Topic 1 – Elizabeth I Power

Court was the centre of political life, with 500 courtiers living with Elizabeth.

- Elizabeth used **patronage**, giving important jobs as a reward and removing those that were disloyal.
- This caused **factional rivalry** between groups of courtiers.
- Banquets, plays and tournaments were put on to entertain the court and also glorify Elizabeth's image.
- The **Privy Chamber** was Elizabeth's private space where only her most trusted courtiers were invited. Elizabeth controlled who she saw.
- Royal **Progresses** in the summer projected her powerful image as the nobles she stayed with spent small fortunes on trying to impress Elizabeth as hosts.

The Privy Council was the main decision making body in England

- Elizabeth personally selected Privy Councillors, around 19 members.
- William Cecil and Francis Walsingham were two of her most important ministers and were both Secretary of State.
- William Cecil was a moderate Protestant who was prepared to challenge the Queen. He wanted to avoid costly religious disputes abroad.
- Francis Walsingham was Elizabeth's spymaster to uncover Catholic plots. He was a strong Puritan.

Elizabeth faced a challenge to her authority with the Essex Rebellion 1601.

- Essex was one of Elizabeth's favourites who wanted to become Secretary of State after the death of William Cecil.
- Robert Cecil was made Secretary of State, starting a rivalry between the two.
- Essex was sent to Ireland in 1599 to put down a rebellion, however he made peace with the rebels.
- He quickly returned to England to blame his failure on Robert Cecil, bursting into the Queens' bedchamber. This led to him being banished from court and losing his monopoly on sweet wines.
- Politically and financially ruined, Essex gathered 200 followers to march to seize control of the government. It failed and he was executed.

Parliament was needed to grant taxes and pass some laws and was tightly controlled by Elizabeth.

- Loyal MP's were selected by local lords. Parliament met for 35 months in a 45 year reign.
- The speaker chose what Parliament would debate, he was chosen by Elizabeth.
- Topics such as foreign policy, religion, marriage and the succession were off-limits.
- John Stubbs had his hand chopped off for criticising Elizabeth's proposed marriage to a Catholic. Peter Wentworth died in prison after calling for her to name a Protestant successor.
- Later years saw MPs criticise monopolies and purveyances. Elizabeth agreed to cancel some monopolies and made her Golden speech.

Elizabeth used local government and propaganda to control the people of England.

- Each county had one Lord Lieutenant who provided part-time soldiers when needed.
- Each county had around 40 Justices of the Peace (JPs). They enforced laws at Quarter Sessions, collected taxes and enforce the poor laws. An unpaid job that had prestige.
- **P**rogresses each summer meant Elizabeth regularly saw her most powerful subjects.
- **P**ortraits showed Elizabeth looking young and powerful, **P**ennies was where most people saw an image of Elizabeth.
- **P**ageants like Ascension Day, celebrated Elizabeth becoming Queen by lighting bonfires and ringing bells each year. Prayers were said in church for her each Sunday.
- **P**lays, **P**ublications, **P**reachers, **P**ortraits were all censored if they didn't meet with the Queen's expectations of her image. Eg. Isle of Dogs play was banned.

Topic 2 – Religious Issues

Elizabeth's Religious Settlement was a compromise to keep Catholics and Protestants happy.

- Act of Supremacy - Elizabeth made herself the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. This removed the Pope's influence in England.
- Act of Uniformity – Bible and church services in English, priests could marry, Catholic saints days banned. But catholic candles and colourful priest robes were allowed.

How did people react to religious changes?

Conformist ⟷ Rebellious

Conformers – went along with the changes and became Protestant.	Church Papists – went to Protestant church but were practised Catholicism at home.	Recusants – Wealthy Catholics who refused to go to Protestant church so had to pay fines.	Plotters – Catholics who wanted to remove Elizabeth as Queen and it was God's will to do so.

In the 1580's recusancy increased as well as plots to replace Elizabeth with Mary Queen of Scots (who was in England under house arrest).

1580 The first Jesuits arrived. Jesuits aimed to convert people back to Catholicism.	**1581 Act of Persuasions.** Converting to Catholicism seen as treason and recusancy fines increased 10,000%	**1581 – Edmund Campion executed**. One of the Jesuit leaders found in a priest hole by Walsingham's spy network.	**1583 – Throckmorton Plot.** Planned to assassinate Elizabeth & replace her with Mary QOS. Both France and Spain were involved. Throckmorton executed, Mary QOS even closer guard.	**1585 –** Act against Priests. Any new Catholic priest considered a traitor and he or anyone protecting him could be sentenced to death. It became legal to kill anyone who attempted to assassinate the queen	
1586 - Babington Plot Anthony Babington planned to kill Elizabeth & replace her with Mary QOS. He wanted to know if Mary supported him, so wrote in coded letters in her beer barrels. She replied yes, but Walsingham had read everything.	**1587 –** Recusancy Act – 2/3rds of all land could be taken from Catholics who refused to attend Protestant church.	**1587 -** Mary QOS Executed Mary QOS was put on trial in October 1586 and sentenced to death. Elizabeth hesitated to sign the death warrant until she finally did on 2/2/1587 – one week later, Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle.	**1588 - Armada Attacks** Mary's execution was the final straw for Philip II. He launched 151 ships to invade England, with 54,000 men. But, the English used 8 fireships before defeating Spain at Gravelines. Weather then destroyed the fleet. Catholics largely accepted their Protestant Queen.	**1593 - Statute of Confinement on Catholics** This final law against Catholics enacted in Elizabeth's reign said they couldn't go more than 5 miles from their home without permission.	**1603 – Elizabeth dies**

Topics 3 & 4 Daily Lives and Merry England

The Gentry owned land and were very rich. They liked to show off this wealth.

- The Gentry had political power as well as wealth. They were JPs and MPs.
- The Gentry built big houses which had large glass windows (expensive), multiple floors, decorative fireplaces and long galleries to walk down and play games in.
- The food they ate was plentiful, with lots of meat, fruit and vegetables from the farmland.

The 'middling sort' were comfortable but less powerful than the gentry.

- In towns they were tradesmen and craftsmen who owned their own businesses.
- In the countryside, they were yeomen who farmed land that they owned.
- Yeomen's houses had between 5 and 10 rooms over two floors. There were service buildings such as bake houses, dairies or brew houses. They had some glass windows and chimneys.
- The middling sort ate some meet, lots of bread and drank beer.

The labouring poor were the lowest social class but the largest (half the population).

- They worked on farms that were owned by yeomen or the gentry. Work was not available all year round so struggled to make a living.
- Houses had an earth floor, a fire in centre with no chimney. There was a small hole in the roof and wall for light and air. The houses were very dark so not as to let out much heat.
- Pottage was the main food, a thick soup with whatever vegetables they could get thrown in.
- Poverty and famine was rife in 1594, 1595 and 1596 due to poor harvests caused by wet weather.

Families were small, made up of immediate family only.

- Couples saved up to get married, usually marrying in their mid to late twenties.
- A woman becoming pregnant was usually a trigger to get married earlier. It was a sin to have sex outside of marriage.
- Children began working from the age of seven. A quarter of children died before the age of ten. This meant that families were small.
- Young people left their homes to find work, meaning households were small.

Poverty became a huge problem in the 1590's but it had been getting worse before then.

- The population doubled (2.4m to 4.1m) 1520-1600. There wasn't enough work.
- Prices increased as there wasn't enough food. Wages stayed low because there were so many people who needed a job.
- In 1594, 1595 and 1596 poor harvests caused by wet weather led to rising food prices.
- In the 1580s the wool industry collapsed as less overseas merchants demanded English wool. People who had worked in this industry lost their jobs.
- These problems led to a rise of vagrancy (people moving around looking for work).

Cities such a York took steps to help solve the problems of poverty in their area. Elizabeth used the ideas for the Elizabethan Poor Law 1601.

- A poor rate was collected from the gentry and middling sort.
- Surveyors categorised the poor into: impotent poor (physically unable to work due to age or illness), able-bodied poor (wanted to work) and vagabonds (didn't want to work).

- The impotent poor were given 1 ½ pence a day, able bodied poor were given wool to spin at home and a small wage and vagabonds were punished by being sent to houses of correction or banished.
- Elizabeth lad left each area to sort out their own issues. In 1601 she used the ideas from towns and cities to apply all over England in the Elizabethan Poor Law.

The Theatre was a new form of entertainment that became very popular in London.

- Theatre had existed before, but was usually a catholic mystery play. These were banned, so theatre had to change.
- Actors without a noble patron were considered vagabonds. Nobles used theatre companies to boost their reputation and impress the Queen.
- 'The Theatre' was built in London in 1576, this was moved to across the river Thames and opened as 'The Globe'. This was where Shakespeare's plays were performed.
- The Globe had expensive tiered seating and an affordable (one penny) uncovered standing area. Coloured flags told people what type of play was on that day.
- The city of London thought theatre attracted criminals and spread plague.
- Puritan preachers thought theatre was too pagan or catholic and encouraged sinful behaviour.

Ordinary people participated in merrymaking which declined due to Puritan influence

- Parish feasts celebrated local saints with processions, plays, dancing and feasting.
- The alehouse saw people drinking, gambling, singing and engage in prostitution.
- Violent sports like football, bear/bull/badger baiting and boxing were popular.
- Various calendar customs: Christmas (12 days feasting), May Day (dancing around the May pole), Whitsun (rushes spread on church floor), Midsummer's Eve (bonfires lit).
- Puritans wanted people to live Godly lives. They believed these activities were linked to Catholicism and encouraged sinful behaviour.

Social problems, religious beliefs and attacks on women explain the rise of witchcraft

- In 1563 it became illegal to be a witch. Accusations could be targeted at anyone after something went wrong that couldn't be explained.
- A time of poverty meant there were more arguments. If there was an argument followed by misfortune, a woman may be accused of being a witch.
- Puritanism increased in places like Essex where most trials took place. Puritans wanted to root out ungodly forces in their communities.
- Mainly women were accused of being witches, highlighting sexist attitudes.

Topic 5 – Overseas Exploration

Overseas exploration increased due to Spain having a large empire and England needing more trade.

- John Dee Presented a plan to build an empire to the Queen to rival Spain's and produced books and maps to help explorers achieve this.
- Francis Drake was the first Englishman to sail around the world and was knighted on board his ship on his return. He stole lots of gold from Spanish ships in raids.
- Humphrey Gilbert searched for a sea route above North America (modern Canada) to get to China. He claimed Newfoundland for England but couldn't establish a colony due to the land being barren, the climate cold and there was no food. He died on his return journey along with most of his crew.
- Walter Raleigh sent others for him to claim Roanoke in America, naming the colony Virginia after Elizabeth the Virgin Queen. Roanoke was a failure as the colonists fell out with the Native American people. They had to be brought back home after a year. Those that were left had disappeared when the English returned to pick them up.
- Ralph Fitch wanted to setup trade links with India and China to bring back goods like silk, cotton, jewels and clothing. He made contact with the Mughal emperor of India. He wrote returned and wrote books about the opportunities. This led to the East India Company being setup by James Lancaster.