

1. Who was Elizabeth I?

1	What was Elizabeth's parentage?	1. Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII and his 2 nd queen, Anne Boleyn.
2	Who preceded Elizabeth as monarch?	2. She was preceded by her half brother Edward VI (1547-53) and her half-sister Mary (1553-58).

2. Why was it difficult to be a female ruler?

1	Succession	1. As Eliz never married and never produced an heir, it was unclear who would succeed. This alarmed people.
2	Foreign Policy	2. Eliz had to keep England secure against Catholic nations (France & Spain) who had the support of the Pope. They saw Eliz as potentially weak. The Netherlands was a point of conflict.
3	Ireland	3. Eliz was Queen of Ireland, but Irish rebellions occurred against her rule (e.g. 1559). She spent vast sums trying to subdue Ireland.
4	Taxation	4. Raising taxes was unpopular as poverty was widespread – yet Eliz needed income to ensure her government could achieve the things she wanted.
5	Religion	5. Elizabeth was a Protestant who wanted to end the see-sawing of religious policy. She was practical and allowed Catholics to practice privately. But some plotted against her, and the rise of Puritans was also a problem.
6	Mary Queen of Scots	6. Without a direct heir, Mary, A Catholic, was next in line to the throne. She was exiled from Scotland and under house arrest in England. As a focus for Catholic rebels, Mary was a massive problem for Elizabeth.

3. Who was powerful in Elizabethan England?

1	Parliament	1. Comprising the House of Lords and the House of Commons, Parliament was in charge of law-making and raising taxes. The queen decided when to call Parliament and whether to listen to their advice or not.
2	Privy Council	2. Made up Elizabeth's main advisors, mainly powerful nobles, the Privy Council was in charge of the day-to-day running of the country. The Council could meet over any issue. Councillors rarely all agreed with each other.
3	Lords Lieutenant	3. The Queen's representative in each county. They collected taxes and raised militias when needed. They had plenty of influence; some of them were also Privy Councillors.
4	Justices of the Peace	4. Each county had several JPs (or magistrates) to make sure order was kept. They were from a gentry background and ensured laws were complied with. They could sentence criminals to prison, etc.
5	The Royal Court	5. The Royal court was made up of government officials, ladies-in-waiting, advisors and servants – all the people who surrounded the monarch on a day to day basis. It was the centre of the social life of the monarch, but important Privy Councillors also attended.
6	KEY INDIVIDUAL: William Cecil (Lord Burghley) (1520-98)	6. Elizabeth's most trusted advisor. He was Secretary of State (i.e. leader of the Privy Council) during two different periods. He encouraged Elizabeth to fight Catholic rivals at home and abroad. He played a key role in Elizabeth's religious policies. His influence was massive.
7	KEY INDIVIDUAL: Francis Walsingham (c1532-90)	7. Walsingham was Elizabeth's "spy master" who made sure dissent was uncovered. He was a very close advisor who helped establish England as force at sea and played a key role in the execution of Mary Queen of Scots.

4.. Why was the marriage question important to Elizabeth?

1	What was the role of marriage?	1. Marriage could create an alliance with a foreign country or the support of a powerful noble family. It could prevent Mary Queen of Scots from ruling England. But it had risks: it could lead to England falling under a foreign king's control.
2	Who were Elizabeth's main suitors?	2. Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester. Childhood favourite. Key figure at court and in the Council. But scandal surrounded his former wife's death. King Philip II of Spain. He was Elizabeth's brother-in-law as he'd married her half sister Mary. Massively rich and powerful as Spain was exploiting south America's riches. But he was a Catholic Francis, duke of Anjou and Alencon. Brother to the French king and heir to the throne of France. But Elizabeth was 46 when this idea emerged, so a childless marriage could lead to England falling under French power.
3	Why was there controversy with Parliament over the Marriage?	3. By 1566 discussions about marriage happened in Parliament. Many MPs saw it as their role to secure the future of the country. But Peter Wentworth was arrested for ignoring the queen's orders on discussing a marriage. Elizabeth believed the decision was hers, without any interference from Parliament.

Key word	Definition
Catholic	To do with the religion of Roman Catholicism.
Clergy	Members of a religious order, e.g. priests.
Court	The queen's extended household, including all who attend on her.
Courtier	Person attending the royal court as companion or advisor to the queen.
Gentry	High social class, ranked below the nobility. They might serve the monarch as JPs, etc.
Heir	A person who has the legal right to receive property or title of another on that person's death.
Illegitimate	Born outside marriage. Illegitimate children could not be monarchs.
Justices of the Peace (JPs)	Judicial officer appointed by the monarch to help keep order in a county.
Legislation	Laws; the process of making and enacting laws.
Monopolies	The exclusive right to trade in a particular product.
Patriarchy	A system of government in which the power tends to reside with men.
Patronage	Land, titles or power given to ensure an individual's support.
Privy Council	A monarch's private counsellors.
Progress	A tour of their kingdom by a monarch and his or her retinue and entourage.
Suitor	A man who aims to marry a particular woman.