



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 2 Section B/C: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretation A for use in answering Question 01

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.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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