

HODDER GCSE (9–1) HISTORY FOR PEARSON EDEXCEL
FOUNDATION EDITION



EARLY ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND

1558–88

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1 Elizabethan England – was it England's 'Golden Age'?

1.1 Introducing Elizabeth and her England

Elizabeth I is one of the most famous **monarchs** in English history. Some people think she was so successful that they have called her 'Good Queen Bess' and even 'Gloriana' because she was so gloriously successful.

Your GCSE course will give you the chance to study the issues that Elizabeth faced and how she tried to handle them. By the end, you will be able to decide if you think that she deserves such a successful reputation or not.

This chapter will introduce Elizabeth I, as well as the most important individuals and events that were involved with her **reign**. This will help you to see the big picture of what the topic is about.



Who was Elizabeth?

- She was the daughter of King Henry VIII.
- She did not expect to become queen. Her brother Edward and sister Mary both became monarch before her, but each died without children, so Elizabeth became queen.
- She was crowned in January 1559. She was 25 years old.
- Mary, Elizabeth's sister, had been unpopular. When she was queen, there had been **famines**, diseases, religious changes and **rebellions**. People wanted to know if Elizabeth would be more successful.
- Elizabeth put on an expensive, showy **coronation**. She travelled to London on a decorated barge. Crowds lined the streets. Elizabeth wore four different, expensive dresses during the day. You can see one in her portrait to the left.

Catholic and Protestant

In this topic you will see the words 'Catholic' and 'Protestant' many times. They are two different groups of Christians. You can find out more on page 10.

▲ A painting of Elizabeth I in 1559, when she was crowned Queen. It was published by her government. This picture is very famous and has been copied many times, including in films. You will see this on page 44.

Activities

To understand the decisions people made during Elizabeth's reign, you need to understand how people lived and thought in the sixteenth century. See if you can choose the correct answer for each question. (Answers on page 125.)

- 1 The population of England in the middle of the sixteenth century was:
 - a 3 million and mainly lived in towns
 - b 100 million and divided equally between towns and the countryside
 - c 3 million and mainly lived in the countryside.
- 2 Most people worked:
 - a for the government or Church
 - b as farmers
 - c in small businesses in towns.
- 3 The thing that affected the price of food the most was:
 - a the government setting food prices
 - b shop owners setting food prices
 - c whether there was a good or bad harvest.
- 4 On average, people lived until they were:
 - a about 35 years old
 - b about 45 years old
 - c about 70 years old.
- 5 Are these statements true or false?
 - a Henry VIII had changed the religion in England from Protestant to Catholic.
 - b Plague broke out regularly, especially in towns.
 - c Most people knew nothing about the Americas or Asia.
 - d Death from starvation was a real danger if there were bad harvests.
 - e In the years before Elizabeth was queen, religious changes had caused rebellions and protests.
 - f Girls were given the same education as boys.
 - g People believed that the monarch was God's representative (spokesperson). Therefore, rebelling against the monarch was like rebelling against God.

THE TUDOR ROYAL FAMILY

The Tudors were a royal family who ruled from 1485 until 1603. Elizabeth was the last Tudor monarch.

These boxes are about the three Tudor monarchs before Elizabeth.

Read about the three monarchs, then write one sentence to say what their lives could have taught Elizabeth about:

a the danger of religious changes

b the danger of bad harvests and high food prices.

Henry VIII (reigned 1509–47)

- Henry was Elizabeth's father.
- He made himself Head of the Church of England instead of the Pope.
- The Church was still Catholic but with some new Protestant ideas.
- This led to protests from Catholics. Two hundred Catholics were executed.
- Henry fought wars with France. This made food prices go up and caused poverty.

Edward VI (reigned 1547–53)

- Edward was Elizabeth's brother.
- While he was king, the Church of England became Protestant. This included:
 - removing decorations from churches
 - introducing a new prayer book in English.
 There were violent protests and 2500 Catholics were killed by the royal army.
- While he was king, there were bad harvests and food prices rose. There were violent protests and 3000 rebels were killed.

Mary I (reigned 1553–58)

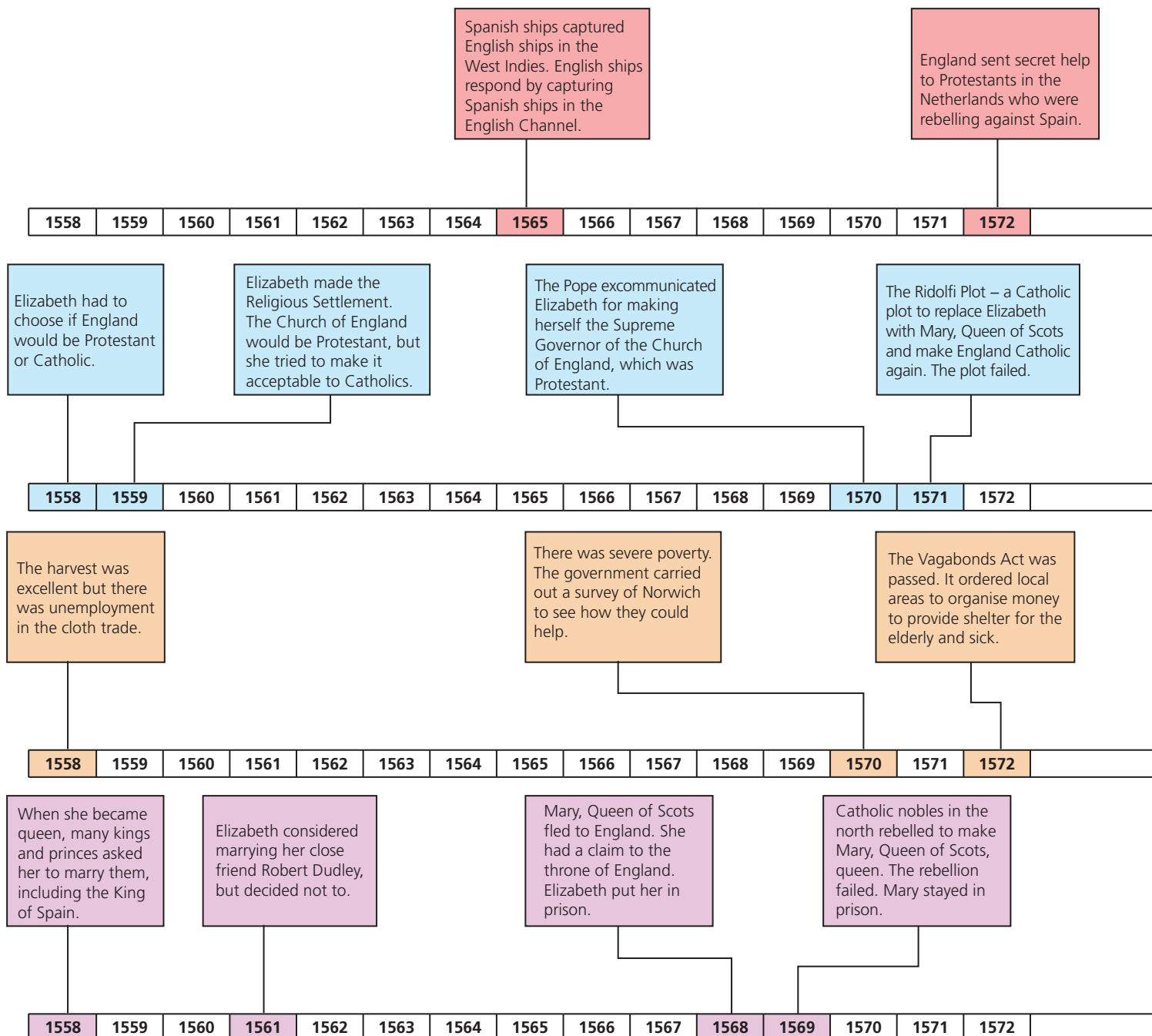
- Mary was Elizabeth's sister.
- She was a Catholic. She tried to return England to Catholicism. Over 300 Protestants who protested were executed.
- She was married to the King of Spain. There were protests in England from people who were scared that the Spanish would takeover England and 90 rebels were executed.
- Disease and bad harvests caused many people to starve to death.

1.2 Was Elizabeth really successful?

A big question for this GCSE topic is: Was Elizabeth really a successful queen?

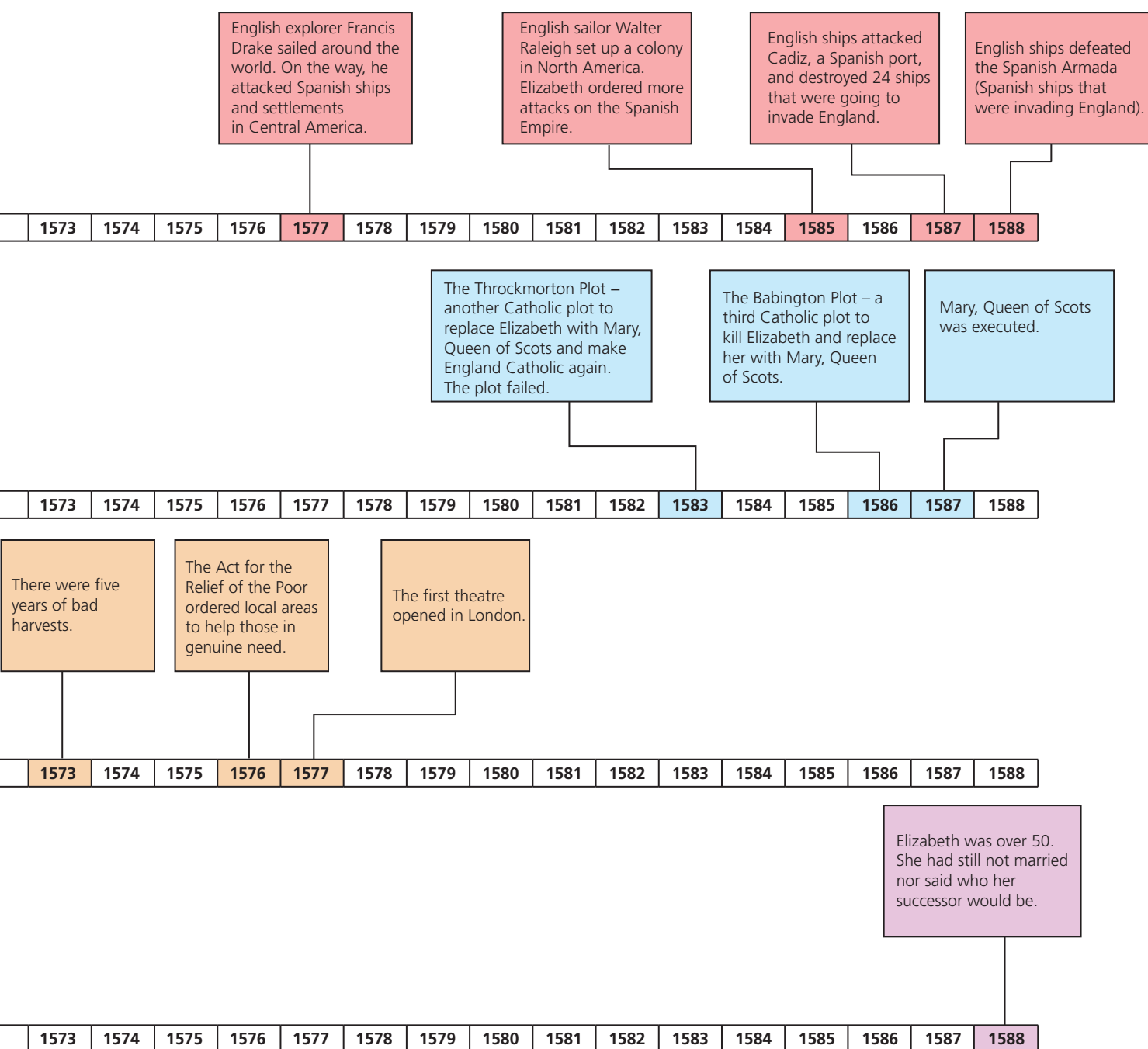
The timeline below gives you an overview of some of the important things that happened to Elizabeth during the years 1558 to 1559. The colours are big ideas:

- 1 Did Elizabeth defend England from foreign threats or make things worse?
- 2 Did Elizabeth unite England in one religion or create bigger religious problems?
- 3 Did Elizabeth help her people live comfortable lives or was there lots of poverty?
- 4 Did Elizabeth make sure that there would be a future Tudor king or queen, or did she leave people uncertain?



Activities

- Read each line of the timeline. Then find an example that you can use to finish each of these sentences:
 - An example of a foreign danger to England was ...
 - An example of a religious problem was ...
 - An example of a money problem in England was ...
 - An example of an English success under Elizabeth was ...
 - An example of a personal danger to Elizabeth was ...
- Based on what you have read on these two pages, what is your first impression of Elizabeth and England from 1558 to 1588?



1.3 Who's who and what did they do?

In this topic, you will come across many people. It is important that you know what they did and how they were connected to Elizabeth's reign.

The activity below will help you to remember who the most important people were.

Activities

The important individuals in Elizabeth's reign

- 1 Draw your own copy of the diagram on these two pages.
- 2 Add notes around each name to say:
 - a what they did
 - b if they were Catholic or Protestant.



John Hawkins



Francis Drake



Walter Raleigh



Elizabeth I



Robert Dudley



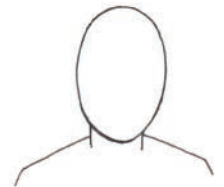
Francis Walsingham



William Cecil



Earl of Northumberland



Earl of Westmorland



Duke of Norfolk

Extension 1: If there was a special connection between any of the individuals or groups and Elizabeth, draw a line between them and write the connection along the line.

Extension 2: Why do you think some of the people in the diagram have just an outline, not a portrait?



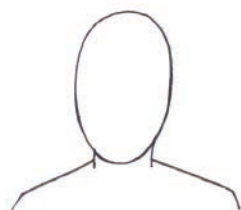
The Pope



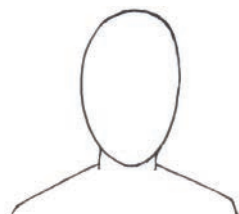
Mary, Queen of Scots



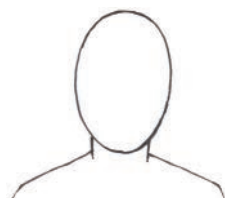
Philip II



Roberto Ridolfi



Francis Throckmorton



Anthony Babington

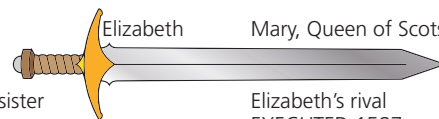
Warning – some names are easy to mix up!

You need to be careful not to get confused over the names. Here are two examples that can be confusing:

- A** There were two Queen Marys in the sixteenth century.
- 1 Mary I of England, also called Mary Tudor. She was Elizabeth's half-sister and died before Elizabeth was queen.
 - 2 Mary, Queen of Scots. She was Elizabeth's cousin. Elizabeth had her imprisoned in England during her reign, and later had her executed.

Mary I

Elizabeth's half-sister
DIED 1558



- B** Some people were known by two names. For example, Robert Dudley was the Earl of Leicester, so some people call him Leicester. But this was the same person.
Why not add his other name to the diagram you made of important individuals?

You could do this activity physically in the classroom. Each person could pretend to be one of the characters on this page. Take it in turns to tell the class who you are, what your role was in Elizabeth's England, and the names of at least two other people you were connected to. The class can show these connections by using ribbons or string. If you are brave enough, you could also say if your character liked Elizabeth or not!

1.4 Getting better at History

This book does not just tell you about Elizabeth and the events of her reign. It is also designed to help you understand what to do to get better at History. This will help you to get the best possible grade in your exam.

One way to get better is to understand the common mistakes that students make, so that you can avoid them.

For example, on page 7 we showed the importance of learning who the key individuals are, so that you don't get them mixed up. Another common mistake is to get confused between Catholics, Protestants and **Puritans** – the next few pages will help with that.

But what if you learn new information and feel completely confused? You have two choices:

Give up or hide the problem from your teacher. Stop working hard.

The result – you will make mistakes in your exams and do badly.

Choice A

Think about why you are stuck. Ask your teacher for help.

The result – your teacher will help you and you will do well in your exams.

Choice B

Choice B is a lot smarter than Choice A!

It is okay to get things wrong. We all do. Saying 'I do not understand' and getting help is the first step to getting it correct.

Choice B means taking responsibility for your learning. Admitting that you are confused and getting help, which will mean that you can start to put things right.

Activities

Think about these questions and note down your answers.

- 1 Why is it important to admit when you are stuck and get help?
- 2 What aspects of History have you been good at in Key Stage 3 and other parts of your GCSE course so far?
- 3 What do you find hard about studying History and how could you improve?