



The Religious Settlement:

What was Elizabeth's new religion and how could it please everybody?

Religious divisions in England, 1558:

Elizabeth I was Protestant but most of England was Catholic (**90%**), as was the country 'officially' following Mary's reign.

Religious conflict was spreading through Europe and Elizabeth feared it would come to England.

Who is a potential threat to Elizabeth in this case ?



Mary,
Queen of
Scots

How was England divided?: **The Clergy**

In 1558, most of England's bishops (Clergy) were Catholic. Changing the religion of the country would need an Act of Parliament.

Passing through the House of Commons would be easy enough, but the House of Lords might be more difficult. **Why?**

It is full of Catholic bishops who would oppose changing the country from Catholic to Protestant



How was England divided?: **The Puritans**

Mary I had killed 284 Protestants between 1553-1558 and many escaped to the much more Protestant Netherlands.

Many returned to England following Elizabeth becoming queen, some much more radical in their beliefs (Puritan).

They wanted the removal of:

- Anything that wasn't in the bible
- Hierarchy – so no bishops, no pope and no head of the Church
- Decoration in churches (plain)
- No idols & statues – you should only pray to God
- Special clothes for priests



Who would you say was the biggest danger to Elizabeth?



Elizabeth's Religious Settlement:

We now have the job of helping Elizabeth create her new religion. Remember she is more moderate than her brother and sister and wants to try and please everyone, if possible...

Ideas?...



Advise the Queen...



I am protestant and so cannot restore the authority of the Pope

Most people in England are Catholic, but most of my government are Protestant

The most powerful countries in Europe are Catholic

Mary, Queen of Scots claims she is the rightful Queen of England and Catholics are supporting her

Religious changes in the past have caused rebellions



What did the Queen think?

I want the country to be united and don't want to punish people just for their religious beliefs

I need a national Church which most of my people can accept

Elizabeth's Religious Settlement:

It was vital that Elizabeth could find a **MIDDLE GROUND** in religion. There had to be a form of Protestantism that the Catholics could accept.

Elizabeth ruled out a Puritan religion:

- This is because she herself didn't believe in the extreme ideas of the Puritans
- She didn't want to turn her Catholic subjects against her

**Would protestants expect Elizabeth to now burn Catholics?
Maybe in revenge?**

- Puritans didn't believe in hierarchy so it would have been a challenge to her own authority as queen
- Elizabeth actually liked some decoration in the churches

The people needed to follow the religion of the monarch to avoid a moral choice of who to be most loyal to, choosing wrong could have led to death!



Elizabeth's Religious Settlement was in two parts:

Act of Supremacy

- Made Elizabeth 'Supreme **governor** of the Church of England'.
- All clergy and royal officials had to **swear an oath** of allegiance to her.
- Pilgrimages and monuments to 'fake' miracles were banned
- Every parish had to have a copy of the Bible in English, accessible to ALL
- Priests could now get married
- An ecclesiastical (church related) High Commission was set up to maintain the discipline within the church

What do you think will have pleased Catholics, pleased Protestants and pleased both?

Act of Uniformity

- Established the appearance of all churches and the services they held had to come from a **COMMON BOOK OF PRAYER** in English.
- The removal of **Latin** upset the Catholics, many got round this by going to Elizabeth's churches then taking mass privately later.
- The wording of the service were deliberately unclear (vague) so Catholics and Protestants could **interpret** them to suit their own services.
- Ornaments, crosses, candlesticks and decorations were allowed and singing hymns continued, this pleased everyone other than Puritan bishops.
- Priests had to wear special clothing as a compromise to Catholics, Puritans didn't like this.

THE ELIZABETHAN RELIGIOUS SETTLEMENT

Royal Injunctions:

- All Clergy must teach the Royal Supremacy (the Monarch is the Head of the Church)
- Anyone refusing to go to church was to be reported to the Privy Council. These people were called **Recusants**
- You could also be fined a shilling (12p) – for a labourer that is about a weeks pay!
- No one could preach without a licence from the Government – **Why?**

Describe 2 features of the Religious Settlement

What do you think of Elizabeth's Settlement? Does it achieve her aims of 'middle ground'?



She still needs to get it through Parliament though as an Act of Law.

What do you think her chances are?

What are the sticking points? Where might it fall down in Parliament? Why?



The vote passed 21 - 18

Interpretation 1

Historians Turvey and Heard look at the effectiveness of Elizabeth's settlement in *Change and Protest 1536–88: Mid-Tudor Crises?* (1999).

... the Settlement had mixed success. It largely succeeded in establishing a broadly based national Church which excluded as few people as possible. ... On the other hand, the Settlement not only failed to attract the Puritans but... devout [seriously committed] Catholics were likewise marginalised [felt left out] with the consequence of encouraging opposition and non-conformity*.

What is the view of Interpretation 1?

Do you agree?

