Elizabethan England
1558-88. (Paper 2)
Model Answer work booklet.
Question 5a

Describe two features of ----

(4 marks) 5 minutes?

Model Answers

Example 1...

Describe two key features of the plots against Elizabeth from 1571 to 1587. (4 marks)

One feature of the Throckmorton plot of 1583 was that it planned for the French Duke of Guise, Mary Queen of Scots’ cousin to invade England. This would lead to the overthrow of Elizabeth and the restoration of the Catholic Church as England’s official religion.

Another feature of the Babington Plot of 1586 was that English Catholics would rise up and rebel against Elizabeth. With support from the Pope they would kill Elizabeth and replace her with Mary Queen of Scots who many Catholics saw as a more legitimate monarch.

There are clearly two very specific features identified. Each of the features are further developed or explained briefly.

Example 2...

Describe two features of Mary Queen of Scots’ threat to Elizabeth I. (4 marks)

According to many people at the time Mary Queen of Scots had a stronger claim to the English throne than Elizabeth I. Some Catholics especially thought that Elizabeth was illegitimate and should not be Queen of England whereas Mary was a real Queen.

There were several Roman Catholic plots to put Mary Queen of Scots on the throne. The Ridolfi plot of 1571 was a real threat to Elizabeth and Catholics tried to use Mary Queen of Scots as a possible replacement to Elizabeth; which made the plots a real threat to her.

There are clearly two very specific features identified. Each of the features are further developed or explained briefly.
Other examples...

Revise these...

Describe two features of the Elizabethan religious settlement. 4 marks.

One feature of the Elizabethan religious settlement of 1559 was the Act of Supremacy which made Elizabeth the supreme governor of the Church of England as all of the clergy and royal officials had to swear an oath to promise they would obey or follow her as the ruler of the Church instead of the Pope.

Another feature of the Elizabethan religious settlement of 1559 was the Act of Uniformity. This brought rules to ensure that all churches conformed in appearance and worship with the wishes of the Queen, for example a book of Common Prayer was to be used in all churches.

Describe two features of the Puritan challenge to the religious settlement. 4 marks.

One feature of the Puritan challenge to Elizabeth’s religious settlement was the crucifix controversy. Elizabeth liked crucifixes and wanted churches to keep some familiar symbols, and also did not want to upset too many people too quickly by making quick, big change. Puritan Bishops threatened to resign when she wanted to keep them, but because there were so few Puritan Bishops she could not really ignore them so she backed down.

Another feature of the Puritan challenge to the religious settlement was the vestment controversy. Elizabeth wanted priests to stay special and wear vestments according to the Royal Injunctions. However, many Protestants especially Puritans did not want this and the Queen’s Archbishop issued further instructions and held a special exhibition to show what must be worn. 37 Puritan priests refused to attend and lost their posts, but although some minor opposition continued most consented to Elizabeth’s will.

Describe two features of the revolt of the Northern Earls. 4 marks.

One feature of the revolt of the Northern Earls was religious anger against the religious settlement. The rebels wanted to re-establish Catholicism as the country’s religion. At the start of the revolt, the Earl’s stormed into Durham cathedral and held a Catholic service. The rebels also wore Catholic badges and emblems.

Another feature of the revolt of the Northern Earls was the indecision and poor planning of the leaders; Westmoreland and Northumberland. Although they raised a fairly large army they were unsure of how or whether to depose Elizabeth and on how or whether to use Mary Queen of Scots to replace her.
Complete the answers

Example 3...

Describe two features of the rivalry between England and Spain from 1569 to 1587. (4 marks)

One feature of Anglo-Spanish relations from 1569 to 1587 was that English privateers attacked Spanish ships and colonies.
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Another feature of Anglo-Spanish relations from 1569 to 1587 was that Phillip II did not approve of the Protestant religion taking over the Catholic religion in England.
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There are clearly two very specific features identified. Have each of the features been further developed or explained briefly?

Example 4...

Describe two key features of Elizabeth’s policies in the Netherlands from 1569-85. (4 marks)

Elizabeth tried to get involved in the Netherlands but she was keen to avoid a war from 1569-85.
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Elizabeth sent money to support the rebels against the Spanish in 1576 and also made promises to support them in the future.
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Describe two key features of Elizabeth’s policy in the Netherlands from 1585-88. (4 marks)

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There are clearly two very specific features identified.

Have each of the features been further developed or explained briefly?

Describe two features of Education in Elizabethan England. (4 marks)

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Question 5b

Explain why...

(There will be 2 bullet points & you will need to use your own knowledge – can you use SFD, explain, analyse and stay focused on the question?)

Advice / guidance...

- Write 3 paragraphs.
- Use PEEL.
- Use the question in the answer.
- No need for a conclusion.

(12 marks)

15 minutes
**Model Answer**

**Explain why most people in England accepted Elizabeth’s religious settlement of 1559.**

You may use the following in your answer:

- Elizabeth was made Supreme Governor of The Church.
- Some Catholic features were retained in churches.

You must also use information of your own. (12 marks)

Most people accepted Elizabeth’s religious settlement of 1559 because they believed it was an acceptable compromise of religious arguments which could hopefully stop conflict between Catholics and Protestants. In particular many people would have believed that it was much better as a compromise to stop the persecution of people (Protestants especially) under Mary I (aka Bloody Mary). Mary I had killed over 300 Protestants in 5 years because she was strictly opposed to the Protestant religion as heresy. This meant Protestants were persecuted and burned at the stake. Therefore Protestants would welcome the compromise of the religious settlement as it seemed to secure the Protestant faith as the official faith of England and made Elizabeth Supreme Governor of the Church. As a Protestant Queen she would protect them from the Pope and a return to extreme Catholicism which would prevent them from worshipping or at worst persecute and kill them. Most Protestants would also accept the freedoms given to them to have churches and services in their own language, without ornate decoration and the idea of not accepting transubstantiation in Holy Communion. Therefore Protestants would on the whole accept the settlement because it gave them freedom to worship and made England Protestant under the Acts of Uniformity and Supremacy.

Another reason why most people accepted Elizabeth’s religious settlement of 1559 was because it had a lot of compromises which most Catholics could accept. Elizabeth wanted the settlement to be a compromise to ensure people would be loyal to her and to reduce religious tensions and instability. As a result of this Elizabeth allowed Catholic beliefs to be expressed in their services where people wanted this. For example she wanted to keep a Catholic “feel” to churches. The new Prayer Book which was introduced was worded so that Catholics and Protestants could interpret it how they wanted. This meant there were fewer forced demands on Catholics and consequently they would be more likely to accept and even support the settlement outwardly. Elizabeth made it clear that even in areas which were slow to make changes such as Lancashire, there would not be harsh punishments which could stir up opposition. This resulted in a period of calm with few major rebellions when the settlement was introduced.
Catholics could also support the religious settlement made by a Protestant Queen because of the careful wording and implementation of the Royal Injunctions. The Royal Injunctions were made to establish and clarify the two acts of the settlement. Although there were guidelines and rules such as every parish had to have a copy of the Bible in English (which made Protestants happy) there were references to miracles and saints which were so open to interpretation that Catholics could also be happy. Therefore the settlement was more widely acceptable and accepted because it did not seek to separate or divide religions but allow parts of both, which in turn allowed liberal members of Catholic and Protestant churches to accept the compromise or “Middle Way” as it became known. This was very important because people had experienced religious persecution and division due to monarchs choosing one religion or another whereas Elizabeth was trying a new compromise to bring the moderates together.
Queen Elizabeth’s right to rule was questioned when she became Queen because of the issue of her legitimacy. Queen Elizabeth I was the second daughter and 3rd child of Henry VIII. She was born of his 2nd marriage to Anne Boleyn. This was a massively controversial marriage which led to huge changes, arguments and problems for England in the 1500s. Henry’s first marriage was to Catherine of Aragon who was from Spain. Henry married his 2nd wife (Anne Boleyn) on 25th January 1533 which was before he had a legal annulment (divorce) from Catherine. This was and IS still highly illegal (bigamy). It also means that legally at that point that the child Anne was carrying was legally a bastard (illegitimate). The Pope refused to accept the divorce and marriage and as a result Catholics in England in 1558 did not accept Elizabeth as a legitimate monarch.

Henry himself gave people cause to believe that Elizabeth would have no right to rule. When he executed her mother Anne Boleyn in 1536 he declared that Elizabeth was illegitimate and excluded her from the succession. Although he later reversed this decision, it did do damage to Elizabeth’s credibility. Even some advisers and Lords doubted her right to rule because of this.

Other people doubted her right to rule in 1558 because they believed her religion was wrong and that Protestants like Elizabeth were “Heretics” who would lead England to ruin. Many non-Catholics also doubted her right to rule because she was a woman. These two arguments did not make her illegitimate but did affect whether people felt she should be Queen, therefore making her first few months and years as Queen very unstable. Her decisions about religion would be very important because they could cause fear amongst Protestants or rebellion by Catholics. The problem of her being a woman and seen as weak could only be overcome if she proved her strengths and also got married and had children. The example of Bloody Mary’s rule gave people doubts that a woman could rule effectively due to the debt and hate she had caused in England through religious extremism.

Elizabeth therefore faced huge challenges because her right to rule was questioned when she became Queen in 1558. These were related to her legitimacy, religion and gender. The new Queen would have a lot to prove.

- READ to understand.
- Circle words you don’t understand.
- Highlight 5 SFD.
- Break the essay down into 10 revision notes and test yourself on them.
Explain why finances were a problem for Elizabeth when she became Queen. (12)
You may use the following in your answer...
- Mary I’s financial problems
- Taxation
You must also use information of your own.

When Elizabeth I came to the throne in 1558, she inherited a difficult financial situation and a debt of nearly £300,000. Over £100,000 of this was owed to the Antwerp Exchange who charged an interest rate of 14%. Mary (aka “Bloody Mary”) had left England in serious debt. She had debased the value of English money by reducing the amount of silver in coins which in turn led to prices rising and trade being weakened. The income of Elizabeth / Tudor Royal income was approximately £280,000. This was a significant problem for Elizabeth because it could destabilise her reign. Having no money made a monarch weaker because they would not be able to pay for an army or navy to defend against foreign threats or even rebellions against them in their own country. This was especially a problem for Elizabeth because her own legitimacy was in question and this could lead to rebellions or invasion. Having no money also destabilised the new Queen because she would need to raise funds from parliament or by raising taxes. Neither of these ways was popular and could actually lead to rebellion and Elizabeth being overthrown. Therefore the debt left by Mary was a very significant threat which could weaken her already precarious start to her reign.

Elizabeth needed to restructure and solve the problem of debt because debt makes a country weak and unable to deal with problems. Without money she could further reduce her right to rule and be questioned even more about issues such as her legitimacy to rule. A monarch needed money in the 1500s to fight wars and make alliances, without these a monarch could not do what they were supposed to which was have the power to protect and rule the country. Elizabeth might therefore be put under even more pressure to marry a suitable suitor to create an alliance or gain revenue for her country. This could further weaken her ability to rule as it could dilute her power yet not marrying and not having enough money could jeopardise her fragile rule.

One simple answer was to raise taxes but this could cause rebellion and anger with the ordinary people, and make the Nobles feel that their monarch was unfair and then overthrow them! Also, Parliament were in charge of taxes and she would have to ask them if it was OK to raise them. This could weaken her authority and control because they might ask for favours or laws or powers in return. She could arrest and imprison more noblemen under false charges and take their land and money, but this would obviously cause anger and instability. She could also take out more loans and make more debt for England. Finances were clearly a big threat to Elizabeth when she became Queen. To get into more debt would cause further instability, to demand more money could cause rebellion and to marry would dilute her power. The issue of money was a practical problem which meant her issues of legitimacy would be further worsened and her reign getting off to a really bad start.
Complete the answer

Explain why Phillip II launched the Armada against England in 1588

You may use the following in your answer:

- England’s involvement in the Netherlands
- Drake’s attacks on Spanish colonies in America

You must also use information of your own. (12 marks)

Phillip II launched the Armada against England after relations between the countries had worsened up until 1585. England’s involvement in the Netherlands was an important reason for Phillip’s decision to launch the Armada by 1588. In 1585 Elizabeth had signed the Treaty of Nonsuch. This promised to finance 7400 soldiers to help Dutch Protestant rebels fight against the Spanish. She sent an army under the leadership of the Earl of Leicester to the Netherlands. At the time the Netherlands were controlled by the Spanish, so Phillip would have seen the sending of an army as an act of war against Spain no matter how small the army might have been. This was significant because English soldiers could be in direct conflict with the Spanish and create a state of war which made Phillip believe he had a right to attack England with the Armada. It was even more significant when Leicester accepted the Title of Governor General of the Netherlands because this suggested the Spanish would be removed and England would take over; which made Phillip feel that England was becoming a direct threat to Spain’s power. Phillip would have felt this was impossible to ignore and as a result of the Treaty of Nonsuch he launched the Armada.

Another reason why Phillip II launched the Armada against England was because of the actions of Drake in the Americas.

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Explain why The Spanish Armada was defeated.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Superior English ships
- The weather

You must also use information of your own. (12 marks)
Question 5c

Make a judgement about a statement...

(There will be 2 bullet points & you will need to use your own knowledge – can you use SFD, agree & disagree and stay focused on the question?)

Advice / guidance...

• Focus on the question – keep using the wording from the statement in your answer.
• Identify criteria to judge the question by.
• Organise your SFD into – agree – disagree
• Prove it!!! Make sure you don’t just describe and state the SFD – explain and analyse how it has consequences or links to the statement.
• Conclusion / Judgement needed which uses the statement and criteria where appropriate.

(16 marks)

20 minutes
Model Answer

Use and revise the answer...

The 16 mark question – same methods or style as the 16 marker for Paper 1 (Medicine)

Making judgements...

'The decline in Anglo-Spanish relations in the years 1569–85 was caused by Elizabeth I. How far do you agree?
You may use the following in your answer:
• Drake’s voyages to the New World
• The Netherlands.
You must also use information of your own.

To judge if Elizabeth was the cause of the decline in Anglo-Spanish relations from 1569 to 1585 I would need to see if there were any other causes of the decline which were significant, or whether Elizabeth’s actions which did lead to a decline in relations were caused by other factors or events which she was trying to deal with or solve.

There are several examples of why I could agree with the statement that the decline in Anglo-Spanish relations was caused by Elizabeth. One of these was that Elizabeth made it clear that she supported Francis Drake’s privateering and other actions against the Spanish. Drake was hired by Elizabeth in 1572 and he went to Panama where he captured £40,000 of Spanish silver which he brought back to England. In 1577 Elizabeth ordered Drake to sail around the tip of South America and bring back gold, silver and spices which would inevitably come from the Spanish. This was significant because Anglo-Spanish relations had been improving but again worsened in 1577 and this could be directly linked to Drake’s actions and Phillip’s suspicions that Drake was under Elizabeth’s orders. Anglo-Spanish relations became even worse by 1580 when Drake returned from circumnavigating the world with £400,000 of Spanish treasure. This became a significant problem because Elizabeth publically knighted Drake on the deck of his ship. This made Phillip II angry because he saw Drake as nothing more than a pirate. It may have also contributed to Phillip’s lack of money to pay for war in the Netherlands which Elizabeth was also starting to involve herself with from 1570-77 through her trying to encourage France to fight the Spanish in the Netherlands, and offer Dutch rebels a loan of £100,000 and possible future support. Therefore economic and political reasons caused by Elizabeth seem to have been significant in the decline in Anglo-Spanish relations as Elizabeth sought to frustrate Spanish economic and political aims, but not so much to cause an actual war.
Although these economic and political reasons can be seen as Elizabeth’s fault there are some reasons why I would disagree with this statement and blame the Spanish, English Catholics and the Pope for worsening relations. Plots against Elizabeth increased after 1570 when the Pope excommunicated her. The Ridolfi and Throckmorton plots which were caused by this made Elizabeth more fearful of Spanish involvement in serious threats to her throne and her life. This in turn made her more determined to seek out plotters through her spy network and more determined to frustrate Spanish foreign policy and their economy, which could prevent the Spanish being able to invade successfully. This was probably her motivation for getting involved in the Netherlands against the Spanish and trying to use the French as a block to Spain’s aims, as well as promoting and supporting the actions of Drake. These actions were clearly Elizabeth’s but I believe they came from her increased desire to protect her throne because the Pope and Spain seemed more determined after 1570 to destabilise and remove her. I therefore think that religion was a key factor in the worsening of Anglo-Spanish relations from 1569-85 because both Phillip and the Pope believed Protestantism was heresy and therefore they wanted to remove her. The Pope and Phillip II of Spain both saw it as their duty to remove Elizabeth after 1570, therefore Spain was involved in supporting plots such as the Ridolfi plot of 1571. Such fears led Elizabeth to pass laws against Catholics in 1581 such as making attempts to convert people to Catholicism treasonous. I would therefore see religion as the spark for a rivalry between Spain and England which would get worse through economic and political means or events.

Overall I would mostly disagree with the statement that it was Elizabeth’s actions which caused a worsening of relations between Spain and England. There were of course many actions by Elizabeth which did this, but I believe that the religious problem and the determination of the Pope and Phillip to remove the heretic queen (as they saw her) intensified Elizabeth’s fears over her position and security which led her to increasingly want to frustrate Spanish ambitions to prevent invasion. If Spain and the Pope had not tried to remove Elizabeth and caused an intensification of the threat of plots, then Elizabeth’s more severe approach against Catholics, support for Drake and involvement in the Netherlands would not have been necessary as she would not have felt so threatened. Therefore it was other factors which led to her actions which were more significant.

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Complete the answer

The 16 mark question – same methods or style as the 16 marker for Paper 1 (Medicine)

Making judgements...

Population growth was the main reason why vagabondage increased in Elizabethan England.

How far do you agree? Explain your answer:

- sheep farming
- rising prices

You may use the following in your answer:

You must also use information of your own. (16 marks)

Exam tip: Consider points ‘For’ and ‘Against’ the statement and make a judgement. Be clear about your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing.

To judge whether the increase in vagabonds (roaming beggars and homeless) in Elizabethan England was mostly linked to population growth I would need to compare population growth with other factors or causes such as new ways of farming and rising prices. The impact of these would need to be evaluated to compare their impact on people’s employment and behaviour.

Population growth definitely was a reason for the growth in vagabondage in Elizabethan times; especially as the population had grown by as much as 35%. Towns like Norwich had grown by 1571 and found that there were increases in demand for food, land and jobs which caused rising prices, rising rent and falling wages. Wages fell because there were more people needing work and therefore labour became cheaper as more people competed for fewer jobs. Employers were also able to cut wages because people were easy to find, so if anybody complained about pay they were easy to replace. Trade was sometimes not good and this resulted in people losing jobs therefore increasing unemployment, and this was especially bad in the growing towns. The cost of food also rose due to the fact that towns’ populations grew but the countryside was still growing the same amount of food which meant demand for food increased. This was made worse by bad harvests. An increasing population could not cope with such problems which led to many people turning to begging and vagabondage to try to survive because there was inadequate and inconsistent help for those in need in different parts of the country.

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Your Turn

The 16 mark question – same methods or style as the 16 marker for Paper 1 (Medicine)

Making judgements...

Use the checklist to ensure you are constructing an effective answer

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‘The main reason that voyages of exploration were undertaken during Elizabeth I’s reign was to increase England’s wealth’. How far do you agree?
You may use the following in your answer:
• Anglo-Spanish relations
• developing trade.
You must also use information of your own. 16 marks

Exam tip
You can make a link between developing trade and Anglo-Spanish relations, which were worsening. Remember, much of Spain’s wealth was from its colonies in the New World.