**The Elizabethan Age, 1558-1603**

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| **Elizabethan Government**Life before she became queen:* Henry VIII had turned England Protestant to marry Anne 0 Elizabeth’s mum.
* Edward VI – took over aged 9, country became more Protestant.
* Mary I – Elizabeth’s half-sister, made England Catholic as Queen. Elizabeth was under house arrest.

Coronation and popularity:* Coronation lasted many days – won support.
* Portraits were important in showing Elizabeth as strong.
* Royal Progresses – Elizabeth toured the country.
* Patronage – Elizabeth bribes her councillors with land and titles.

Government:* Royal Court – wherever Elizabeth was.
* Privy Councillors – advisors including Robert Dudley and William Cecil.
* Local Government – Lord Lieutentant and Justices of the Peace.
* Parliament – mainly called for raising taxes, banned from discussing foreign policy and religion.
 | **Lifestyles of the rich and poor**Different lifestyles:* Nobles – educated, ‘H’ shaped buildings, landscaped garden, fashionable.
* Gentry – similar to nobles, but less well-off and luxurious.
* Poor – long hours, poorly educated, poor living conditions – lived with straw floors with animals.

Poverty causes:* Rising inflation.
* Bad harvesters.
* Rural depopulation.
* Costly wars.
* Rising population.

Types of Vagrants/Vagabonds:* Hooker.
* Clapper dudgeon.
* Doxy.
* Abraham man.
* Ruffler.
* Dummerer.
* Counterfeit Crank.

Laws to help poor:* 1572 – Vagabonds Act – severe punishments against vagabonds – whipping/hot iron/death penalty.
* 1601 – Act for Relief of the Poor – government took responsibility for looking after the poor.

Types of poor:* Impotent – can’t work.
* Able-bodied – won’t work.
 | **Popular Entertainment**Cruel Sports* Bull-baiting
* Bear-baiting
* Cock fighting.

Entertainment enjoyed by rich:* Hunting
* Archery
* Dancing
* Music and singing
* Ball games – bowls and tennis.

Features of theatre:* Circular design.
* Thatched roof.
* Trap door to ‘hell’/
* No scenery – just painted walls.
* Rich people in boxes/galleries.
* Cheap tickets for groundlings.
* Performances in daytime.
* Often turned into a brothel in the evening.
* Lots of crime – pick-pockets.
* Actors were only male.
* Playwrights included William Shakespeare.

Attitudes towards theatre:* Support – many supported it due to Elizabeth’s love of theatre.
* Opposition – local authorities who feared crime.
* Opposition – Puritans who believed it was sinfull.
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| **The Problem of Religion**Religious Problems:* England was divided.
* Mary Queen of Scots was claiming to be Queen.
* Powerful countries are Catholic.
* England was Catholic.
* Elizabeth was Protestant.

Religious Settlement:* Religious compromise – some Catholic, mainly Protestant.
* Protestant – English bible, Elizabeth Head of Church.
* Catholic – some decoration and vestments.
* Act of Supremacy – made Elizabeth Head of Church.
* Act of Uniformity – set out rules for all churches.

Reactions:* At home – most clergy accepted it.
* At home – reaction was muted.
* Abroad – France wasn’t interested – civil war.
* Abroad – Spain wanted friendship so didn’t react.
* Abroad – Pope criticised but hoped Elizabeth’s changes would be over turned.
 | **The Catholic threat**Recusancy:* Catholic priests trained abroad, returned to England to convert people to Catholicism – Edmund Campion.

Mary Queen of Scots:* Forced to abdicate Scotland, and turned to Elizabeth for help in 1568.

Rebellion of Northern Earls:* Rebellion in the North in 1569. Planned to replace Elizabeth with MQS. Failed, 800 rebels were killed.
* Resulted in excommunication of Elizabeth by the Pope.

Ridolfi Plot 1571:* Plot involving Italian banker, Spain, the Pope, and MQS.
* Uncovered, Elizabeth refuses to have Mary executed.

Throckmorton Plot 1583-84:* Plot involving France, Throckmorton (English Catholic), Spain, the Pope, and MQS.
* Uncovered, Elizabeth refuses to have Mary executed.

Babington Plot 1586:* Another plot involving Mary.
* This time there was evidence of Mary’s involvement – “set the six men to work”.

Execution of MQS 1587:* Mary found guilty of treason.
* Elizabeth still reluctant to kill her.
* Privy Council took signed death warrant and executed Mary against Elizabeth’s wish.
 | **Spanish Armada**Causes:* Pope excommunicating Elizabeth.
* Execution of MQS.
* Elizabeth rejecting Philip’s marriage proposal.
* Francis Drake raiding Spanish ships.
* Elizabeth supporting Protestants in Spanish Netherlands.

Events:* Armada sails through channel, followed by English ships.
* Spanish in crescent formation – difficult to attack.
* Spanish reach Calais, but troops they are meeting are delayed.
* English send fire ships to break up crescent formation.
* Wind changes and blows Spanish ships north.
* Many Spanish ships are destroyed by English and bad weather around Scotland.

Reasons for failure:* Fireships tactic.
* Spanish Navy commander Duke of Medina was seasick.
* Spanish cannons didn’t work.
* Luck – wind change.
 | **Puritan Threat**Who were they: * Extreme Protestants.
* Believed in plain churches and vestments.
* Hated theatre and decoration.

Problems:* 1566 – Vestments – Puritans refused to wear them, 37 were sacked.
* 1571 – Walter Strickland – MP tried to introduce law stopping vestments – parliament shut down.
* 1579 – John Stubbs – wrote a criticism of Elizabeth for discussing marriage to French prince – hand chopped off.
* 1586 – Anthony Cope – MP tried to introduce Puritan reforms – Elizabeth shut down parliament.
* 1588-89 – Marprelate Tracts were anonymous pamphlets criticising Elizabeth – were too violent to gain support of the public.

Elizabeth’s response:* 1570s – she suspended the Archbishop for failing to ban Puritan meetings.
* 1580s – she appointed a new Archbishop to crack down on the Puritans.
* 1590s – Separatist movement – Puritans started meeting in secret. Elizabeth executed three of leaders.
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