INITIAL PROBLEMS

What were Elizabeth’s priorities?
Let’s just meet the queen a bit more closely...

- She poisoned herself using lead oxide as makeup to hide smallpox scars
- Very intelligent
- Well educated
- Spoke Latin, Greek, French & Italian
- Highly intelligent
- An eye for detail
- Excellent grasp of politics
- Confident
- Very religious
- Charismatic
- Great at speeches
- Excellent grasp of politics
- Had experience of being a prisoner in the Tower
- Understood the dangerous world of Court politics
- Indecisive
- She took a long time to make up her mind
- She was feared
- She was incredibly frustrating
- 5ft 3”
- Very superstitious
- Afraid of Black Magic
- Swore a lot and spat when angry
- She had halitosis and black teeth
- Only bathed once every few weeks
- Vain
- She had an awful temper
- Very superstitious
- Afraid of Black Magic
- Swore a lot and spat when angry
- She had halitosis and black teeth
- Only bathed once every few weeks
The Virgin Queen: Legitimacy

Do you think Elizabeth has a legitimate claim? (was her mother & father married when she was born?)

Think back to the saga of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, as well as Anne Boleyn – discuss in your areas why some people might suggest Elizabeth is not legitimate... Help on next slide...

What do you remember about Henry VIII’s creation of the Church of England – your answer should include: Catherine of Aragon, Pope’s refusal to grant divorce & Anne Boleyn as a minimum.
Points for this little debate:

- Henry created the Church of England because the Pope wouldn’t give him his divorce.
- Henry believed he needed a son because women couldn’t rule as well as men.
- Henry VIII made himself Head of the Church of England.
- He was able to grant himself a divorce from Catherine of Aragon.
- Henry married Anne Boleyn on 25th January 1533.
- Elizabeth was born on 7th September 1533.
- Catholics believe the Pope is the head of the Church so didn’t accept Henry as head.
- They did not accept Henry’s divorce from Catherine of Aragon because the Pope didn’t grant it.
- Catherine of Aragon was alive when Elizabeth was born.
- In 1536, when Henry killed Anne Boleyn, he himself said Elizabeth was excluded from the succession (which he later reversed).
Gender & Marriage:

A queen ruling in her own right was very unusual and unnatural to 16th Century society. Women had a role to play, but it was most certainly not in ruling anything, let alone the country, especially when you think the monarch was expected to lead their armies into battle! Christianity teaches that women should be under the authority of men!

What are your thoughts on this? Do you think Elizabeth has a problem here? Did her sister help this view?

Women are weak and foolish by nature

The Creator made women subject to man

All women suffer dominion (domination) by men because of Eve's sin

To promote a woman to bear rule, superiority, dominion, or empire above any realm, nation, or city, is repugnant to nature; contumely to God, a thing most contrary to his revealed will and approved ordinance; and finally, it is the subversion of good order, of all equity and justice.

"A man with God is always in the majority."
~ John Knox
As a result of Elizabeth becoming queen, many people felt she should immediately get married... 

**WHY?**

**PRO**
- My potential husband could fulfil the role of military leader in war, which is an important part of a monarch's role.

**PRO**
- Having children will ensure England's stability, as there would be no 'vacancy' for the heir to the throne that could lead to conflict between rival claimants.

**CON**
- Who would I marry? I am queen, and yet wives are expected to be obedient to their husbands. I would be sidelined: 16th-century prejudice means my husband would be seen as the figure of authority – not me.

**CON**
- The only man of suitable rank I could marry would be a foreign prince, but he would put England's needs second to his own country.

Elizabeth sought to present herself, woman though she was, as a fit occupant of the throne of England, and she did not propose to confuse the issue by recruiting a husband or an heir... This was done not by an attack upon the sixteenth century stereotype of a woman. Elizabeth accepted the image and often derided her own sex... she did not seek to change the ideal, but to escape from it, by suggesting that she was no ordinary woman.

*What do you make of this interpretation of Elizabeth? Is it positive? Negative?*
Your majesty,

I know you probably want to just relax after the chaos of the last few weeks as a new queen but we have urgent business to attend to and the Privy Council calls a vital meeting tomorrow.

The meeting will focus on you being inexperienced, the people of England seem happy that you are a fresh start following your sister’s devastating reign however there are whispers that you are a weak woman who will be just as bad! They remember your father well and he was strong and in control.

We also need to discuss the threats from abroad, we’re very weak and have no money! France & Spain are getting more powerful every day! Scotland is our most pressing worry with Mary Queen of Scots laying claim to your throne and, we fear, gaining support from English Catholics here!

Also, it doesn’t take a genius to work out that there are some religious issues, following the rollercoaster of the last 25 years, the people are concerned with what you’re going to do! Most people are still Catholic and believe the Pope should be head of the Church not you! There are some extreme protestants, The Puritans, who are causing issues too.

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow and getting to work

[Signature]

How do you think Elizabeth would have responded to a letter like this?
Summary of Elizabeth’s initial problems:

- **Number each issue in order of significance (1 = MOST 8 = least)**
- **Explain** your top 3 factors Elizabeth needs to deal with first and why.
Homework Due:

Create the **ultimate quiz** about Elizabeth I from what we’ve done so far!

We will be doing each other’s quizzes to start next lesson...

It should have 30 marks available
- you can do 30 separate questions if you want
- Or some questions with a bit of detail being worth more marks

It should be in sections
- Powers Elizabeth had
- Her government
- Problems Elizabeth faced

Don’t forget to write your answers separately for marking!