



**Summary**

Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife Anne Boleyn, became Queen in 1558 following the death of her half sister Mary I. Elizabeth was just 25 years old, a woman and one whom many felt did not have a legitimate claim to the throne of England. At the time of Elizabeth becoming Queen she faced many difficult problems. Religion was perhaps the most serious; Elizabeth was Protestant but two thirds of England were Catholic and she had to find a 'middle way' between the two religions. England was at war with France. Spain and Scotland were catholic threats either side of England, Elizabeth faced debt left by her sister, difficult choices as to who should help her govern and pressure to provide stability and an heir by marrying the correct suitor. This topic is about the problems Elizabeth I faced and how she dealt with them to become one of the most successful English monarchs.



Key Vocabulary	
<b>Hierarchy</b>	The rigid structure of Elizabethan society. The Queen was a top chosen by God, the nobility helped her rule, and then all classes had a place. Gentry, framers, servants and labourers.
<b>Privy Council</b>	Select members of the nobility who helped Elizabeth rule. William Cecil was an important member of this council and Elizabeth kept on some of her sister's and father's choices.
<b>Legitimacy</b>	The right to rule. Many believed Henry VIII's marriage to Anne Boleyn was not valid making Elizabeth illegitimate.
<b>Exchequer</b>	Government department that looks after the crown money and expenditure.
<b>Heir</b>	The next in line to the throne. Elizabeth needed to marry in order to produce an heir and thus secure stability for England.
<b>Reformation</b>	A challenge to the teachings and power of the Roman Catholic Church and the development of Protestant churches..
<b>Catholic</b>	A branch of Christianity that involves services and bibles in Latin, decorative churches and great importance put on 'Latin Mass.'
<b>Protestant</b>	A branch of Christianity that began by 'protesting' about some Catholic traditions. Plainer churches and bible and services in English.
<b>Puritan</b>	Extremely strict Protestants. Very plain services and churches.
<b>The Religious Settlement</b>	A series of laws passed in 1559 which found a 'middle way' between the Catholics and Protestants. The Act of Uniformity stated how churches and services should be and the Act of Supremacy stated the monarch was the Supreme Governor of the Church.

**1558:** Elizabeth became Queen of England

**1559:** Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis ended the war with France that Mary I had led England into.

**1559:** Act of Uniformity stated how churches should look and what services should be like.

**1559:** Act of Supremacy stated that Elizabeth was 'Supreme Governor of the Church of England'. Most people accepted this.

**1570:** The Pope excommunicated Elizabeth.



### The Religious Settlement of 1559

This was a series of laws that stated how religion would be in England. It was a compromise and described as a 'middle way' between Catholics and Protestants. The two main acts were the Act of Uniformity and the Act of Supremacy and the main decisions made were:

- The Book of Common Prayer was to be used in all churches
- Priests and vicars were to wear a special vestment (surplice)
- Everyone had to attend church or they were fined
- Images and decorations such as the crucifix were allowed to remain
- Each Parish was to have a copy of the bible in English
- **Holy Communion** was left vague

Some puritans opposed this as they objected to the crucifix which they saw as an **idol** (an image of Jesus banned in the bible), organ music and the vestment. The puritans however, were a minority in the South and did not pose much of a threat to Elizabeth.

Some Catholics opposed the settlement as they could not practice **Latin Mass**. Some refused to go to church (**recusants**). Catholics posed a more serious threat to Elizabeth.

However, most people accepted the settlement with a majority of clergy swearing loyalty to Elizabeth and the Pope did not **excommunicate** Elizabeth until 1570.

### Key People

<b>Elizabeth I</b>	The daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She became Queen in 1558 at the age of 25.
<b>Henry VIII</b>	Elizabeth's father who had broken from the Roman Catholic church in order to divorce Catherine of Aragon leading to religious turmoil in England for many years.
<b>Mary I</b>	Elizabeth's elder half sister who ruled 1553 to 1558. Known as 'Bloody Mary' she made female monarchs unpopular.
<b>William Cecil</b>	The most important member of the Privy Council and one of Elizabeth's closest advisors.
<b>Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester</b>	Elizabeth's best friend and a suitor she decided not to marry due to suspicions that he may have murdered his first wife. Not initially, but eventually he became a member of the Privy Council.
<b>Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex</b>	A Protestant member of the nobility and one of Elizabeth's suitors. He was not wealthy enough to marry a queen.
<b>Francis, Duke of Alencon</b>	The heir to the French throne and 20 years younger than Elizabeth and unsuitable due his Catholicism.
<b>Philip II of Spain</b>	King of Spain and a devout Catholic. He had been married to Mary I and wanted to marry Elizabeth.

### Extra resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zyr6bk7/revision/1>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zg68tyc/revision/1>

<https://www.tutor2u.net/history/collections/edexcel-gcse-early-elizabethan-england-1558-1588>

### Challenge-

*Define the words in bold in the summary of the Religious Settlement.*

**G7TZ-RC98G—Schoolology Code**

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