



A-level history

Summer Transition work

Summer Work: A Level History



AQA A Level History 1D and 2R

Name:

Section One: Bridging the Gap

Although not part of the A Level specification, Elizabethan England provides useful preparation for understanding monarchy, religion and government in early modern Britain. Your unit will start in 1603 with the ascension of James I

Task 1: Elizabeth I and Government

Read the short overview of Elizabeth's reign

Elizabeth I: The Challenges of Being Queen

When Elizabeth I became Queen of England in November 1558, she inherited a kingdom facing numerous problems. England had experienced nearly thirty years of religious turmoil, political uncertainty and economic difficulties. As a young, unmarried woman ruling in a male-dominated society, many doubted whether Elizabeth could successfully govern the country. However, by the time of her death in 1603, Elizabeth was widely regarded as one of England's most successful monarchs.

One of Elizabeth's first challenges was religion. Her father, Henry VIII, had broken away from the Roman Catholic Church and established the Church of England. However, during the reign of her half-sister Mary I, England had returned to Catholicism. This left the country deeply divided. Some people wanted England to remain Catholic, while others wanted further Protestant reforms.

In 1559, Elizabeth introduced the Religious Settlement. This consisted of two important laws. The Act of Supremacy made Elizabeth the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, while the Act of Uniformity established a common form of worship. Elizabeth hoped this settlement would create stability by avoiding religious extremes. Although many people accepted the changes, some Catholics remained loyal to the Pope and some Protestants believed the reforms did not go far enough.

Religion was closely linked to another major problem: succession. Elizabeth was unmarried and had no children. This created uncertainty about who would inherit the throne after her death. Many members of Parliament encouraged Elizabeth to marry and produce an heir. However, Elizabeth was reluctant to do so. Marriage would have reduced some of her political independence and could have strengthened the influence of a foreign power if she married a European prince.

The most serious succession threat came from Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary was Elizabeth's cousin and had a strong claim to the English throne. As a Catholic, she became the focus of plots organised by those who wished to replace Elizabeth. In 1568 Mary fled Scotland and arrived in England seeking protection. Instead, Elizabeth kept her under house arrest for nearly twenty years.

Several conspiracies attempted to remove Elizabeth from power. The Ridolfi Plot of 1571 planned to assassinate Elizabeth and place Mary on the throne. The Throckmorton Plot of 1583 involved plans for a foreign invasion supported by English Catholics. The Babington Plot of 1586 provided evidence that Mary herself supported attempts to overthrow Elizabeth. Following this discovery, Mary was tried for treason and executed in 1587.

Elizabeth also faced challenges from abroad. England's relationship with Spain gradually deteriorated throughout her reign. Spain was Europe's most powerful Catholic nation and was ruled by King Philip II. Elizabeth's support for Protestant rebels in the Spanish Netherlands angered Philip. English sailors such as Sir Francis Drake also attacked Spanish ships carrying valuable treasure from the Americas.

Tensions eventually led to war. In 1588 Philip II launched the Spanish Armada, a fleet of around 130 ships intended to invade England. The Armada planned to sail through the English Channel, collect Spanish troops from the Netherlands and overthrow Elizabeth.

The English navy proved more effective than many expected. English ships were smaller and faster than their Spanish counterparts. During the battle, English commanders used fireships to break up the Spanish formation. Bad weather then scattered many of the remaining Spanish vessels as they attempted to return home around Scotland and Ireland. The defeat of the Armada became one of the most famous events of Elizabeth's reign.

Despite these successes, Elizabeth's government still faced difficulties. Poverty increased during the late sixteenth century as the population grew rapidly. Rising food prices made life more difficult for ordinary people. The government responded with a series of Poor Laws, which attempted to provide support for those unable to work while also discouraging begging.

Elizabeth worked closely with trusted advisers such as William Cecil and Sir Francis Walsingham. Cecil helped manage government business and provided political advice, while Walsingham developed an effective intelligence network that uncovered several plots against the Queen. Their support contributed significantly to the stability of Elizabeth's government.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1603, England was more politically stable than it had been in 1558. Religious conflict had not disappeared, but the Religious Settlement had survived. Foreign invasion had been defeated, and Elizabeth had maintained her authority despite numerous threats. For these reasons, historians often regard Elizabeth's reign as a significant period in English history and the beginning of what became known as the Elizabethan Golden Age.

Task One: Answer the questions – you may need additional paper for space.

Retrieval Questions

1. In what year did Elizabeth become Queen of England?
2. What were the two main laws that formed the Religious Settlement?
3. Why did many people believe Elizabeth should marry?
4. Who was Mary, Queen of Scots?
5. Name two plots that threatened Elizabeth's rule.
6. Why did relations between England and Spain worsen?
7. What was the purpose of the Spanish Armada?
8. Give two reasons why the Armada failed.
9. Name two advisers who helped Elizabeth govern England.
10. What were the Poor Laws designed to address?

Understanding Questions

11. Why was religion such a difficult problem for Elizabeth in 1558?
12. Why did Elizabeth see Mary, Queen of Scots as a threat?

13. Explain why succession was an important issue during Elizabeth's reign.
14. How did Walsingham help strengthen Elizabeth's position as Queen?
15. Why was the defeat of the Spanish Armada important?

Analysis Questions

16. Which challenge posed the greatest threat to Elizabeth's rule:

- Religion
- Mary, Queen of Scots
- The Spanish Armada

Explain your answer.

17. How far do you agree that Elizabeth was a successful monarch?

Use evidence from the reading to support your answer.

Task Two: Research Task

Research one of the following figures and produce a one-page profile:

- William Cecil
- Francis Walsingham
- Mary, Queen of Scots
- Sir Francis Drake

Include:

- Key dates
- Their role in Elizabethan England
- Why they were important
- Three interesting facts

Task 2: Religious Division: Catholics and Puritans

Although Elizabeth's Religious Settlement created greater stability than England had experienced under Edward VI and Mary I, it did not solve England's religious divisions. Instead, it created a Protestant Church that many people accepted reluctantly rather than enthusiastically.

Some Catholics refused to attend Church of England services. These individuals became known as recusants. Initially Elizabeth hoped that Catholics would quietly conform, but events in Europe made this increasingly difficult. In 1570 Pope Pius V issued a Papal Bull called *Regnans in Excelsis*, which excommunicated Elizabeth and released her subjects from obedience to her. This transformed

English Catholics from a religious concern into a potential political threat. Elizabeth's ministers feared that English Catholics might support foreign invasions or plots against the Queen.

Government fears appeared justified when several conspiracies emerged involving Catholic support for Mary, Queen of Scots. Consequently, laws against recusants became increasingly severe during the 1570s and 1580s. Catholics could be fined for failing to attend Church of England services, while Catholic priests trained abroad were viewed with particular suspicion. Following the arrival of missionary priests from seminaries in Europe, many government officials believed Catholicism represented a direct challenge to national security.

At the same time, Elizabeth faced pressure from the opposite direction. Some Protestants, known as Puritans, believed that the Church of England remained too similar to Catholicism. Puritans objected to the elaborate ceremonies, church decorations and hierarchical structure maintained by the Elizabethan Church. They wanted further reforms and hoped to create a simpler form of Protestant worship based closely upon the Bible.

Puritan criticism created difficulties for Elizabeth because she viewed religious uniformity as essential for political stability. While she was willing to tolerate some differences of opinion, she resisted attempts to alter the Religious Settlement. As a result, several Puritan leaders faced censorship or punishment when they openly challenged the authority of the Church.

By the end of Elizabeth's reign, England remained divided between conforming Protestants, recusant Catholics and increasingly vocal Puritans. Although Elizabeth had avoided major religious conflict, she had not eliminated religious disagreement. These tensions would become even more significant after 1603 when James VI of Scotland inherited the English throne as James I. Many Puritans hoped the new king would introduce further reforms, while fears about Catholic conspiracies continued to shape English politics throughout the seventeenth century.

Task One: Now answer the following questions – you may need extra paper for space.

18. What was a recusant?
19. Why did the Papal Bull of 1570 increase government fears about Catholics?
20. Why were missionary priests viewed with suspicion?
21. What did Puritans dislike about the Church of England?
22. Why did Elizabeth refuse to make further religious changes?
23. Explain why religious divisions remained unresolved by 1603.
24. Which group do you think Elizabeth found more difficult to deal with: Catholics or Puritans?
Explain your answer

Task Three: Historical Analysis

Answer the following question:

What was the greatest challenge faced by Elizabeth I during her reign?

You should:

- Consider at least three challenges.
- Explain why each was significant.
- Reach a supported judgement.

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Section 2: Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy

Task 1: Historical Reading and Interpretation

Barry Cowards view:

The early Stuart monarchs inherited a number of difficult problems, but many of the tensions that developed between Crown and Parliament were made worse by the actions of the kings themselves. James I and Charles I possessed strong beliefs in royal authority and often struggled to understand the concerns of Parliament. Although neither king intended to provoke a civil war, their political decisions frequently increased suspicion amongst their subjects.

James I believed that kings ruled by Divine Right and were accountable only to God. While this view was accepted by many people, it often brought him into disagreement with Members of Parliament who believed they possessed ancient rights and privileges. Financial difficulties, disputes over foreign policy and arguments about religion all contributed to growing tensions during his reign.

These problems became more serious under Charles I. His decision to govern without Parliament between 1629 and 1640 damaged trust between the Crown and political nation. Charles's religious policies, particularly those associated with Archbishop Laud, alarmed many Protestants who feared England was moving closer to Catholicism. The King's inability to compromise meant that political disagreements increasingly became constitutional disputes about where authority should lie.

Using the historian, answer the following, use an extra piece of paper to answer the questions:

1. According to Barry Coward, what was the main cause of tension during the early Stuart period?
2. What evidence does Coward provide to support his view of James I?
3. Why does Coward criticise Charles I?
4. What role did religion play in the growth of conflict?
5. What does Coward mean when he states that civil war was "not inevitable"?
6. Identify three factors that Coward believes contributed to the outbreak of civil war.
7. Which factor does Coward consider most important?
8. How convincing do you find Coward's interpretation? Explain your answer using evidence from the extract.

Task 2: Independent Research

Create a one-page profile of one Stuart monarch:

- James I
- Charles I
- Charles II
- James II

Include:

- Major events
- Strengths and weaknesses as a ruler
- One interesting fact discovered through independent research

Section Three: AQA 2R – The Cold War

Task 1: Background Knowledge – The Second World War

Create a timeline covering key events between 1939 and 1945.

Suggested events:

- Nazi-Soviet Pact
- Operation Barbarossa
- Pearl Harbor
- Tehran Conference
- Yalta Conference
- Potsdam Conference
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki

This is not an exhaustive list, aim for 15 key events with short descriptions of each.

Task 2: Answer the following questions.

How did the Second World War contribute to tensions between the USA and USSR?

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Task 3: Source Evaluation

Look at the source beneath:

Part of a US Foreign Office report on attitudes in the USA towards the USSR, 6 April 1943

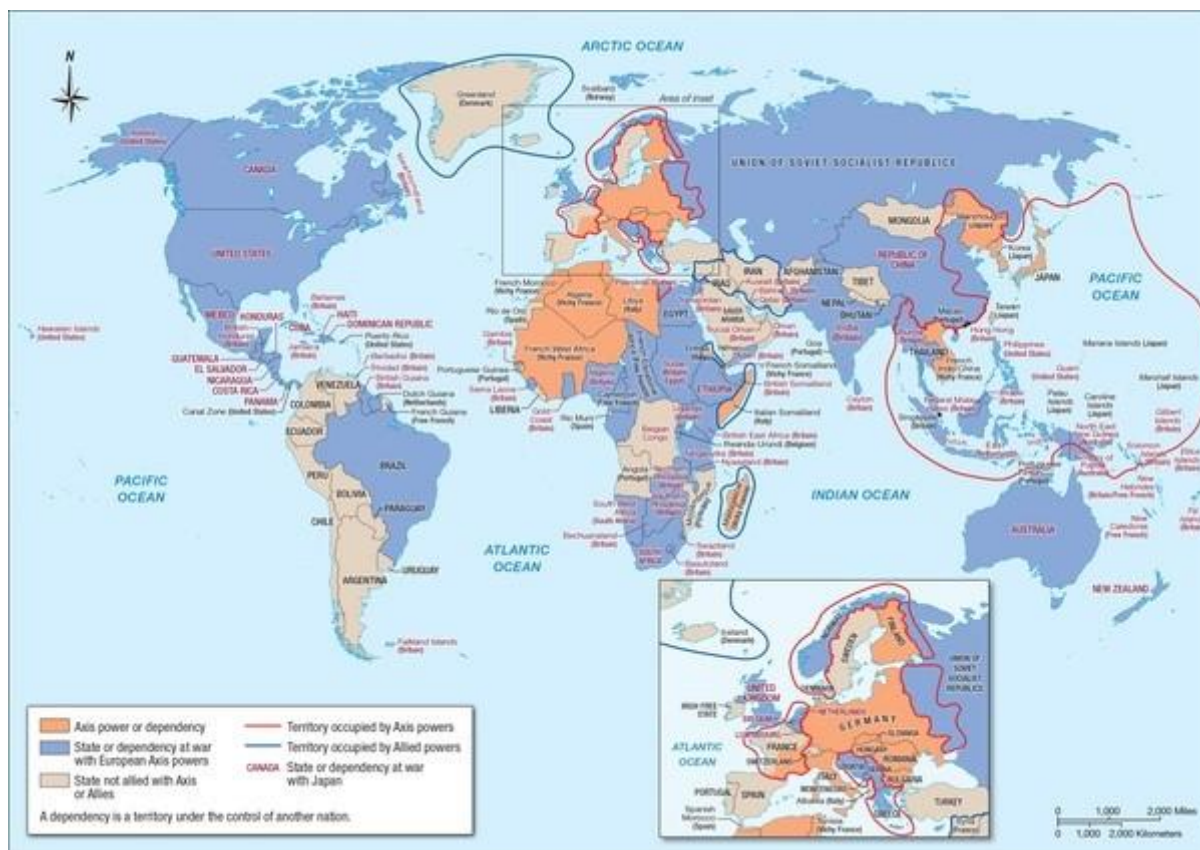
The Chicago Tribune has recently opened up a barrage on Soviet Russia. I have sent down clippings of these editorials to the embassy and the New York Office. I have also attempted to find out the causes and results of this most recent campaign.

On the face of it, the campaign is an attempt to prove that the United Nations owe no Loyalty and very little gratitude to Soviet Russia. The USSR is represented as being an aggressive and almost entirely amoral power. It is pointed out that she only entered the war because of Hitler's attack and was not in any way opposed to Germany or Fascism on moral grounds. "A starkly realistic attitude" sees Russia as an equal menace to world security with Germany. As evidence of Russia's aggressive tendencies, attention is drawn to the recent dispute with Poland over boundaries, the absorption of the Baltic states in 1940, and the war with Finland in 1939. As evidence of Russia's untrustworthiness, it is pointed out that Russia has not yet even opened a second front in the Pacific.

Assess the value of this source to a historian studying why the Cold war developed

Provenance	
Content	
Context	
Limitations	

Look at the map and cartoon. What do they tell you about the world in 1945 and the prospects for peace afterwards? Come to class ready to discuss.



The Odd Couple



Source: Bill Mauldin, *Chicago Sun-Times*, 1973 (adapted)

Section 4: Reflection and Independent Study

Task One: Wider Reading Reflection

Students choose one of the following:

- A documentary on Elizabeth I
- A documentary on the Stuart monarchs
- A documentary on the origins of the Cold War
- Alternatively, a visit to a historical site during the holidays (does not have to be relevant to cold war or Stuarts!)

After watching (or visiting) produce a short reflection:

- What did you learn?
- What surprised them?
- What questions do they still have?

Evidence Generated for September Assessment

Skill	Evidence from Booklet
Reading & Comprehension	Stuart historian extract; Elizabeth reading tasks
Historical Knowledge	Elizabeth tasks; WWII timeline; Stuart monarch profile
Written Communication	Elizabeth judgement question; interpretation evaluation
Historical Analysis	Elizabeth challenge question; WWII tensions question
Source & Interpretation Skills	Stuart interpretation task; Cold War source evaluation
Independent Study & Organisation	Stuart monarch research; wider reading reflection

