

**Paper 2:B - Elizabethan England, 1568-1603**  
**Module 2: Life in Elizabethan England**

Upstart  
Crow



I don't always wear top hats, but when I do...

**Part 2: Life in Elizabethan England**

**2B: 2.1**

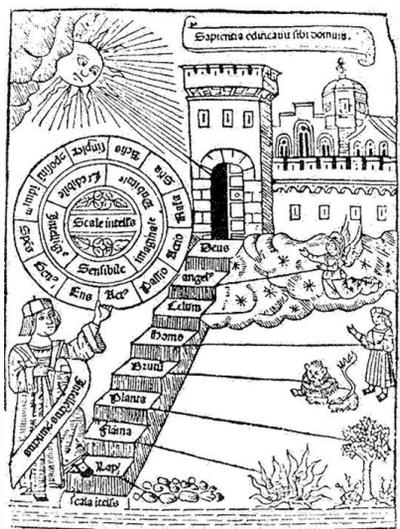
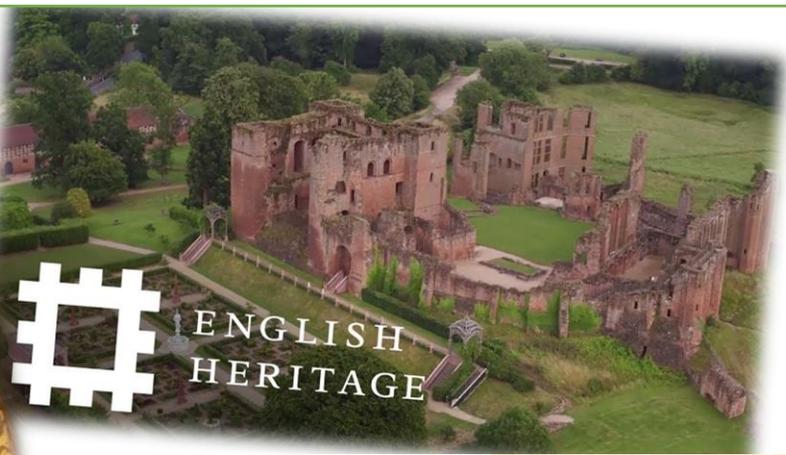
A 'Golden Age': living standards and fashions; growing prosperity and the rise of the gentry; the Elizabethan theatre and its achievements; attitudes to the theatre.

**2B: 2.2**

The poor: reasons for the increase in poverty; attitudes and responses to poverty; the reasons for government action and the seriousness of the problem.

**2B: 2.3**

English sailors: Hawkins and Drake; circumnavigation 1577-1580, voyages and trade; the role of Raleigh.



**Great Chain of Being**  
 God  
 Angels  
 Heaven  
 Humans  
 Beasts  
 Plants  
 Flame  
 Rocks



## 2B.2.1: The 'Golden Age' - Gentry - fashion, architecture and socialising

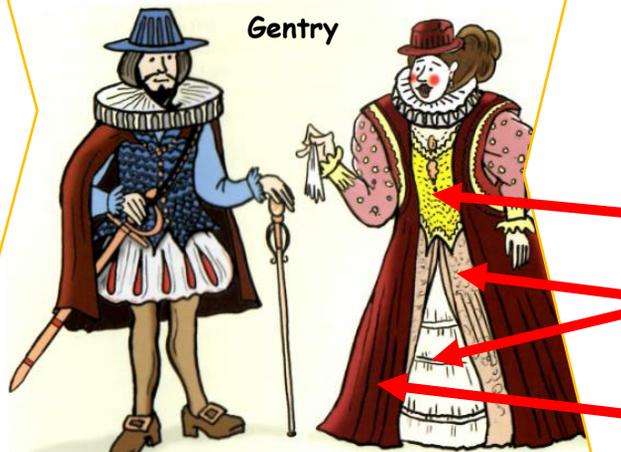
Influenced by the **humanism movements of Europe**, Elizabethan England saw culture blossom in the **theatre, arts, literature, architecture and music**. These transformations and ordinary peoples' interests were set by a rising class in England, the Gentry. They were wealthy, enthusiastic and always looking to impress the Queen and others at court. You could say they were celebrities! **The gentry expanded because:**

1. **Elizabeth didn't trust the old nobility.** She (and her father) purposely took advisors from the gentry class and this meant they became extremely powerful at court, as M.Ps and as public figures such as knights or J.Ps
2. **The dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII.** This left a lot more land for the Queen to sell and, therefore, for the gentry to buy and expand their status.
3. **Increasing wealth.** Trade, exploration and population growth meant that businesses thrived in England, particularly down in the South

### Key fashion for men:

- **Doublet** (long sleeved shirt with ruffles)
- **Breaches** (stockings)
- **Trunk hose** (like a skirt, but to hold up stockings)
- **Jerkin** - colourful velvet jacket, fastens at front
- **Ruff**
- **Hat**
- **Cloak**
- **Sword**
- **Beard**

**The Statutes of Apparel (1574)** put laws in place about what different social classes could or couldn't wear. **Fashion was a symbol of your status**, a bit like today!



### Key fashion for women:

- **Dyed hair** with fake hair added
- Small hat (not covering too much hair!)
- A **ruff** (collar)
- Heavy **white make up** (lead based)
- **Blackened teeth** (trendy because of Elizabeth's rotten teeth)
- **Farthingale** - A petticoat with wooden hoops sewn in
- **Undergown** (silk or satin) and **gown** (satin or velvet) - heavily patterned
- **Overgown** - cape



Layered, like an onion. Must've been mafting!

ELIZABETH  
THE GOLDEN AGE



### Case Study: Hardwick Hall

**Bess of Hardwick** became the richest and most powerful woman after Elizabeth I. She has a business empire of **brickworks, glass works and money lending**. Her reputation was as a fierce, particular and shrewd business woman who rarely made mistakes and kept detailed accounts of her investments. She built Hardwick Hall to show her status and to win favour with the queen. **Typical of people in the rising gentry.**



Elizabeth's reign saw what is known as the **'Great Rebuilding'**. The huge amount of great stone or brick built country houses showed wealth. There was less focus on defences in design and more on decorative features like **beautiful gardens**. **Robert Smythson** is probably the most famous architect, designing **Hardwick Hall (Derbyshire)** and **Longleat House (Wiltshire)**. Increasing food prices helped the gentry afford to build these glam homes.

### Changes to design:

- **Chimneys:** Show of wealth
- **Windows:** Bigger windows, often with lead to hold the glass in. Called **mullioned windows**. Lots of them
- **Rooms:** No more Great Hall for socialising, the new houses used the entire upper floor(s). Rooms downstairs for workers were divided and had windows and fireplaces.
- Standard of decor: **Decorative plasterwork and ceilings, oak-panelled walls, impressive fireplaces, tapestries** and loads of books (read or not)

E.S on top because it belongs to **Elizabeth of Shrewsbury, A.K.A: Bess of Hardwick**

The gentry only used the top floor(s) to live, entertain and show off art. The servants used the lower. Height of each floor reflects social status of user.

Nicknamed 'more glass than wall' because windows. Glass was expensive. Showing off.

Much of building wasn't in use. Was just for design reasons

Building looks like 'E' from above for **Elizabeth**

Long drive way to show off to those approaching

Symmetrical design was the fashion

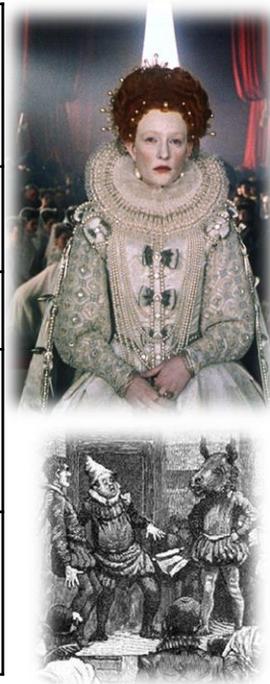


## 2B.2.1: Elizabethan theatre (culture, audience, playwrights, patronage)

Before Elizabeth's reign most performances were in yards and market squares. The actors travelled from place to place and had no permanent place to perform. This all began to change from 1572 onwards.

Reasons the authorities opposed actors and the theatre

Ungodly themes	The theatre was full of violence, death, sexual themes comedy about serious issues and things that Puritans didn't agree with (sinful stuff!). When an <b>earthquake</b> struck the south of England in <b>1580</b> , many blamed the earthquake on the theatre (next you'll be telling me they thought the earth was round... oh wait...)
Strolling actors	They went from place to place to act but often, during their visits, crime would spike and civil disorder could cause problems. They were treated like vagabonds by the authorities.
Disease	New diseases could be brought into the area and spread a lot with crowds gathering. In <b>1592-93 the theatres were shut due to the Plague.</b>
Censorship of content	Before regulating the theatre and choosing what they could and couldn't talk about the authorities were worried it could trigger problems for Elizabeth, particularly as poverty was increasing. The position of <b>'Master of the Revels'</b> was created to license plays. Plays had to promote Elizabeth and her family (like <b>Richard III</b> - favoured the Tudor version of events).
Crime	The theatre was rowdy and could be dangerous. At the <b>Globe</b> on the South Bank of the Thames there was a lot of taverns, brothels and it's reputation was worsened by <b>pickpockets and illegal gambling like bear-baiting</b> . There would often be fighting after a rowdy night at the theatre and taverns of the area.



In 1572, the government introduced a new law which said that all travelling bands of actors had to be licensed, expecting that they would just give up and do other jobs. Instead they organised, got investors and created companies. A whole range of new theatres opened (see right) and, by the end of her reign, there were **7 major theatres in London and over 40 companies of actors**. To have a successful play you needed a playwright, a patron and a venue. Once your play was approved by the 'Master of the Revels' you were good to go!

Patrons:

Because the government was scared of the impact of theatre, a successful theatre company needed a well-connected Patron to give it an upstanding reputation with the authorities. A **patron** might choose to support a theatre to boost their own reputation, because they liked the plays or because they were competing with others for influence and power.

- Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester** - Got a license from Queen Elizabeth and patronised **'Leicester's Company'**, more commonly known as the 'Earl of Leicester's Men' because women weren't allowed to be actors, they simply used young and slim men to play female characters. **James Burbage** was part of this company.
- Francis Walsingham** - Set up **'The Queen's Men'** and became their patron
- Lord Hunsdon** - He was the queen's cousin and became patron of the **'Lord Chamberlain's Men'** with **Richard Burbage**. Both Burbage brothers went on to found the Globe.



Lots of my plays were sent back to be edited before approved

We rolled cannonballs onto the floor to make thunder in Macbeth

Pigs bladders full of blood for stabbing scenes like in Romeo and Juliet

Name: **William Shakespeare**

Plays: **Hamlet, Macbeth, Henry VI, Love's Labour's Lost, Romeo and Juliet, Richard III**

Themes: Violence, romance, magic, ancient world, patriotism, exploration



Name: **Christopher Marlowe**

Most famous play: **The Jew of Malta**, in which a man scrambles to try and regain the lost wealth of the island. The play is full of religious conflict, intrigue and revenge, and is thought to be the first successful black comedy. Elizabethan audiences loved it.

Themes: Violence, romance, magic, ancient world, patriotism, exploration

Ingredients:

Clever dialogue

Unique characters

Promote Elizabeth I

Drama

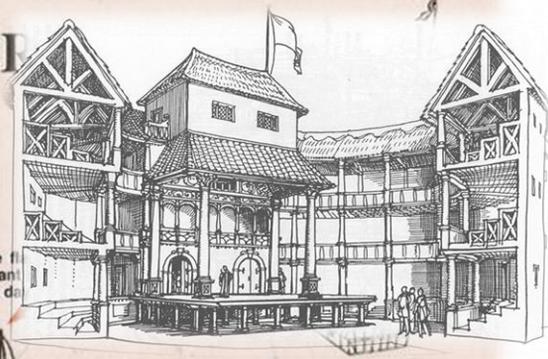
Subplots

Comedy

Music

## 2B.2.1: Elizabethan theatre (Globe case study)

### The GLOBE THEATRE 1599-1613



**INNER STAGE.** A recessed playing area often curtained off, then opened for appropriate scenes.

**STAGE DOORS.** Doors opening into the Tiring-House.

**FLAG.** A white flag flying from the top of the theater meant that a play was performed that day.

**MIDDLE GALLERY.** Called 'Two-penny Rooms' because the seats here were higher priced.

**ENTRANCE.** Point leading to the staircase and upper galleries.

**CORRIDOR.** A passageway that served the different sections of the middle gallery.

**LORD'S ROOMS** or private galleries. Six pennies let a viewer sit here or sometimes even on the stage itself.

**MAIN ENTRANCE.** Here the door-keeper greeted playgoers and collected one penny from everyone.

**STAGE.** Major playing area jutting into the Pit, creating a sense of intimacy with the audience. Hangings curtained off space beneath.

**THE PIT.** Also sometimes referred to as 'The Yard' where the 'groundlings' watched the play for their one-penny admission.

**HELL.** The area under the stage, used for ghostly comings and goings or for more mundane storage of properties.

**TRAP DOOR.** Leading where equipment including that raised and lowered properties.

**HUT.** A storage area that also held a winch system for lowering enthroned gods or other characters to the stage.

**THE HEAVENS.** So identified by being painted with the zodiac signs.

**WARDROBE.** An essential storage area.

**GALLERY.** Located above the stage to house musicians or spectators. An auxiliary stage for special scenes.

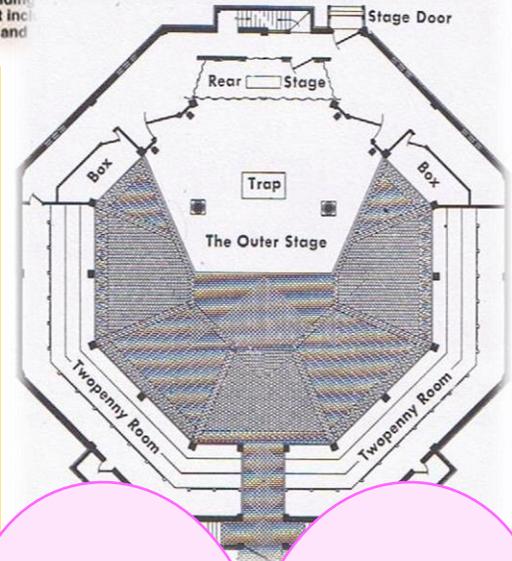
**DRESSING ROOMS.** Rooms where actors were 'attired' and awaited their cues.

**TIRING-HOUSE DOOR.** The rear entrance or 'stage door' for actors or privileged spectators.

**TIRING HOUSE.** The important backstage area which provided space for storage and business offices.

**STAIRS.** Ascending to the first level, theatergoers reached the galleries by wooden staircases enclosed by stairwells.

Floorplan at First Level



1. Based in **Bankside in Southwark, London.**
2. Bankside was a **run down industrial area** with leather tanneries, taverns and factories; which suited the authorities because they wanted theatres away from the city.
3. 1<sup>st</sup> plays were in 1599. **Icosagon shaped (20 sides) with 100m diameter - 3000 seats over 3 storeys.**
4. The '**bear-garden**' design meant that people viewed from a position based on wealth. The most wealthy would be on stage or in '**Lords**' rooms above the stage (so everyone could see them), other well off viewers would be in the **covered galleries (2 or 3 pennies**, if you wanted a cushion!) which ran around the theatre and the poorest (**groundlings**) would be in the **pit**, stood up and without a roof over them. (**1 penny**)
5. Unique in being owned by and built for **6 actors, with the two Burbage brothers owning 50% between them.** (old school crowd-funding / kickstarter?)
6. The pillars held up a roof called '**the heavens**' with a trapdoor for surprise entrances.
7. There was another trap door on the stage, called '**hell**'
8. The backstage area, the '**tiring house**' had rooms for the actors to get ready, offices to manage the theatre and storage space.
9. It **burnt down in 1613 in a fire**, but was rebuilt with the same design about 750ft down the river in 1997.
10. The flag flew above the theatre to signal a play was on.
11. Plays were usually in the afternoon, as there was no artificial lighting.
12. They sold refreshments like **meat pies, nuts, beer, wine, fruit** and other things.

People LOVED theatre because;

- Socialising
- Could meet romantic partner
- Very few other types of entertainment
  - New
- Saw celebrities from the Gentry

## 2B.2.1: Elizabethan theatre (playwrights and patronage) and portraits

Name / Year / Symbolism of paintings below (can see them in detail if you zoom in)		
Phoenix Portrait	1575	Named after the jewel she is wearing. The Phoenix rises from the ashes (a bit like Lizzy faced her challenges)
Pelican Portrait	1575	Named after the jewel she is wearing. The legend at the time said that the mother Pelican pecked at her own breast and feeds her young on her own blood so they might live. (representing Elizabeth's personal sacrifices for England)
Sieve Portrait	1583	She was 50. In the Roman era, Tuccia, a vestal virgin was accused of impurity. She had to carry a sieve of water to a temple to prove she was still pure. She did without spilling a drop. (representing the marriage situation of Liz)
Rainbow Portrait	c.1600	She is carrying a rainbow (A symbol of peace. Also, can't have without the sun, therefore, she is the sun), wearing pearls (symbol of virginity), covered in eyes and ears on her cloak (sees all - think spy network). The painting is very busy.



### Gloriana (yes, a cult of personality)

Gloriana is a powerful female character in the poem *The Faerie Queene* by Edmund Spenser. Spenser wrote this for Elizabeth and **she gave him a pension of £50 a year, for life**. The poem became propaganda about Elizabeth's all powerful nature, as did the widely viewed portraits painted of her. They made her a figure of worship and her beauty conveyed power and godly connections. Ones she disliked were destroyed and her key ministers were in charge of her public image. In these a standard design was used for her face whereas, in reality, by 1600 she was 67 and probably looked more like the image above! However, as you can see to the left, the message given by each artist is quite clever.



## 2B.2.2: Poverty in Elizabethan England

Traditionally, the main source of support for the poor was **charity** (see cartoon below - rich man giving **alms/charity**). Rich people made donations to hospitals, monasteries and other organisations that helped the poor. However, during Elizabeth's reign the problem with poverty had become that bad that these donations were not enough. People began to realise that society as a whole would have to take responsibility for helping the poor, and so the **government** began to take action to tackle the problem of poverty. The Elizabethans believed you could roughly divide poor people into 3 categories:



### The Impotent Poor

Those who were helpless and unable to support themselves—including young orphans, the elderly, sick and disabled.

### The Deserving Poor (able bodied)

People who wanted to work, but weren't able to find a job in their home or village.

### The Undeserving Poor (able bodied)

Beggars, criminals and those people refused to work. Vagabonds ('sturdy beggars') who left their homes and travelled around looking for work or committing crime.



I've told you before, just stop being poor!

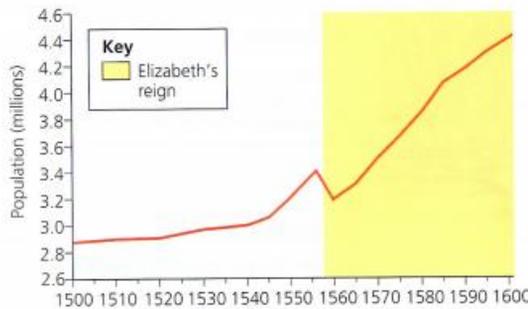


## 2B.2.2: Poverty in Elizabethan England (continued) - Causes

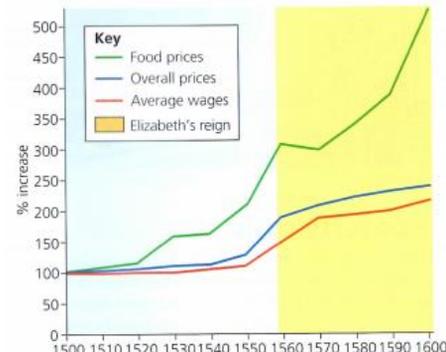
Poverty was an increasing problem and was made worse by the fact that some **beggars/vagabonds/vagrants** travelled in gangs and terrorised the countryside or committed major crimes in the towns they visited. During **plagues like those of 1563/1583/1586/1590/1593** and due to **Smallpox and Flu**, these travelling vagabonds were viewed as a major problem for spreading disease too. Their behaviour went against Puritan values (lots of those at court and in Parliament were Puritan) and made Elizabeth's government feared rebellion from the growing number of poor people unless something was done. After trying a series of smaller measures to solve the problem, Elizabeth eventually introduced the **Poor Law**, which helped in 3 main ways:

1. Forced local governments to sort their areas out
2. Punished those who begged again and again very harshly
3. Actually helped people who were 'deserving' or 'impotent'

(a) Population increase in England and Wales in the sixteenth century.



(b) Inflation in the sixteenth century.



Causes of poverty	Description	Why was this such a big problem?
Increasing population + inflation.	The <b>population rose by approximately 43% between 1550 and 1600, from about 3.2m to over 4.4m</b> . Silver and gold taken from the Spanish in the New World meant that these metals became worth less due to more of them being in circulation. Food prices rose because there were more mouths to feed. (see graphs above)	More mouths to feed placed huge demand on a farming system with a lot of problems. Food was a far bigger share of what people earned than it is today and kept getting worse.
Wars	Henry had fought wars against France and Scotland and in order to pay for it he increased taxes and <b>debased the value of coins in the 1540s</b> by melting them down and mixing with cheaper metals. When war ended there were a lot of unemployed soldiers. Links to trade also...	Increased unemployment and currency being worth less. This also meant that Elizabeth had to do a full recoinage of the currency to try and fix the problem. It only helped a little.
Trade collapsing	<b>Wool trade:</b> England traded with <b>Belgium (city of Antwerp)</b> mostly. The wool industry collapsed in the 1550s. Trade was banned with the <b>Spanish controlled Netherlands from the 1560s to the late 1580s</b> . (A kind of economic warfare) <b>Monopolies:</b> Elizabeth gave her 'favourites' monopolies over trades and this reduced opportunity for others to start a successful business. The rich got richer and the poor got left behind (sound familiar?)	Elizabethan England was getting richer and richer thanks to growing trade; however, the only really benefitted the gentry. When the trade collapsed, however, it affected all of those who worked in trade businesses, and saw huge unemployment increase
Problems in Agriculture	There were <b>dearth conditions in the 1590s</b> (not enough supply to feed a population) due to terrible harvests. This happened at the same time as serious plague outbreaks and land being <b>enclosed</b> and used for <b>pasture</b> (animals - sheep) instead of <b>arable</b> (veg) farming. This system saw land divided up by hedges and <b>privatised instead of being common land</b> - a system which needs less workers. Landlords hiked the rents to help themselves stay wealthy, which led to evictions and families becoming homeless	<b>Enclosure</b> meant more people out of work, less veg being grown due to the focus on allowing sheep to graze. Less food meant increasing prices due to shortages. Increased rents made farming less attractive as a job. <b>Bad harvests in 1594/5/6/7</b> meant shortages and even higher prices.
No more monasteries	Between 1536-41 Henry VIII issued orders to shut down, pillage and dismantle Catholic monasteries throughout England. He got increased wealth and reduced the power of Catholics in England. This is called the <b>dissolution of the monasteries</b> .	Monasteries were the main relief for the poor. They provided alms (charity in form of food and clothing). Without them, who would do it?



This cluster of circumstances led to a huge increase in poverty of all kinds. An increase in poverty leads to people becoming desperate and they blame the government, Elizabeth's government. They knew something needed to be done before things kicked off, even if they stood to lose money!



## 2B.2.2: Poverty in Elizabethan England (continued) - How successfully did Elizabeth tackle poverty?



### Different types of Elizabethan beggars:

**Anglers:** Carried a large stick which could be used to steal clothes off people's washing lines at night.

**Ruffler:** looked like an army officer but actually robbed people at sword point.

**Clapperdudgeons:** Pretended to be badly injured by using arsenic to make their skin bleed and wrapping their arms and legs in legs in bloody rags.

**Doxy:** Spotted wearing a needle in her hat and a large pack on her back to keep stolen goods.

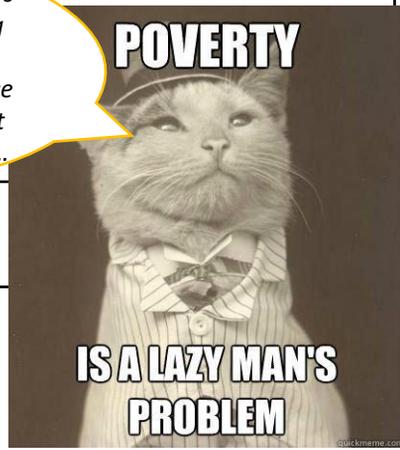
**Counterfeit cranks:** Dressed in old dirty clothes and pretended to have epileptic fits, using soap to foam at the mouth.

**Abraham Men:** Pretended to be mad and walk about half-naked making whaling noises

Writers like **Thomas Harman** wrote a book in 1567 about how to protect yourself against them.

What did they introduce?	What did it do?
<b>Recoinage</b>	Collect in all currency and re-issue it. Trying to solve the problems Henry VIII's debasement caused
<b>1563 Statue of Artificers</b>	This had the central aim of making poor relief more effective. Anyone who refused to pay into the poor relief could be sent to prison and in those towns where poor relief was collected poorly the officials would be fined £20, which is equivalent to £5000 today. It also put wage limits on skilled workers.
<b>1598 Act of Husbandry and Tillage</b>	Slow down the rate of enclosure by banning it in parts of the country.
<b>London hospitals for care and work</b>	<p><b>St Bartholomew's:</b> for the sick  <b>St Thomas':</b> for the elderly  <b>Christ's Hospital:</b> for the orphans  <b>Bethlehem:</b> hospital for the insane.</p>
<b>Norwich</b>	A <b>census</b> was done to find out who was poor and they were put to work in workhouses and food/alms was provided by collecting from local wealthy people.

*Not actually true. Elizabeth's system focused on tackling the symptoms of poverty more than the causes, hence the gentry got richer whilst more people became poor...*



### Punishments for the undeserving poor who were persistent beggars/vagabonds:

1. Whipped until their back bled.
2. Sent home to their place of birth.
3. Imprisoned or made to work in a 'House of Correction'.
4. Sent away to work on **Galley warships**.
5. Persistent beggars would be hanged.

Elizabethan Poor Law (1597)	What did they introduce?	What did it do?
	<b>Poor rate</b>	Everyone had to pay a small tax to their local government's poor rate (varied throughout the country). It contributed towards workhouses, relief and people to manage it. You could be fined or put in prison if you refused to pay!
	<b>Parish Overseers (4 per parish)</b>	<p><b>Orphans given apprenticeships</b> and had to learn a trade</p> <p>Outdoor relief: <b>alms-houses</b> were created for the <b>impotent poor</b>, such as elderly and sick, to live in and eat in (like a homeless shelter)</p> <p><b>Houses of Industry (1601 added):</b> <b>The able-bodied deserving poor</b> who were unable to find work were to be given tools and raw materials like hemp, wool, wood and iron to work with in a work house until they could get another job. Wages would be paid from the poor rate and the local government kept the produce to sell and regain some of the money spent.</p>



Although Elizabeth's reign saw an increase in poverty, the country became wealthier overall, with the gentry seeing the lion's share of the wealth. Although some things helped relieve poverty, it was really The Poor Law (1597) that took away any incentive for poor people to beg and forced local government to help the poor. It worked for Elizabeth because there was no rebellion about poverty in her reign and social order was kept. However, although there was extreme hardship in the 1590s, most people in Elizabeth's reign saw their overall living standards improve.



## 2B.2.1: Exploration and trade

The **Portuguese and Spanish** were the first to explore the world beyond Europe and dominated exploration and trade because of this. In the **1400s** they had sent voyages of discovery to Africa, Asia and the Americas. Many believed, at this time, that the world was flat and that the Mediterranean (Spain, Italy, Greece etc) was at the centre of the world. By the time Elizabeth became queen in **1558**, Spain and Portugal had both set up colonies in the **Americas, or the 'New World'**. The Elizabethans were keen to start their own voyages of discovery and exploration and put England all over the map, as well as show off to Elizabeth. Spain was scared of England's growing power at sea and refused **trading licenses** for English ships in it's colonies.



### ENGLAND'S EXPLORATION BY 1558:

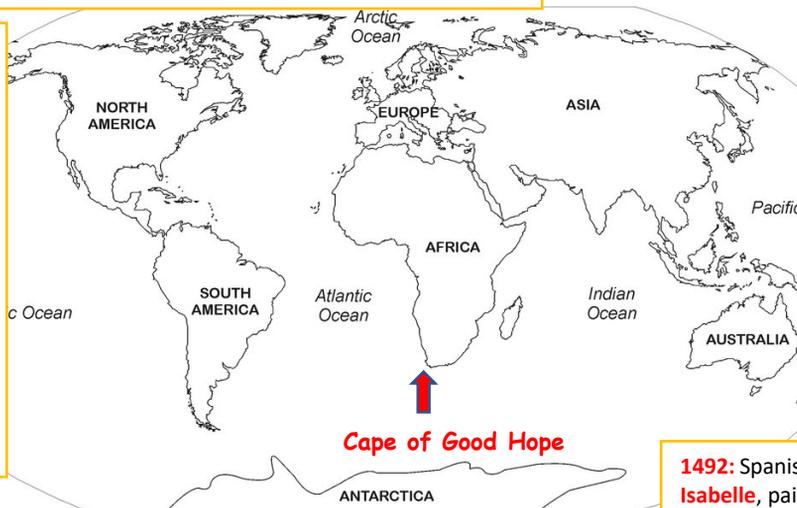
**Henry VII (7<sup>th</sup>)** had sent **John Cabot** to follow up on Spain's 1492 discovery, but other than that, not all that much.

### SPAIN'S EXPLORATION BY 1558:

Colonised **central and South America** (hence they speak Spanish there - mostly)

Used slave trade

**Stole huge amounts of silver and gold from the Aztecs and Incas and brought back tomatoes, potatoes and tobacco.**



### PORTUGAL'S EXPLORATION BY 1558:

Colonised coastal areas of **West Africa, India and Brazil** (speak Portuguese) and traded **sugar, cotton** and other goods

Started the slave trade/slave triangle and dominated it for centuries

Huge navy

**1487:** Portuguese sailor, **Bartholomew Diaz** sailed around the southern tip of Africa. Was important because it showed the Earth wasn't flat.

**1498:** Portuguese sailor, **Vasco de Gama** did the same, but went further and ended up in India. Important because they could set up trade directly instead of through Turkey. Cheaper and faster.

**1492:** Spanish rulers, **Ferdinand and Isabelle**, paid a voyage led by **Christopher Columbus** to try and find another way to India. They **accidentally discovered the Caribbean and Americas**. Important because it triggered a whole range of funded voyages of discovery by Spain, France, Portugal and England.

### How did England catch up?

Elizabeth's new gentry class poured money and investment into the idea of building England into a great seafaring nation. They did it to please the queen and try and make themselves even more wealthy. The actions that followed were a highly aggressive form of catching up.

- PIRATES OR PRIVATEERS?:** Elizabeth made a lot of successful pirates, who would be considered outlaws, into official privateers for England. They used their small, agile, ships armed with lots of cannons to attack the large Spanish **Galleons** and take all of their gold and silver. These privateers were made into celebrities.
- PATRIOTISM:** Promoted patriotism and nationalism about England whilst creating hostility towards the Spanish by using propaganda.
- CREATED COMPANIES** like;
  - The Muscovy Company** - trading timbers and fur with Russia
  - The Eastland Company (1579)** - trading timber, tar, canvas and rope with Scandinavia
  - The Levant Company (1581)** - trading currents and dyes in the Mediterranean
  - The East India Company (1600)** - Tried to reach India and China by **Martin Frobisher** going around the North of Canada first, but this failed 3 times due to ice. In the **1590s**, **James Lancaster** succeeded by following the Portuguese route around South Africa, at the Cape of Good Hope. **Traded in spices, silks, cotton and tea**. This company went on to dominate global trade in this part of the world!



## 2B.2.1: Sir Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh

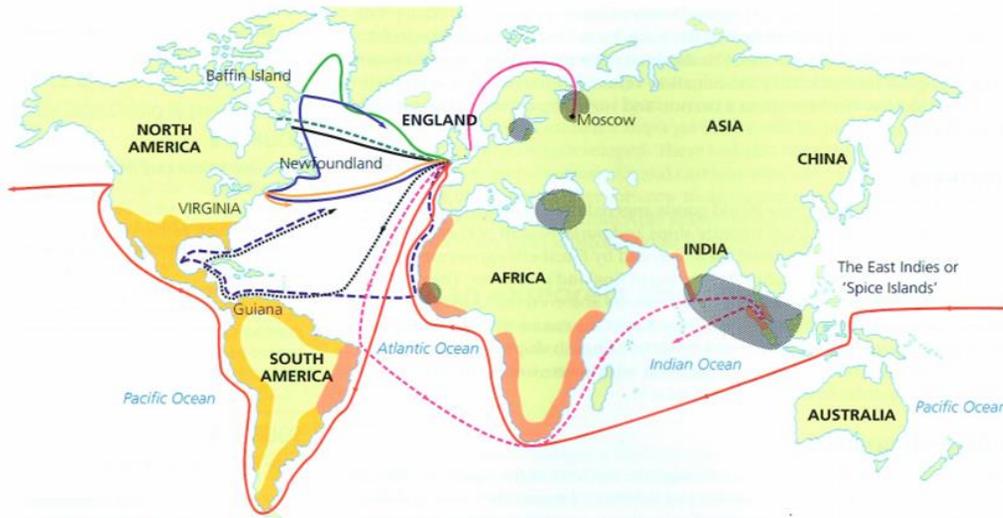
### Sir Francis Drake (explorer and privateer):

He was a Puritan and hated Spain because they were Catholic and had attacked his cousin's expedition in 1568. He was sent by Elizabeth to explore the coast of South America looking for opportunities for English colonisation and trade. He made money on the expedition by raiding Spanish colonies and treasure ships of **£40,000 worth of Spanish silver** by attacking their treasure ships and **captured the port of Nombre de Dois in Panama**. On his return to England Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth aboard his ship, the **Golden Hind**.

Between **1577** and **1580 Francis Drake** sailed all the way around the world. He set off without a clear aim, other than returning to South America to do more raiding. However, this was the **second global circumnavigation, with Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan between 1519-22 being the first**, and was the first by an English sailor. **He returned with an estimated £400,000 of Spanish treasure (£200 million in today's money!) and made £10,000 himself, whilst Elizabeth got 50% and his investors got the rest.** Elizabeth awarded him a jewel with her portrait on it.



*Hawkins came first and inspired his cousin, Drake*



EARLY TUDOR EXPLORERS		ELIZABETHAN EXPLORERS	
Spanish Empire	John Cabot (1497)	John Hawkins (1562-68)	Sir Walter Raleigh (1585-87)
Portuguese Empire	Willoughby and Chancellor (1553)	Martin Frobisher (1576)	John Davis (1585-87)
New trading areas established during Elizabeth's reign		Francis Drake (1577-80)	James Lancaster (1591-94)
		Humphrey Gilbert (1583)	Sir Walter Raleigh (1595)

### John Hawkins

Traded in West Africa (slaves and goods) in the 1560s and returned to England **with gold, silver and animal skins**. On his last voyage, he was accompanied by **his younger cousin, Francis Drake**. After clashing with the Spanish Hawkins designed a new, superior, naval ship for the English to use. These were later used to repel the Spanish Armada.



### Walter Raleigh (courtier and coloniser):

He had been given a **patent** by Elizabeth to set up a colony in North America, naming an area of land '**Virginia**' after the so-called 'Virgin Queen'. He attempted to set up a number of colonies, but they didn't last. Raleigh's attempts include:

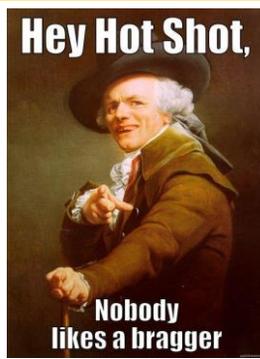
- Roanoke, Virginia** - Raleigh sent **five ships** to Virginia in **1585**, led by **Sir Richard Grenville**. **108** settlers (known as planters) tried to establish a permanent colony, but had to return to England due to food shortages.
- Roanoke, Virginia** - A **second attempt in 1587** resulted in all the colonists disappearing, earning it the nickname the '**lost colony**' - historians think it was probably the natives.
- In **1595** a third voyage went looking for the **mythical city of gold, El Dorado, in South America** - and failed.

Although he had a string of failures, it inspired a generation of explorers and colonisers to try for themselves and is supposed to have **brought the potato to England**. It was only after Elizabeth's death in 1603, that **in 1607 England succeeded in setting up Jamestown, Virginia**.

### Consequences of attempted colonisation and exploration

#### Increased tension with Spain

**El Draque** (the dragon), Drake, had really annoyed Phillip II of Spain and is seen as a cause of the Spanish Armada



**Nobody likes a bragger**

#### Wealth for the gentry

Immense fortunes were built by investors, merchants and those involved in exploration

#### Development of a powerful navy

Through raiding Spanish ships the English learnt how to beat their enemies and built vast amounts of ships and trained sailors

#### Set the foundations for the British Empire

Through building trade links, setting up colonies and getting lots of investors who wanted to see their businesses succeed.

# Life in Elizabethan England - Tasks

## TASK 1:

Having studied the revision guide write a detailed explanation to answer the following questions;

- a) Why did the gentry benefit so much during Elizabeth's reign? (consider business, poverty, culture and exploration - there are many ways)
- b) How did Elizabeth stand to improve her own power/status from supporting the gentry? (think about why they might support her based on how she supported them and through divide and rule)

## TASK 2:

Answer the following in relation to the Elizabethan theatre;

- a) How can Elizabethan theatre reflect how Elizabethan society was arranged? (consider seating, the plays, reasons for going to the theatre and who financed the plays)
- b) Why was the theatre useful to Elizabeth? (consider play content, Master of Revels, Patrons and Gloriana)
- c) How does approving the building of theatres and setting up of companies impact on the way Elizabeth is seen by her people.

## TASK 3:

- a) Using page 5 (after the front cover) you need to study the table about the causes of poverty in the Elizabethan era and explain as many ways as you can that one cause impacts on/links to another cause. Most of them are related in some way to another or more than one other cause.
- b) For each aspect of the Poor Law, explain how it would help to reduce poverty
- c) How similar or different is how the Elizabethans dealt with the problem of rising poverty to how our society deals with it today.

## TASK 4:

Using the map on the final page of this guide and a labelled world map on Google you need to;

- a) Use 1 colour to colour Spain, the areas of the world they controlled (add a key) and add their voyages from the map in this guide - labelled with the sailor's name on the correct line
- b) Use a 2<sup>nd</sup> colour to do the same for Portugal
- c) Use a 3<sup>rd</sup> colour to add the companies set up by the English in the correct countries this connected England to. Add the names of the companies and significant individuals (use 2.1 - trade and exploration page to help)

## TASK 5:

Review the entire revision guide creating revision flashcards or another revision activity which focuses on key S.P.E.D (Statistics, People, Events, Dates) and other key knowledge relating to each thing you need to know. Then get a friend or parent to quiz you.

If you have friends (or acquaintances / people you know) then feel free to come and grab one of our departmental board games to use your flash cards as part of.

# Life in Elizabethan England - Quiz

1. Which 5 aspects of culture began to change during the Elizabethan Era?
2. Which law set guidelines about what people could and couldn't wear, depending on their class?
3. Give 2 examples of items a man and woman in the gentry might wear
4. What is Bess of Hardwick's real name and how is this shown on Hardwick Hall?
5. What features changed in the design of stately homes (country mansions) during the 'Great Rebuilding'?
6. What was the 1580 earthquake blamed on, by Puritans? Why?
7. In which years were the theatres shut due to plague?
8. In which years were harvests the worst during Elizabeth's reign? (later in booklet)
9. Why was the theatre located away from the main city?
10. Write a definition of what a 'Patron' is and give an example of one
11. Who had to approve plays like those of Shakespeare before it could be shown at any theatre?
12. What themes/features needed to be in an Elizabethan play in order for it to become a hit?
13. What shape was the Globe theatre? How many sides?
14. What were the roof above the stage with a trap door and trap door on the stage called?
15. Name the 3 areas you could watch a performance from within the theatre through buying a different type of ticket.
16. Which fictional character was created as a fictional character to impress Elizabeth, but then used as something to develop an image and characterisation of Elizabeth around?
17. Who wrote Faerie Queene?
18. List the 3 types of Elizabethan poor, according to the way they viewed it.
19. Which 3 terms can be used to describe the homeless poor who may have asked for money and travelled from place to place?
20. Why did the Elizabethan government put measures in place to help the poor?
21. How much did the population of Elizabethan England rise by between 1550-1600?
22. What had Henry VIII done to the English currency/coins which impacted on inflation? (inflation = prices rising)
23. Who was England's main trading partner? (country and city)
24. Which system, although more efficient, worsened the problems with poverty in the countryside and food supplies?
25. Which group became more wealthy as everyone else became less wealthy? Why?
26. What was now missing in England that had previously supported poor people with alms?
27. Name 6 types of Elizabethan beggar? Who do you think would be the most successful and why?
28. What did the Statute of Artificers do?
29. Which city did something similar to the Poor Law before the Poor Law was introduced in 1597?
30. Write a 50 word or less definition of the Poor Law, including what it did, how it was enforced and punishments for the undeserving.
31. What's the difference between a 'pirate' and a 'privateer'? (sounds like the start of a bad joke!)
32. Which country was the first to circumnavigate the world and challenge the idea that the Earth was flat?
33. Which areas of the world did Portugal and Spain have influence over or colonies in? (make a list, as will be used in tasks section)
34. How did England catch up with Spain and Portugal? (3 reasons, in brief)
35. Which 4 companies were invested in/set up by members of the Elizabethan gentry? (will use later)
36. Which Englishman eventually managed to reach India and China by sailing around the Cape of Good Hope?
37. What was the name of Francis Drake's ship?
38. What is the difference in value between the Spanish loot brought back by Drake on his 1568 voyage and his 1577 voyage?
39. What percentage of privateer looting ended up the hands of Elizabeth?
40. Why was privateering a good deal for them and the queen?
41. Why were Raleigh's initial attempts to colonise a failure?
42. Why did so many sailors and members of the gentry become so interested in exploration and colonisation?
43. How did exploration help set up the British Empire, in the long-term?
44. Why did Drake anger Phillip II of Spain?
45. What advantage did English ships have over Spanish Galleons? (watch the video on this!)

## P2:B - Elizabethan England - Some possible knowledge based exam Qs

### QUESTION 1:

2018 - How convincing is Interpretation A about Queen Elizabeth and marriage? (8 marks)

**Interpretation A** An interpretation of Queen Elizabeth, her marriage and the succession.

Adapted from an article by Penry Williams, in 'History Review', 1998.

A serious criticism of Elizabeth was her failure to settle the succession. Despite pressure from her Council and marriage negotiations with several suitors, all were rejected. Her death before 1587 would probably have led to civil war. It seems unlikely that she had a deep-seated personal dislike of marriage but choosing a husband was difficult. Some suitors, like Leicester, were unacceptable to many councillors. The Catholic religion of suitors, such as Anjou, ruled them out. Elizabeth was lucky that she lived long enough for the problem to solve itself.

**Interpretation A** An interpretation of the Elizabethan Court.

Adapted from an article by Penry Williams, in 'History Review', 1998.

The Court was a home for monarch and courtiers, the centre of government and a place to show off. It was a market place for patronage, combining formal ceremony with a scramble for status, influence and profit. It was also a place of culture and entertainment. For Elizabeth, the Court was where she was on display, distributed patronage and kept contact with the great families of the kingdom. For most of her reign Elizabeth skillfully handled the competing noble groups while carrying out her policy and government. Tensions, however, became more obvious later on when royal control was challenged.

2019 - How convincing is Interpretation A about the Elizabethan Court? (8 marks)

### QUESTION 2:

1. Explain what was important about privateering and exploration for the Elizabethans (8 marks)
2. Explain what was important about the theatre for the Elizabethans (8 marks)
3. Explain what was important about new ideas and fashion for the Elizabethans (8 marks)
4. Explain what was important about design in Elizabethan architecture (8 marks)
5. Explain what was important about the gentry in the Elizabethan era (8 marks)
6. Explain what was important about population growth in Elizabethan England (8 marks)

### QUESTION 3:

1. Write an account of the voyages of discovery in the Elizabethan era (8 marks)
2. Write an account of the ways in which poverty affected the Elizabethans (8 marks)

### QUESTION 4 - The Historic Environment:

#### 2018

'The main change that Elizabethan country houses demonstrated was the fashions of the time.'

How far does a study of Hardwick Hall support this statement? Explain your answer.

You should refer to Hardwick Hall and your contextual knowledge.

#### 2019

'Entertainment for all was the main consequence of the development of the Elizabethan theatre.'

How far does a study of The Globe Theatre support this statement? Explain your answer.

You should refer to The Globe Theatre and your contextual knowledge.

#### 2020

Was going to be focused on the Spanish Armada site, but was cancelled due to Covid 19

#### 2021

Kenilworth Castle

