What was England like in 1558?

Elizabeth’s accession – was it smooth?
Elizabethan England was violent and dangerous, there was no police force. In order to keep order, the Tudors relied on strict hierarchy and structure. Equality was not important to Elizabethans.

### Key fact:
90% of England’s population lived in the countryside.
In towns, the hierarchy was based on wealth and job. Wealthy merchants were at the top, followed by professionals, then skilled craftsmen. Unskilled labourers and unemployed were at the bottom of society.

Wherever you were in society, you were obedient to those above you, and had to look out for those below you. Households were run in the same way – husband and father were head of the household, then his wife and children, then any servants (all of whom were expected to be obedient to him.)
MUST KNOW INFORMATION:

- The most **important** city in England and largest city in **Europe**
- Tower of London
- Trade using the Thames
- Population of London rose from 50,000 in 1530 to 225,000 by Elizabeth’s death in 1603

Why do you think so many people moved to London?

What impact might that have had on the living conditions and people’s jobs?

**Trade:**

- Wool Trade was **90%** of England’s exports
- Most of London’s trade was based on the cloth trade, which was the finished product of wool. Everybody wanted English cloth
- Europe’s biggest trading port was Antwerp, keep in mind for the battles with Spain later, remember England’s livelihood is on the wool & cloth trade...
- The numbers of **Gentry** rose in Elizabeth’s reign because of their new wealth from the Wool Trade, they could now marry into the nobility! Good Times!
Elizabethan government, like today, had many different features.

Different organisations had varying roles to keep England governed and running smoothly.

Key terms:

**Courtiers:** Usually members of the nobility spending much of their lives in the court of Elizabeth I

**Militia:** A military force of ordinary people rather than soldiers, usually raised in an emergency

**Extraordinary taxations:** Occasional, additional taxation to pay for unexpected expenses, usually war

How does government work in Britain today?

Maybe these pictures will help?
On a clean page draw this spider diagram – Summarise the information on page 10-12 for each part of Elizabeth’s government.
The government in Elizabethan England centered on the monarch, partly due to the belief in Divine Right Monarchy. Elizabeth made all of the important decisions, taking advice from her Privy Council.

To provide some one with an important job or position is knowns as patronage. This could involve a grant of land, a title or championing a cause. Patronage is a very effective way of getting support from people and controlling them. What the queen gave, she could also take away if displeased.

Why do you think Patronage could be useful in controlling the people?
Responsibilities and duties of the monarch:

- Decide policy on war, peace, religion, day to day running of government, appointing officials, building relationships with other countries, securing the succession and promoting economic growth & trade

- Enforce policy, providing laws to protect people from crime and disorder. Dealing with threats to internal security and ensuring the courts work effectively

- Raise money:
  - Collect money from the ordinary sources (rents, taxes, customs duties, fines etc)
  - Sometimes collecting from extraordinary revenues – asking Parliament at times of war or attack
Cecil was Elizabeth’s chief advisor and oversaw the whole of government. He became Lord Treasurer in 1572 after being promoted, with a new title LORD BURGHLEY in 1571.
The Court was a body of people who lived in, or near, the same palace or house as the monarch. The court was made up of members of the nobility. They were the monarch’s key servants, advisers and friends. Attending court required the monarch’s permission and they were required to **entertain** and **advise** the monarch. As such, they could influence and persuade the monarch to take action in their best interests. Foreign visitors (ambassadors) would also be at court.

Robert Dudley was a favourite at Court
Life at Court
The Privy Council was made up of leading advisers, as well as nobles and very senior government officials, like Sir William Cecil. There were approximately 19 (Elizabeth reduced the privy council from 50 in her sister Mary’s reign, making it easier to control and manage) members on the Privy Council, chosen by the monarch. They met at least three times a week and debated current issues and made sure the monarch’s final decisions were carried out. They made sure that the rest of government worked efficiently; monitoring the Justices of the Peace, influencing Parliament and keeping law and order.
Listen to some of Elizabeth’s concerns and think about what advice you can give her.
Structure of the Privy Council

Secretary of State
This was the most important Privy councillor. He was the person Elizabeth was closest to and advised the queen on matters important to the Crown.

Lord Chamberlain
The Lord Chamberlain ran the household, supervised appointments and controlled access to the Privy Chamber.

Vice-chamberlain
The Vice-chamberlain assisted the Lord Chamberlain.

Keeper of the Great Seal
Stamped legal docs.

Lord High Admiral
Commanded the Navy & all issues relating to sea

Lord Treasurer
This job was to manage the income & spending of England

Comptroller of the Household
The Household accountant.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Managed the estates, militia and ££ of Lancaster
Parliament was made up of the House of Lords (which included bishops and nobles) and the House of Commons (members of the gentry).

Parliament could only be called and dismissed by the monarch.

Elizabeth I called parliament approximately ten times during her reign; usually so that they would grant her taxation (money collected from the people).

Parliament passed new laws and offered advice to the queen.

Although Elizabeth had a regular income, there were times when she needed more. Raising extraordinary taxation could only be done with parliament’s agreement so Elizabeth needed parliament to govern effectively.

Acts of Parliament (laws) could be enforced - As a result, any really important policies (usually to do with religion or the poor) were presented to parliament for its approval – They could ask Elizabeth for something in return though and she would need to compromise.

Elizabeth used her Royal Prerogative to stop parliament discussing any issues she didn’t want them discussing, mostly foreign affairs, the succession and her marriage.
Elizabeth I sitting in parliament during the 16th Century

What can you see going on here?
Are there any signs to show power?
Are there any similarities to today's parliament?
Do you have any questions or observations?

There were no political parties, no prime minister, only wealthy men could vote or become MPs. Candidates up for election were decided by the Privy Council.

How might this help Elizabeth?
Although MPs claimed the right to free speech, often they were sent to the Tower of London if they went too far, in Elizabeth's opinion.

How might this give her more control?
Each county had a Lord Lieutenant chosen by the monarch. They were members of the nobility and were often also on the Privy Council.

They were essential to maintaining the monarch’s power and England’s defences.

They were in charge of raising and training the local militia (soldiers) and overseeing county defences in case England was attacked.

They ensured that the queen’s laws were enforced by people far away from central government by giving orders to JPs.
Justices of the Peace (JPs)

JPs were members of the nobility and gentry. They were unpaid and they reported to the Privy Council. Being a JP was a position of status, and so was a very popular job. They made sure all Elizabeth and parliament’s social and economic policies were carried out by local people. For more serious crimes, JPs acted as judges in local courts every three months.

Sheriffs would also ensure local government policies and punishments were carried out.
Monarch
declare war and make peace
declare and dismiss parliament, and agree to, or
reject any laws they voted for
grant titles, lands, money, and jobs
reward people with land, a title or supporting
their cause (Patronage)
Chosen by God (Divine Right)

Secretary of State
Advised the queen on
matters important to the
Crown

Privy Council
Debate current issues and advise the
monarch on government policy
Made sure the monarch’s final
decisions were carried out.
oversaw law and order, local
government and the security of
England
monitored Justices of the Peace
monitored what happened in
Parliament

The Court
Entertain and advise the monarch.
Public display of wealth and power.
Courtiers had influence with the monarch
rather than actual power
Foreign ambassadors from every country

Parliament
grant extraordinary taxation
passed laws (Acts of Parliament)
offer advice to the monarch

Local Government

Lords Lieutenant
in charge of raising and training the local
militia and overseeing county defences
oversaw the enforcement of policies
part of the local government

Justices of the Peace / Sheriffs
made sure all social and economic
policies were carried out.
heard county court cases every three
months for more serious crimes.
Made sure punishments were given out

Which of these parts of
Government would be most
important to
Elizabeth and why?
We have just arrived and conquered the east coast of America, we are going to call it Virginia, after our Virgin Queen.

We need to bring our form of government to our new colony

Create an easy but informative guide to Elizabeth’s government to present to the natives who live in ‘Virginia’

It should include the key features of the role and what they will do.

*Use the Govt summary sheet and your government spider diagram as well as today’s lesson*
Which of these 5 roles do you think is the MOST IMPORTANT in helping Elizabeth?

Why?

Write a JOB ADVERT for the role you think is the most important (or choose any other)

1) Describe the key features of the role

2) Explain what responsibilities of the role involved

3) Describe why the job was important to the queen