Challenges

HOME & ABROAD
Recap on Mary Queen of Scot’s LEGITIMACY:
Timeline:

1559 – Scottish Protestant lord’s rebellion begins in Scotland
1560 – Rebellion ends with Treaty of Edinburgh (following Elizabeth’s support)

1561 – Mary Queen of Scots arrives in newly anti French & Protestant Scotland after her husband Francis II dies, with no claim to England after Treaty. She doesn’t accept the Treaty of Edinburgh and demands to be named Elizabeth’s heir

1565 – Mary marries Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley (Darnley Bothwell clip)

1566 – Mary gives birth to a son, James

1567 – Lord Darnley is murdered and Mary marries Bothwell, she is captured by the Scottish Protestant lords (Murder of Darnley clip)

1568 – Mary escapes and raises an army against the Scottish Protestant lords, but is defeated – she flees to England! << CRUCIAL TURNING POINT Why?

1569 – Mary is blamed for the Northern Rebellion and is placed under house arrest in England until her death

1587 - Following 4 plots in her name, she is executed
Mary, Queen of Scots

- Her story in pictures
Mary, Queen of Scots
Mary, Queen of Scots

Scotland has become protestant
Mary, Queen of Scots

Lord Darnley
Mary, Queen of Scots

Rizzio
Mary, Queen of Scots
Mary, Queen of Scots

James
Mary, Queen of Scots

Lord Darnley
Mary, Queen of Scots

Bothwell
Mary, Queen of Scots
Mary, Queen of Scots

How much of the story can you remember?

Talk to your partner and try to retell the story between you both.

Key Questions:

- At what point did Mary become dangerous?
- Why?
- What should Elizabeth have done?
- Was she actually a threat?
  - (Link to Catholics in England and Elizabeth not being secure)
Mary in England!!!!

Mary has a lot of support in Europe, especially in France, where she was married to their last king.

The Scots want me to send Mary back to Scotland to put her on trial, but I do not like helping subjects against their queen.

Mary is my cousin and appointed by God as Queen. It is my duty to help her.

As heir to the throne, Mary could attract the support of any discontented nobles who feel they have been excluded from power.

My Council wants to keep on friendly relations with the Protestant lords who are ruling Scotland, so that our northern border is secure.

Mary is far more dangerous to me here in England. Some English Catholics think she is the rightful Queen of England.

Some of my councillors and MPs think that Mary is too great a threat and want me to get rid of her.
What were Elizabeth’s options?

• Mary was an anointed Queen so Elizabeth couldn’t support any rebellion to overthrow a monarch
• She was aware of the danger of Mary now being in England though
• She kept Mary under comfortable house arrest until she decided what to do!

Options:

1. Help Mary to regain her throne
2. Hand Mary over to the Scottish lords
3. Allow Mary to go abroad
4. Keep Mary in England

Then write a letter to Cecil with the option you would choose explaining WHY you chose that one and explaining why you didn’t choose the other 3.
The cousins – what was their relationship actually like?

They never met

They exchanged letters

Elizabeth was probably jealous of Mary’s looks

Elizabeth really hoped Mary would just go away, but knew eventually she would have to do something

Mary knew Elizabeth couldn’t kill an anointed Queen as it would set a precedent
1561: Mary returned to Scotland, but the country, thanks to support from Elizabeth, was now run by the Protestant Lords. Mary had little power and was initially friendly to Elizabeth.

1567: Elizabeth was shocked at the murder of Darnley and sent her sympathies to Mary, her 'sweet sister' and fellow monarch.

1560: Mary started displaying England’s coat of arms to show her claim to the throne. Elizabeth was furious.

1565: Mary married Darnley, who also had a claim to the English throne.

1566: The birth of Mary’s son, James, strengthened the family claim and reminded Elizabeth of her own childless state.

1567: Elizabeth strongly criticised Mary for marrying the chief suspect in her husband’s murder.

Further down still:

1568: The arrival of Mary in England, asking for Elizabeth’s help in regaining her throne, placed their relationship at an all-time low and put Elizabeth in an impossible position.

1569: Elizabeth’s preference was probably to restore Mary to her throne, through negotiations, not war, and subject to certain conditions, such as that Mary should give up attempts to secure the English throne.

Her failure to do this was due partly to her councillors, who did not want Mary back in Scotland, and partly to Mary herself. From the time of her arrival onward, Mary proved to be a schemer, writing to France, Spain, the Pope and English Catholics. Any possibility of Elizabeth securing her release by negotiation were ended by Mary’s involvement in the plots and rebellion which you can read about in the next chapter.
The Casket Letters and York Conference 1569

- The Casket Letters were used at the conference as evidence to show she knew about Darnley’s murder.
- Many said they were forged, paid for by Elizabeth
- The letters were provided at the York Conference, which was set up to investigate possible wrongdoings by Mary

Mary begged Elizabeth to let her explain that she played no part in Darnley’s murder, Elizabeth refused. A court was set up to hear Mary’s case with the ‘Casket Letters’ *allegedly* written by Mary given as evidence of her guilt, but she refused to be tried as a commoner and would only offer a plea if Elizabeth guaranteed a verdict of innocence – again, Elizabeth refused.

No verdict could solve the problem of what to do with Mary, if found guilty Elizabeth will have supported getting rid of an anointed monarch and her own family, if found not guilty, Mary would be free to raise an army against Elizabeth, possibly with foreign support.

The court didn’t reach any verdict (as directed by Elizabeth and Mary remained under arrest.)
Exam-style question, Section B

Explain why the Catholic threat to Elizabeth I increased after 1566.

You may use the following in your answer:
- The Dutch Revolt
- Mary, Queen of Scots’ arrival in England in 1568.

You must also use information of your own. 12 marks

Exam tip

Don’t just describe events. You must focus on reasons for the Catholic threat against Elizabeth becoming more serious.