

Ever heard the word: Elizabeth's Court and Parliament

Key word/phrase	Never heard of this	I have heard of this	I know the definition of this...
Accession			
Ambassador			
Anne Boleyn			
Courtiers			
Dynasty			
Edward VI			
Gentry			
Heir			
Henry VII			
Henry VIII			
Heretic			
Illegitimate			
Mary I			
Mary, Queen of Scots			
Ministers			
Monopolies			
Nobility			

Parliament			
Patronage			
Peers			
Poor Laws			
Pope			
Privy Council			
Progresses			
Propaganda			
Puritans			
Rebellion			
Regent			
Queen Regnant			
Renaissance			
Royal court			
Succession			
Suitor			
Treason			

Elizabeth I and her government Knowledge Organiser

Important dates

1533, September 7th: Princess Elizabeth was born at Greenwich Palace.

1536, May: Anne Boleyn executed and Elizabeth was declared to be illegitimate with no right to inherit the throne.

1537, October: Prince Edward was born - son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour.

1540s: Elizabeth grew close to Henry's sixth wife, Catherine Parr. Elizabeth was restored to the line of succession in 1544.

1547, January: Henry VIII died and was succeeded by Edward VI. He introduced Protestantism to the English Church.

1549: Elizabeth was implicated in the Seymour scandal.

1553, July: Edward VI died and was succeeded by Mary I, after Edward tried to make Lady Jane Grey, a Protestant, queen rather than Mary, a Roman Catholic.

1554: Elizabeth was placed in the Tower of London, having been accused of involvement in Wyatt's Rebellion.

1555 onwards: Mary I started to burn Protestants at the stake.

1558, November 17th: Mary I died and was succeeded by Elizabeth I.

1559, January 15th: Elizabeth I was crowned queen in Westminster Abbey.

1559: Elizabeth's first Parliament passed the religious laws that formed the Elizabethan Religious Settlement.

1562: Elizabeth nearly died after catching smallpox. After this, she faced increased pressure to marry and secure the succession.

1566: Elizabeth lost her temper with her Third Parliament for pressing the issue of marriage.

1576: Elizabeth imprisoned Peter Wentworth MP who argued for freedom of speech.

1601: The Essex Rebellion.

1603, March: Elizabeth I died and was succeeded by James I of England. He was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots and was also James VI of Scotland.

Elizabethan government

Parliament was made up of the House of Commons (450 elected MPs who were educated lawyers and merchants) and the House of Lords (90 nobles and bishops). It had influence over tax and passed laws. The queen decided when to call Parliament and how much of their advice she should listen to.



The Privy Council was a body of 12 advisers who took responsibility for the day-to-day running of the country. Elizabeth could choose who she wanted on the PC but she often appointed powerful nobles to avoid rebellion. The PC dealt with a range of issues including foreign affairs and religion. The councillors were rarely united in their advice - if it was, it

Local government was led by the Lords Lieutenant who were chosen by the queen to take responsibility for a particular area; they had to collect taxes, raise a militia if needed and deal with disputes. The role was important and often held by Privy Councillors. Justices of the Peace (JPs) were gentry selected to ensure laws were properly enforced.



Henry VIII: Henry was Elizabeth's father and ruled England between 1509 and 1547. He broke from Rome in order to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, and marry Anne Boleyn. He repeatedly went to war with France and Scotland.



Anne Boleyn: Anne was Elizabeth's mother who had spent much of her childhood in France. She was well-educated and was a follower of Protestantism. Henry accused Anne of adultery, witchcraft and treason, which resulted in her execution in 1536.



Sir William Cecil, Lord Burghley: Elizabeth relied heavily on Cecil, counting on his loyalty and trusting him completely. He was hard-working and would speak his mind. He wanted to avoid war and preferred moderate policies to unite the country. He was made Secretary of State in November 1558.



Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester: Dudley was a childhood friend of Elizabeth and there were rumours of a romance between the two of them. He was ambitious who frequently argued with Cecil.



Sir Francis Walsingham: He was fiercely loyal to Elizabeth and used his ability at languages and foreign contacts to set up a "secret service" to protect Elizabeth. Using his spies, he uncovered several plots against the queen. He was an ally of Dudley and frequently clashed with Cecil.



Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex: Essex was a favourite of Elizabeth's who hated William Cecil and his son. Robert Cecil. He was a military hero and was knowledgeable about foreign affairs. Elizabeth and Essex had frequent arguments, although she always forgave him - until 1601.



Philip II of Spain: Philip had been married to Mary I, Elizabeth's half-sister, until her death in 1558. Once Mary had died, Philip proposed to Elizabeth! Philip was king of the most powerful country in Europe and England and Spain were traditional allies against the French. Philip later became involved in Catholic plots against Elizabeth.



Francis, Duke of Alençon: Alençon was the younger brother of the king of France and was considered to be a marriage suitor for Elizabeth in the 1570s, once relations with Spain had soured. The two seemed to be genuinely fond of each other but after considerable anti-French sentiment, Elizabeth called off negotiations.



Ever heard the word: Life in Elizabethan times

Key word/phrase	Never heard of this	I have heard of this	I know the definition of this...
Allegory			
Alms			
Arable land			
Censorship			
Circumnavigation			
Colony			
Cult			
Dearth			
Debasement			
Empire			
Enclosure			
Galleon			
Gentry			
Gloriana			
Golden Age			
Great Chain of Being			
Humanism			
Inflation			

Legislation			
Monasteries			
Monopolies			
Nationalism			
New World			
Ottoman Empire			
Patronage			
Pauper			
Plague			
Poor rate			
Printing press			
Privateers			
Propaganda			
Renaissance			
Ruff			
Tavern			
Vagrant			
Workhouse			

Key themes and changes

Elizabethan society was based on the idea of the Great Chain of Being which said that society was organised into a hierarchy with God at the top, followed by his angels. Human beings are underneath the residents of heaven, followed by animals and plants. There were subdivisions of the humans with the monarch at the top, followed by the nobility, gentry and then the peasants.

The gentry class grew during Elizabeth's reign; as the country was more stable after the unpredictability of Elizabeth's predecessors, people were able to settle and make money from trade. The Tudors were suspicious of the 'old' nobility and promoted people from the gentry class.

Many great houses were built during Elizabeth's reign. The designs were meant to show off the wealth and power of the owners but also that the inhabitants were cultured and fashionable people. Fashions also developed as another way to show off wealth and status.

During Elizabeth's reign, theatre developed into one of the most popular forms of entertainment for rich and poor. Playwrights such as William Shakespeare and actors such as Richard Burbage were well-known.

Elizabeth's reign is often viewed as a "Golden Age" because it is seen as a time when England became a great country. It was an era of new scientific experimentation, technological development and new ideas in the arts.

Poverty was a problem that became more significant during Elizabeth's reign. Elizabethans divided the poor into the 'deserving poor' and the 'undeserving poor'; people were then treated according to this view. The 1601 Poor Law was passed to support the 'deserving poor' whilst the 'undeserving poor' were treated harshly.

Exploration was one of the reasons for Elizabeth's reign being seen as a "Golden Age"; explorers such as Sir Francis Drake became national heroes. The actions of these explorers often affected England's relationship with Spain. Exploration allowed England to become wealthy as well as a significant naval power.

Key events

1560s: John Hawkins made three voyages to the Caribbean, trading slaves he had captured in West Africa. He was clashed with the Spanish on his final journey in 1568.

1563: The Statute of Artificers placed wage limits on skilled workers to control inflation.

1572: Sir Francis Drake captured £40,000 worth of Spanish silver.

1572: A law was passed which required all actors to be licensed.

1574: Statutes of Apparel passed.

1576: Martin Frobisher attempted, and failed, to find a North West Passage to China, sailing around the north of Canada.

1577-1580: Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe. He returned with approximately £400,000 worth of captured Spanish treasure.

1579: The Eastland Company was established to trade with Scandinavia.

1581: The Levant Company was established to trade in the Mediterranean.

1590s: Outbreaks of plague and bad harvests.

1593: Richard III and The Comedy of Errors written by Shakespeare.

1599: The Globe Theatre opened in London.

1600: East India Company was established to trade with the Far East.

1601: The Poor Law was introduced.

Ever heard the word: Troubles at home and abroad

Key word/phrase	Never heard of this	I have heard of this	I know the definition of this...
Abdicate			
Act of Supremacy			
Act of Uniformity			
Anglican			
Armada			
Beacon			
Broadside			
Calvinists			
Clergy			
Counter-Reformation			
Culverins			
Death warrant			
Episcopal			
Excommunication			
Fire ship			
House arrest			
Huguenot			
Iconoclasm			

Jesuits			
Justice of the Peace (JP)			
Martyr			
Mass			
Papal bull			
Persuivants			
Presbyterian			
Printing press			
Prophesying			
Protestant			
Puritan			
Recusants			
Regicide			
Seminary			
Separatists			
Surplice			
Transubstantiation			
Treason			
Vestments			

Key events

1559: Philip II of Spain proposed to Elizabeth. She rejected him.

May 1559: The Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity was passed.

July 1559: The Royal Injunctions were introduced.

1561: Mary, Queen of Scots returned to Scotland after the death of her husband, the French King Francis II.

1563: The Thirty-Nine Articles were introduced.

1566: Dutch rebels rose up against their Spanish rulers in the Netherlands.

1568: Seminary (training college for Catholic priests) established at Douai in the Netherlands.

1568: Mary, Queen of Scots abdicated after a civil war broke out. She fled to England and was put under house arrest.

1569: The Revolt of the Northern Earls.

1570: Thomas Cartwright, a Puritan, gave a series of lectures calling for the abolition of the hierarchy of the Church.

1570: Elizabeth I was excommunicated by Pope Pius V.

1571: The Ridolfi Plot.

1571: The Treason Act was passed.

1571: A law was passed that fined Catholics who did not take part in Protestant services.

1572: Puritan printing presses were destroyed.

June 1572: The Duke of Norfolk was executed.

1576: Elizabeth stated that MPs were not allowed to discuss religious matters without her permission. This was after Puritan ideas were debated in Parliament which angered the queen.

1580: Puritans established a Separatist Church in Norwich.

June 1580: Edmund Campion arrived in England.

1581: Elizabeth sent money to help the Dutch rebels.

1581: Further fines for non-attendance at church services and it became high treason to convert to Catholicism.

November 1581: Edmund Campion was executed.

1583: Archbishop Whitgift issued The Three Articles.

1583: The Throckmorton Plot.

1584: The Bond of Association was established.

1585: The Act Against Jesuits and Seminary Priests was passed. Any Catholic priest was considered a traitor.

1585: The Treaty of Nonsuch was signed between England and the Dutch rebels.

1586: The Babington Plot.

October 1586: Mary, Queen of Scots was put on trial for treason.

February 1587: Mary, Queen of Scots was executed at Fotheringhay Castle.

1588: The Spanish Armada was defeated by the English navy.

1593: The Act Against Seditious Sectaries was passed.

1593: A law was passed that banned Catholics from travelling more than 5 miles from home without permission.

Key ideas

The Elizabethan Religious Settlement: This was a series of laws that created the Elizabethan Anglican Church. It was meant to be a compromise between Protestants and Catholics in order to heal divisions, prevent unrest and maximise royal control of the Church. As the Elizabethan Religious Settlement was a compromise, it did not suit everyone. Elizabeth faced opposition from Catholics who sheltered Jesuit priests who travelled to England to try and turn people against the Anglican Church. Elizabeth also faced opposition from Puritans who were extreme Protestants who thought that the Settlement left too many Catholic ideas in the Anglican Church.

Elizabeth's refusal to marry and resulting childlessness meant that the succession to the English throne was a worrying issue. One potential heir was Mary, Queen of Scots who posed a threat to Elizabeth's crown. Mary was viewed as the rightful queen of England due to the situation surrounding Elizabeth's birth. Some people thought that Elizabeth was illegitimate and therefore could not be queen. There were many plots against Elizabeth which involved placing Mary on the throne instead.

Tensions between England and Spain, and Philip II and Elizabeth I, had existed for years before they officially went to war. A rebellion in the Netherlands threatened Spanish power and disrupted English trade. Spain had been involved in the various plots against Elizabeth. This culminated in the creation of the Spanish Armada in 1588. The Armada was defeated due to Spanish mistakes, the tactical skill of the English and the weather. The Spanish defeat boosted English pride and was a great propaganda victory for Elizabeth.

Key individuals

Matthew Parker: Archbishop of Canterbury 1559-1575. He was a moderate Protestant who avoided politics and used his influence to try to prevent the rise of Puritanism.



Edmund Grindal: Archbishop of Canterbury 1576-1583. Soon after his appointment, he quarrelled with Elizabeth about prophesying. He was suspended and held under house arrest until his death.



John Whitgift: Archbishop of Canterbury 1583-1604. He was passionate about religious uniformity and oversaw a harsh regime. He hated the Puritans.



Edmund Campion: Campion was an English Jesuit priest who returned to England in 1580. He held secret church services for important Catholic families. Campion was caught and executed in 1581.



Mary, Queen of Scots: Mary was Elizabeth's cousin who had a claim to the English throne. She was Catholic and was involved in plots against Elizabeth. Mary was executed in 1587.



The Duke of Norfolk: Norfolk was the wealthiest landowner in the country and Elizabeth's cousin. He was Catholic and resented Cecil's influence. He was executed in 1572 after his role in plots against Elizabeth.



Pope Pius V: Pope between 1566 and 1572. He excommunicated Elizabeth in 1570 which meant that English Catholics no longer had to be loyal to the queen.



Philip II of Spain: King of Spain between 1556 and 1598. He was staunchly Catholic and viewed Elizabeth as a heretic. He launched the Spanish Armada in 1588.



Sir Francis Walsingham: Walsingham was Elizabeth's "spy master" and was responsible for uncovering the various plots against her.



Sir Francis Drake: An experienced sailor who had participated in transatlantic voyages in the 1560s. He circumnavigated the globe between 1577 and 1580 and played a crucial role in the defeat of the Spanish Armada.



The Duke of Medina Sidonia: The Spanish nobleman appointed by Philip II to lead the Spanish Armada. He had no experience of being at sea and was seasick!



The Duke of Parma: Parma was Philip II's nephew and Governor of the Spanish Netherlands. He was an expert military leader in charge of defeating the Dutch rebels. He wanted to use his army to conquer England.

