

#### 1 The situation on Elizabeth's accession

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- Education in the home, schools and universities.
- Sport, pastimes and the theatre.

### 2 The problem of the poor

- 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

- 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

- The significance of Raleigh and the attempted colonisation of Virginia.
- Reasons for the failure of Virginia.