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Edexcel - GCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE



Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88

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Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88

Edexcel - GCSE





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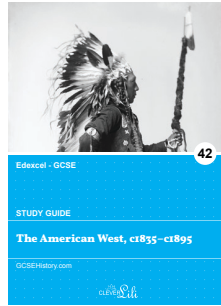
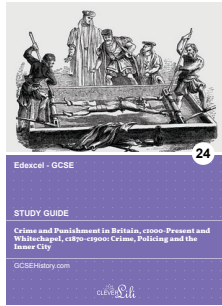
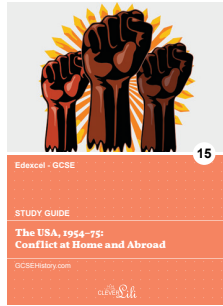
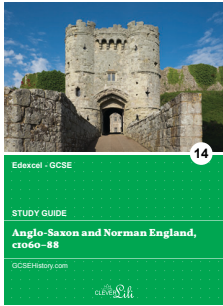
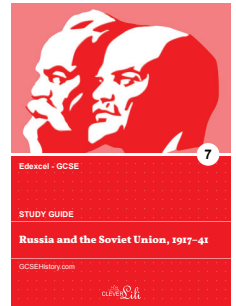
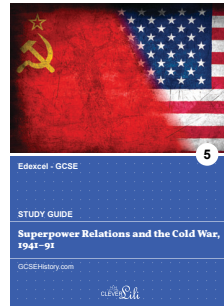
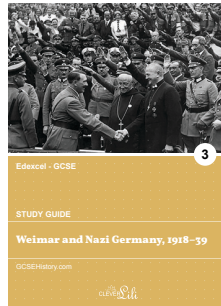
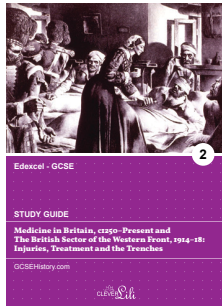
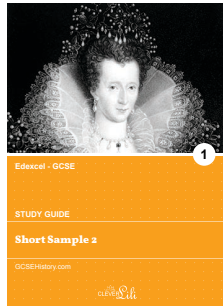
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons



WHAT questions cover the key events and themes.



WHO questions cover the key people involved.



WHEN questions cover the timings of key events.



WHERE questions cover the locations of key moments.



WHY questions cover the reasons behind key events.



HOW questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.



IMPORTANCE questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.



DECISIONS questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on page 15.

Page references

Tudor (p.7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

Elizabethan England 1558-1588 investigates how England was ruled under Queen Elizabeth I. The course focuses on the first 30 years of Elizabeth's reign. You will focus on crucial events during this period, and study the different social, cultural, political, economic and religious changes that occurred.

Purpose

This study guide will help you to understand the complexities and challenges that Elizabeth I faced during her rule. You will investigate themes such as power, law and order, government, religion, and economy and society. This guide will enable you to develop the historical thinking skills of causation and consequence, similarity and difference, and change and continuity.

Topics

This study guide is split into three key topic areas.

- 🗒️ Topic 1: Queen, government and religion, 1558-69. This looks at the situation on Elizabeth's accession, the settlement of religion, challenges to the Religious Settlement and the role of Mary, Queen of Scots.
- 🗒️ Topic 2: Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad, 1569-88. This topic explores the challenges to Elizabeth from abroad and at home. You will study the domestic plots made against Elizabeth, war with Spain and the launch of the Spanish Armada.
- 🗒️ Topic 3: Elizabethan society in the Age of Exploration, 1558-88. You will investigate Elizabethan society by looking at the key themes of leisure, poverty and education. You will also explore the age of exploration and discoveries, including the roles of Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh.

Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied in this guide include:

- 👤 Queen Elizabeth I.
- 👤 King Philip II.
- 👤 Mary, Queen of Scots.
- 👤 Pope Pius V.
- 👤 Robert Dudley.
- 👤 Sir Francis Walsingham.
- 👤 William Cecil.
- 👤 Sir Francis Drake.
- 👤 Sir Walter Raleigh.

Key Events

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:

- 📅 The Religious Settlement.
- 📅 The Northern Rebellion.
- 📅 The Ridolfi Plot.
- 📅 The Throckmorton Plot.
- 📅 The Babington Plot.
- 📅 The Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.
- 📅 The Spanish Armada.

Assessment

Elizabethan England 1558-1588 forms part of paper 2, you will have a total of 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the paper. You should spend 45 minutes on the Elizabeth section of the paper. There will be 3 exam questions which will assess what you have learnt on the Elizabethan England 1558-1588 course.

- 👤 Question 1 is worth 4 marks. This question will require you to describe TWO key features of a certain aspect of Elizabeth England. For example, you could be asked to describe two key features of the Religious Settlement.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

- 👤 Question 2 is worth 12 marks. This question will require you to explain the causes to an event, topic or theme. It requires you to use your contextual knowledge and analyse how the event, topic or theme was caused. You should aim to include at least 3 causes and remember, the answer will always give you two stimulus points to work with. For example, 'Explain why there was an increase in poverty in early Elizabethan England'.
- 👤 Question 3 is worth 16 marks. This question will give you two options and you only need to answer ONE. Both questions will give you a historical statement and you will then need to argue how far you agree or disagree with the statement on your chosen question. The focus of the question will always be different, focusing on one of the 2nd order concepts such as causation, consequence, change, continuity, similarity and difference. For example, 'The main reason Mary, Queen of Scots was executed was because she was involved in the Babington Plot. How far do you agree? Explain your answer'.

Sample

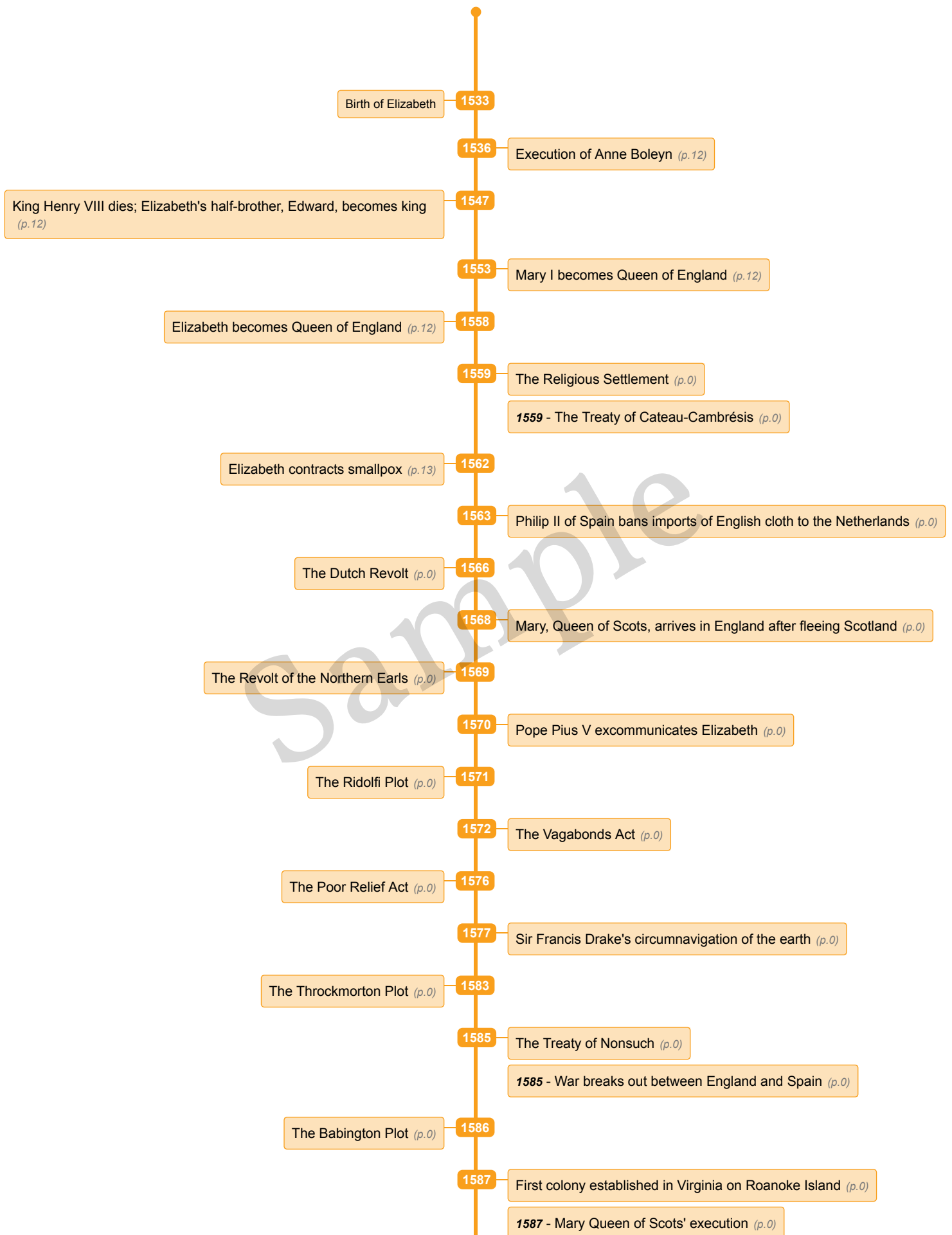


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ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND, C1558-1588

TIMELINE



The Spanish Armada (p.0)

1588

1603

Elizabeth I dies; King James VI of Scotland becomes King James I of England

Sample



BACKGROUND AND CHALLENGES

Elizabeth's childhood was not as simple as we may assume. Some distressing experiences shaped the queen she would later become.



Who was Elizabeth I?

Elizabeth was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.



Which house was Elizabeth I from?

Elizabeth was from the House of Tudor.



How old was Elizabeth I when she ascended to the throne?

Elizabeth was 25 years old when she became queen.



When did Elizabeth I become queen?

She ruled England and Ireland from 1558, after the death of her sister, Mary I, and **reigned** until her own death in 1603.



Who were Elizabeth I's siblings?

Elizabeth I had two half-siblings, Edward VI and Mary I.



Who was Elizabeth I's predecessor?

Mary I, Elizabeth's half-sister, was Queen of England before Elizabeth I.



How experienced was Elizabeth I when she became queen in 1558?

Elizabeth I was young and inexperienced when she became Queen of England in 1558.



What type of leader was Elizabeth I?

Queen Elizabeth I was a strong-minded leader. She ruled England during a time of challenges at home and abroad.



What were Elizabeth I's strengths?

Elizabeth had several important character traits which were her strengths.

- ✓ She was **independent**. This meant she could have her choice of **suitors** rather than be controlled by a foreign husband.
- ✓ She was cautious. She understood the balance needed to maintain her **reign**, particularly regarding the rivalry between Protestants and Catholics.
- ✓ She was an intelligent and well-educated queen. She spoke foreign languages, enjoyed theatre (p.0) and music, and shrewdly rewarded loyalty to those who served her.
- ✓ She was dominant. She was always ready to assert her power and refused to be controlled by anyone.
- ✓ She was a skilful self-publicist. She worked hard to create the right image and ensured her **propaganda** presented her well.



How did trauma shape Elizabeth I's character?

Elizabeth had a traumatic childhood that shaped her character as queen.

- ✓ Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, divorced her mother, Anne Boleyn, accusing her of adultery. Boleyn was eventually executed.
- ✓ Henry VIII married (p.0) his third wife, Jane Seymour, only 11 days after Anne Boleyn was executed.



- ✓ Elizabeth was estranged from her father, Henry VIII for some of her childhood.
- ✓ When Elizabeth's half-sister, Mary, became queen she imprisoned Elizabeth in the Tower of London and accused her of supporting a **rebellion** against her.

What problems did Elizabeth I inherit when she came to the throne in 1558?

Elizabeth faced a number of problems in 1558.

- ✓ She was left with **debts** of £300,000 by Mary I, following an expensive war with France.
- ✓ She was female and some people feared England would be seen as a weak country because most others at the time, such as Spain, were ruled by men.
- ✓ Elizabeth had been declared **illegitimate** following her mother's execution. Many saw her as an illegitimate daughter from an unlawful marriage (p.0), and not the rightful Queen of England.
- ✓ Religion was a huge problem. The country had switched from Catholicism to Protestantism and then back again since Henry VIII's death in 1547. It was a religious rollercoaster, causing conflict and confusion.
- ✓ There were threats from Catholics. Many were opposed to Elizabeth's Religious Settlement (p.0) and wanted her **Catholic** cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots (p.0), on **the throne**.
- ✓ The government needed more money but Elizabeth inherited a country riddled with poverty (p.0). Increased taxation would be an unpopular and dangerous move.

Why was Elizabeth I's legitimacy questioned?

Catholics considered Elizabeth was born out of wedlock as the **Catholic** church did not recognise Henry VIII's divorce from Catherine of Aragon. In their eyes, he was still married (p.0) to his first wife, which meant Elizabeth must be **illegitimate**.

Why was gender an issue for Elizabeth I in 1558?

Most people wanted a man as the monarch and women did not have much influence in society. When England was previously ruled by a female - Mary I - her **reign** was short and unsuccessful, partly because the country lost a war and incurred huge **debt** in the process.

Why was marriage an issue for Elizabeth I in 1558?

Marriage (p.0) was a problem for Elizabeth. As a queen in the 16th century, she was expected to marry and have children. However, during this time men had more authority than women. Elizabeth did not want to **submit** to the authority of a husband. Although she had many **suitors**, she never married.

What was Elizabeth I known as?

Elizabeth never married (p.0) and was later known as 'The Virgin Queen'.

Why was succession important during the reign of Elizabeth I?

There were fears over the **succession** as Elizabeth had not produced an **heir** who could take **the throne** after her. This caused fear and uncertainty about the future, accentuated in 1562 when Elizabeth nearly died from **smallpox**.

What was the threat to Elizabeth I from France in 1558?

England had been at war with France intermittently since 1522 and it had been costly. When Elizabeth came to **the throne** in 1558, she inherited a £300,000 **debt** from Henry VIII and Mary I. She needed to find a solution to this hole in the country's finances.

What were the financial challenges Elizabeth I had to face?

As well as inheriting a considerable **debt**, Elizabeth needed to reduce government spending. She did this by reducing her own household spending and selling off land belonging to the Crown. This took 20 years, but by 1585 she had paid off the debt and built a surplus of £300,000.



How was the country financed during Elizabeth I's rule?

As monarch, Elizabeth was expected to fund the costs of running the country. She had to raise money from taxes, **legislation** which needed the support and approval of Parliament.



How did Elizabeth I gain support in the country?

Elizabeth used 5 main **strategies** to gain the support of her court and the **nobles** in Parliament.

- ✓ Elizabeth bought the loyalty of her court and **nobles** using **patronage**. She granted 'leases in reversion' to loyal nobles. These were effectively a grant of freedom and money from the queen.
- ✓ Elizabeth could reward courtiers with titles, power, and positions of authority without it costing the **treasury** any money. She gave **nobles** social status and power, conditional on them supporting her as the queen. She made sure to offer minor nobles social status, too, to broaden her power base of influence.
- ✓ Elizabeth also granted **nobles monopolies** over whole **industries** in order to ensure her power base was stable.
- ✓ Elizabeth would go on visits, known as progresses, with the Royal Court. During these expeditions, the queen would stay at wealthy **nobles'** houses which was seen as a great privilege for them.
- ✓ Elizabeth worked to shape her public image. Elizabeth **commissioned propaganda** portraits of herself which included images of power and purity.

Sample

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GLOSSARY

A

Alliance - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.

Allies - parties working together for a common objective, such as countries involved in a war. In both world wars, 'Allies' refers to those countries on the side of Great Britain.

Almshouse - charitable housing offering accommodation to poor people.

Ambassador - someone, often a diplomat, who represents their state, country or organisation in a different setting or place.

Apprenticeship - the arrangement whereby an untrained person is employed to learn a trade or skill.

Assassinate - to murder someone, usually an important figure, often for religious or political reasons.

Assassination - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

Astrolabe - an instrument that takes measurements of the sky and stars. Sailors devised hundreds of uses for it.

B

Bishop, Bishops - a senior member of the Christian Church, usually in charge of a diocese.

Bridewell - an early modern type of prison where vagabonds and prostitutes were whipped and made to work. They were also used to hold petty criminals awaiting trial.

C

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Captive, Captivity - to be held in prison or confinement.

Catholic - a Christian who belongs to the Roman Catholic Church.

Circumnavigate - to travel around something or somewhere, commonly used to refer to sailing around the world.

Civilian - a non-military person.

Claim - someone's assertion of their right to something - for example, a claim to the throne.

Clergy - those ordained for religious duties, especially in the Christian Church.

Colonies, Colony - a country or area controlled by another country and occupied by settlers.

Colonisation - when one country encourages the migration of its people to another, with a view to bringing the second country under its control.

Colonists - people who settle in or inhabit another country, such as the British who went to America.

Commissions - the collective term for several organisations set up by the League of Nations to solve global issues.

Coronation - the ceremony of crowning a monarch.

Councillor, Councillors - a member of a council, often acting as an adviser to a monarch.

Credit - the ability to borrow money, or use goods or services, on the understanding that it will be paid for later.

Culture - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

D

Debt - when something, usually money, is owed by a person, organisation or institution to another.

Decree - an official order with the force of law behind it.

Dispute - a disagreement or argument; often used to describe conflict between different countries.

Dissent, Dissenting - to hold or express views against an idea or policy, often in politics.

E

Earl, Earls - the most important men in the country after the monarch during medieval times.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Embassy - historically, a deputation sent by one ruler, state or country to another. More recently, it is also the accepted name for the official residence or offices of an ambassador.

Empire - a group of states or countries ruled over and controlled by a single monarch.

Enclosure - the process of dividing up large fields into privately owned, smaller pieces of land.

Excommunicate, Excommunication - to formally expel someone from the Catholic Church. Someone who is excommunicated is forbidden from participating in sacraments and services, and often believes their soul is condemned.

Extreme - furthest from the centre or any given point. If someone holds extreme views, they are not moderate and are considered radical.

F

Fasting - to deliberately refrain from eating, and often drinking, for a period of time.

Figurehead - Someone who acts as a symbolic leader for something.

Foreign policy - a government's strategy for dealing with other nations.

G

Gentry - a high social class, coming below the nobility.

Golden Age - a phrase referring to a period of time considered prosperous, peaceful and happy, or when something was at its peak.

H

Harvest - the process of gathering and collecting crops.

Heir - someone who is entitled to property or rank following the current owner or holder's death.

Hierarchical - strongly organised into a hierarchy; ordering people according to how much power they have.

Hierarchies, Hierarchy - the ranking of people according to authority, for example a colonel in the army being higher than a corporal.

House of correction, Houses of correction - an early modern type of prison where vagabonds and prostitutes were whipped and made to work. They were also used to hold petty criminals awaiting trial.

I

Idle - to be lazy and avoid work, having no purpose and preferring to do nothing.

Illegitimate - the term given to a child born to unmarried parents; generally, not authorised by law.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

Inflation - the general increase in the prices of goods which means money does not buy as much as it used to.

Intellectuals - people with a high intellect who engage in critical thinking and reading, research, writing, and self-reflection about society.

K

Knighthood - the title, rank or status of a knight.

L

Labouring poor - those who owned no land and worked with their hands.

Lateen - a triangular sail on a long yard, mounted at an angle to the boat's mast.

Lease, Leases - a contract granting the use of something such as land or property for a specified period of time, usually in return for payment.

Legislation - a term for laws when they are considered collectively, for example housing legislation.

Legitimacy, Legitimate - accepted by law or conforming to the rules; can be defended as valid.

Literate - someone who can read and write.

Lord, Lords - a man of high status, wealth and authority.

M

MP - a member of parliament.

Martyr - someone who willingly dies for or is killed due to their beliefs, usually religious.

Mass - an act of worship in the Catholic Church.

Merchant, Merchants - someone who sells goods or services.

Middle class - refers to the socio-economic group which includes people who are educated and have professional jobs, such as teachers or lawyers.

Minister - a senior member of government, usually responsible for a particular area such as education or finance.

Monarchy - a form of government in which the head of state is a monarch, a king or queen.

Monasteries, Monastery - a religious building occupied by monks.

Monopolies, Monopoly - to control trade in a certain service.

N

New World - the name given in the 16th century to describe the Americas and the Caribbean, distinguishing it from the 'Old World', which referred to Europe.

Nobility - the social class ranked directly below royalty.

Noble, Nobles - another word for aristocrat - a member of the highest and richest class in society.

O

Oath - a solemn promise with special significance, often relating to future behaviour or actions.

Ordained - to be made a priest or minister.

P

Papal bull - a public decree issued by the pope.

Parliament - a group of politicians who make the laws of their country, usually elected by the population.

Patronage - the power to appoint people to certain positions and grant rights and privileges; can also refer to support given by a patron.

Pauper - a very poor person.

Persecute - to treat someone unfairly because of their race, religion or political beliefs.

Plague - a contagious disease that spreads rapidly.

Pope - the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

Preach, Preaching - to deliver a religious speech or sermon to a group of people.

Predecessor - the person who came before; the previous person to fill a role or position.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Printing press - a machine that reproduces writing and images by using ink on paper, making many identical copies.

Privateer, Privateers - a private individual who owned an armed boat and was authorised by the monarch to attack enemy treasure ships.

Propaganda - biased information aimed at persuading people to think a certain way.

Prophecyings - prayer meetings held by Puritans and Presbyterians.

Protestant - someone belonging to the branch of the Christian Church that separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century.

Provision - the act of providing or supplying something for someone.

Puritan - a Protestant Christian who followed very strict moral rules.

R

Radical, Radicalism - people who want complete or extensive change, usually politically or socially.

Raid - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

Rebellion - armed resistance against a government or leader, or resistance to other authority or control.

Rebels - people who rise in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or leader.

Recusancy - the refusal to attend Protestant church services.

Reform, Reforming - change, usually in order to improve an institution or practice.

Reign - a period of power, usually by a monarch.

Relief - something that reduces pressure on people, often through financial or practical support.

Restoration - to return something to its former owner, place or condition; this includes returning a monarch to the throne or a head of state to government.

Royal prerogative - the term for the special rights, powers, and immunities to which the monarch alone is entitled under common law.

S

Secular - unconnected to religious or spiritual matters; not bound by religious rule.

Seminary priests - Roman Catholic priests who were trained in English seminaries or European study houses after laws were introduced forbidding Roman Catholicism in Britain.

Separatist - someone who supports a particular group of people or an organisation which is breaking away to work or live on their own.

Smallpox - a contagious and potentially fatal disease that causes a high fever, rashes and blisters.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

Strategy - a plan of action outlining how a goal will be achieved.

Submission, Submit - a formal surrender and acceptance of a new authority.

Succession - the process of inheriting a title, office or property.

Successor - someone who succeeds the previous person, such as a leader who takes over the role from the previous holder.

Suitor, Suitors - a potential marriage partner.

Superior - better or higher in rank, status or quality.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

The crown, The throne - phrases used to represent royal power. For example, if someone 'seizes the throne' it means they have taken control. Can also refer to physical objects.

Treason - the crime of betraying one's country, often involving an attempt to overthrow the government or kill the monarch.

Treasury - a place or building where money or treasure is held; also refers to a government department related to finance and taxation.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

V

Vagabond, Vagrancy, Vagrant - someone who wanders from place to place and has neither home nor job.

Voyage - a long journey involving travel by sea or in space.

W

Warrant - a document that allows something to happen legally, such as an arrest, search or administrative act.

Welfare - wellbeing; often refers to money and services given to the poorest people.

Y

Yeoman - historically, a man who owned and cultivated his own farm.

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Sample