PLOTS & REVOLTS AT HOME

1569-1588
Thinking about what you know so far, rank these threats in order of danger.
On A3 paper, you need to produce a detailed newspaper report on the rebellion.

As a minimum it should include:

- Reasons for the rebellion focusing on RELIGION & POLITICS
- An interview with all key members saying why they have rebelled
- A summary of Mary Queen of Scots story and importance
- The plan for the rebellion
- Key events of the rebellion
- The papal bull
- Significance (outcome) of the rebellion

You can use laptops for pics to add to your newspaper
Plot 2: Ridolfi Plot 1571

- Roberto Ridolfi was a spy for the pope, living in England

- **Plot was to**
  - Murder Elizabeth I
  - Launch a Spanish invasion
  - Put Mary Queen of Scots on the throne of England
  - Again, marry Duke of Norfolk to Mary

- Ridolfi left England to meet with the pope, Philip II and Alba with a letter from Norfolk saying he would lead the rebellion if Philip would support it. Philip agreed to send 10,000 men!

- Cecil uncovered the coded plot and proved that Norfolk was guilty again of treason

- Parliament was called in 1572, it demanded that Norfolk and Mary be executed, Elizabeth signed Norfolk’s death warrant, but again refused to sign Mary’s.
How significant was Ridolfi Plot?

- Coming so soon after the 1570 Papal Bull excommunicating Elizabeth, it reinforced the threat posed to Elizabeth from all Catholic sides.
- It also reminded Elizabeth of the threat from Spain, as well as adding to the tension already building with the persecution of the Protestants in the Netherlands.
- It led to Elizabeth trying to improve relations with France as a buffer to Spain’s threat.

What is the danger level of the Ridolfi Plot? 1-5

Explain your reasoning for the level you have given.
The pope smuggled priests into England from 1574 to try and strengthen the Catholic resistance to Protestantism. They stayed with Noble Catholic families. This was dangerous and Elizabeth began keeping these Nobles under surveillance.

Government agents, under Walsingham (Elizabeth’s spymaster) began raiding Catholic homes, any priests discovered risked being hanged, drawn and quartered. Priests hid in 'Priest holes' well hidden in these homes.

**Source B**

A raid on a Catholic house in Northamptonshire, described by a Catholic priest, John Gerard, who was staying there. He managed to hide in the priest hole without being caught. There they were, straining and shouting to get through and search the house, yet they halted in an unlocked room just long enough to allow us to reach the hiding-place and shut ourselves safely in. Then they... burst into the lady’s apartment while others raged round the remaining rooms.

'Priest hole' in Oxburgh Hall
In 1581, Parliament passed 2 laws against Catholics…

- Recusants would now be fined £20 – bankrupting most families
- Attempting to convert people to Catholicism was now treason

What do these laws, added to the priest raids, suggest about Elizabeth’s state of mind? Or do you think these responses were still quite weak?
Francis Throckmorton, a young Englishman planned for:
- The French Duke of Guise, Mary’s cousin, to invade England
- Overthrow Elizabeth
- Restore Catholicism

Philip II would provide financial support.

The Pope also knew about the plot, and approved!

Walsingham again, uncovered the plot, finding papers in Throckmorton’s house.

Throckmorton was tortured and executed in 1584.
HOW **SIGNIFICANT** WAS THROCKMORTON?

- Again, it emphasised the threat from abroad
- It also showed the potential threat if France & Spain joined forces
- Throckmorton’s papers included a list of Catholic sympathisers suggesting that the government’s fears of a ‘threat within’ was true and real
- Life became very hard for Catholics, they were treated with great suspicion. Many fled, 11,000 were imprisoned in the Tower, or kept under house arrest
- Another law passed in Parliament in 1585 said - Helping or sheltering Catholic priests would be punishable with death

What is the danger level of the Throckmorton Plot (1-5)

Explain your reasoning for the level you have given
Anthony Babington was an English Catholic with links to France

The plot:
- Murder Elizabeth I
- Encouraged English Catholics to rebel
- Again, Duke of Guise would invade with 60,000 troops putting Mary on the throne
- Philip II & The Pope supported this plot

Babington wrote to Mary about the plot, but she was very closely watched by 1586, her letters were intercepted by Walsingham’s team and the codes had been cracked.

Walsingham arrested 6 Catholics including Babington, who were all executed

This time, Mary was tried by the Privy Council as there had been too many plots in her name!
HOW SIGNIFICANT WAS BABINGTON?

- This was especially significant as by 1585, relations between England and Spain had totally broken down and the English were supporting the Protestants in The Netherlands, as a result, Spain’s support of it really could lead to success.

- Elizabeth’s government were now determined to crush Catholicism.

- 300 recusants were arrested in North London alone, 31 priests were executed.

- Mary would be executed as a result of this plot and thus, the end of a Catholic monarch replacing Elizabeth.

- Last straw perhaps in leading to the Spanish Armada.

What is the danger level of the Babington (1-5)?

Explain your reasoning for the level you have given.
Exam question

Exam-style question, section B

Describe two features of the plots against Elizabeth I in the years 1571–86.

4 marks

Exam tip

This question is worth only 4 out of a possible 32 marks. Although 4 marks can make a difference to your overall result, you should only spend about 4–6 minutes on it. This means you must be very clear and concise.
Mary Queen of Scot's death warrant
MARY’S EXECUTION

A law passed in Parliament in 1585 (The act for the preservation of the Queen’s safety) said in the event of Elizabeth’s assassination, Mary was to be barred from the throne, therefore making it pointless killing Elizabeth! But also anyone involved in trying, would be executed Very clever! 😊

Nothing could happen to Mary until her role had been investigated and a trial had found her guilty

- Walsingham’s evidence was enough and she was found guilty under the above act.
- Elizabeth **FINALLY** signed the death warrant in February 1587
- It was also clear that Philip II was planning a major attack on England, so it was important to get rid of the prize for that invasion

So why execute her now, after 20 years of plots and threats?

Plots video
HOW **SIGNIFICANT** WAS MARY’S EXECUTION?

- The execution removed the target and prize of any future plot.
- Philip II had been planning to invade England since 1585, the execution of a Catholic queen gave him one final reason to remove Elizabeth.
- Mary left her claim to the English throne to Philip II on her death.
- Mary would be executed as a result of this plot and thus, the end of a Catholic monarch replacing Elizabeth.
- Last straw perhaps in leading to the Spanish Armada.

**Homework: Essay question**

Explain how significant the threats Elizabeth I faced between 1569-88 were.
Summary

- The Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569 was a serious rebellion focused on overthrowing Elizabeth I and restoring Catholicism.
- Elizabeth I's excommunication in 1570 put English Catholics in a difficult position between loyalty to their political leader, Elizabeth I, or their spiritual leader, the pope.
- Plots against Elizabeth were encouraged by Spain and the pope.
- Three other plots aiming to replace Elizabeth I with Mary, Queen of Scots, were Ridolfi (1571); Throckmorton (1583); and Babington (1586).
- Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed in 1587 after the Babington Plot.
- Plots against Elizabeth failed because Sir Francis Walsingham had an extensive network of spies and informers.
- Catholic priests were smuggled into England to support English Catholics.

Checkpoint

Strengthen

S1 Give two pieces of evidence of each of the following factors in the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569.
   a Political factors
   b Religious factors

S2 Give one important outcome for each of the plots against Elizabeth I: the Revolt of the Northern Earls; the Ridolfi, Throckmorton and Babington plots.

S3 Give three reasons why Sir Francis Walsingham’s spy network was so effective.

Challenge

C1 Give three reasons why the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569 was such a major threat to Elizabeth I.

C2 Compare the threats to Elizabeth I from 1571–86. Which was the most serious and why?

C3 Explain why Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed in 1587 and not earlier.

If you are not confident about any of these questions, your teacher can give you some hints.