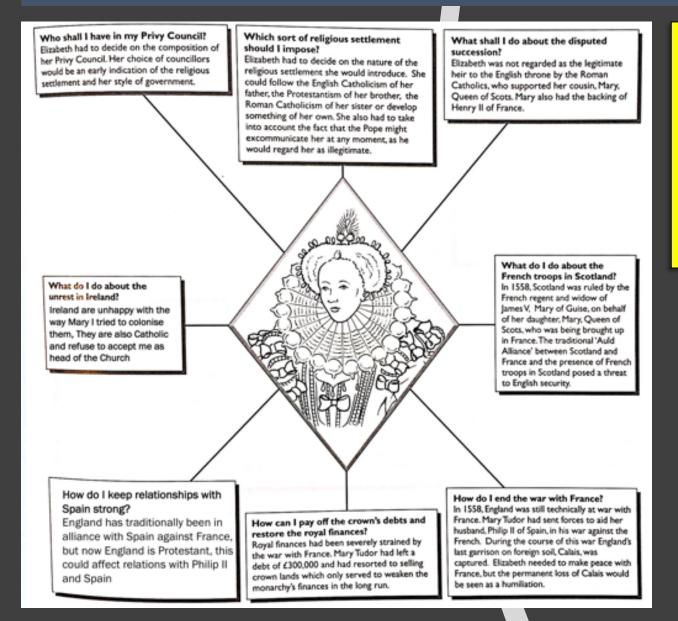


How this topic might look as an exam question:

Explain why Elizabeth faced problems at the start of her reign [12] The main issue Elizabeth faced at the start of her reign was... Do you agree? [16]



Look at Elizabeth's early problems and rank them in order of importance (to be dealt with first).

Then justify why you've chosen your top 3 immediate issues.



Let's meet the Queen a little closer

She poisoned herself using lead oxide as makeup to hide smallpox scars

She took a long time to make up her mind & was very indecisive

5ft 3"

She was incredibly frustrating

She had an awful temper

Vain

She was feared

Very superstitious

Afraid of Black Magic

She had halitosis and black teeth

Only bathed once every few weeks

Swore a lot and spat when angry







1. Was she legitimate? (The rightful queen)...

Was her mother, Anne Boleyn and father, henry VIII married when she was born?

What happened to her mother? How might that affect Elizabeth's claim to the throne?

Catholics don't accept King Henry's first marriage to Katherine of Aragon was officially over. This meant Anne Boleyn was just a mistress of Henry therefore their child was an illegitimate 'bastard' and as such could not be an heir to the throne.

Catholics also don't accept the monarch as head of the Church, they still believe The Pope is the head of The Church

Henry himself excluded Elizabeth from the throne (although he later reinstated her)

Explain why some people (Catholics) might see her as illegitimate?

2. She was a woman...

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!



John Knox -

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.

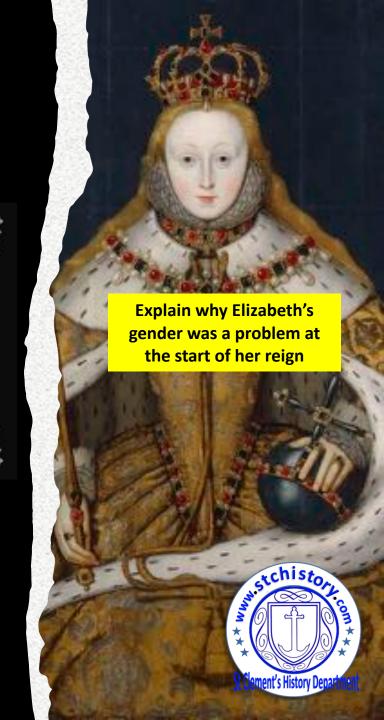
What do you think about this? Is he alone?

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

Did 'Bloody' Mary help this view of women in power?



Elizabeth's was expected to get married hand over the role of running the country to her husband and produce a male heir...

What should she do?

Pros Cons

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

Having children will ensure England's stability with an heir to the throne Who would I marry? I am queen, and yet wives are expected to be obedient to their husbands. I would be side-lined; He would be seen as the authority

The only man of suitable rank I could marry would be foreign, putting England's needs second to his own country









What is the view of this interpretation of Elizabeth? Is it positive? Negative?

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.