

# What challenges did Elizabeth face at home and abroad?



## About Module 2:

In this module you will revise;

**Plots and revolts at home** (the reasons for, events, and significance of the Revolt of the Northern Earls, The features and significance of the Ridolfi, Throckmorton and Babington plots - including Walsingham and his spy network and the reasons for, and significance of the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1587)

**Relations with Spain until 1585** (political, religious and commercial rivalry - including The New World, the actions of the esteemed privateer, Drake, and the significance of these actions)

**Outbreak of war with Spain between 1585-88** (Direct English involvement in the Netherlands, including the role of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and the singeing of the King of Spain's beard (raid on Cadiz))

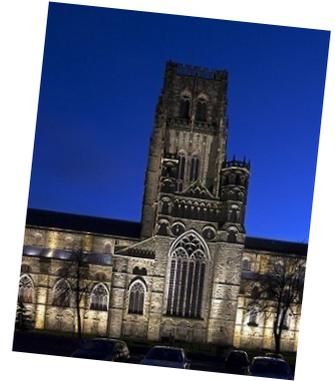
**The Spanish Armada of 1588** (The reasons for launching the Armada, invasion plans, delays, reasons for, and consequences of, the English victory)



## 2.1—Plots at home and abroad.

### 2.1.1—The causes for, and significance of, the Northern Rebellion.

The Northern Earls rebelled in **November 1569** below, you will see more about the causes, events, and consequences of the rebellion.



#### Causes:

**The Reformation** Many in the North were still committed Catholics. At this time, the North of England had less foreign visitors than places in the South like London, and therefore new ideas from abroad were slower to take hold.  
**James Pilkington was made the Archbishop of Durham in 1561.** As a protestant, he was deeply unpopular with the churchgoers and he failed in his efforts to convert the North to Catholicism.

**Reduced Power** Elizabeth had confiscated large areas of land from the **Earl of Northumberland** and shared them amongst his rivals and southern Protestants. Furthermore, when **copper** was discovered on Northumberland's land, Elizabeth claimed all of the money.

To help her control the North, Elizabeth used the **Council of the North**. This had been around since the 1400s, but not used extensively until Henry VIII's reign. Elizabeth made southern Protestants run the council, which was deeply resented by the northern earls.

Many Northern Earls felt that the Privy Council had become too powerful and they wanted them replaced with men who would be more sympathetic to their interests.

#### Events:

**In November 1569** Charles Neville and Thomas Percy held a Catholic Mass in Durham Cathedral. The rebels marched south to **Bramham Moor** and then captured Barnard Castle.

On the **13th December 1569**, the Earl of Sussex marched from York with **7,000 men** and followed by another 12,000 men under Baron Clinton. The rebels then dispersed and some fled to Scotland.

#### Aftermath:

The revolt was a serious threat to Elizabeth's rule because:

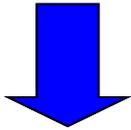
- It was the most serious rebellion of Elizabeth's reign
- It showed that Mary, Queen of Scots, would be a rallying point for English Catholics
- News of the rebellion created fear for English Protestants that there would be more Catholic uprisings. People were especially scared having lived through the **persecution of Mary I's reign**.
- **In 1570, Pope Pius V excommunicated Elizabeth.** This meant that Catholics no longer had to obey the Queen and were encouraged to overthrow her.

## 2.1.2—The significance of the Ridolfi, Throckmorton and Babington Plots.

### Ridolfi—1571

Ridolfi, an Italian banker, agreed with the Spanish Duke of Alba to supply 10,000 troops for an invasion of England. Mary QOS would marry the Duke of Norfolk and be made Queen.

The plot was uncovered in **Autumn 1571** and Norfolk was charged with treason.



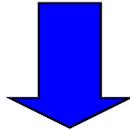
#### Significance

- **Recusants** could be fined £20, enough to bankrupt most families.
- It showed the Pope's **Papal Bull** was effective as Catholics were willing to depose Elizabeth.
- Elizabeth tried to strengthen her relationship to France by proposing marriage to the **Duke of Anjou**.

### Throckmorton—1583

Francis Throckmorton planned for the French Duke of Guise to invade England, kill Mary and free Elizabeth. Philip II provided money and the Pope approved the plan.

Walsingham uncovered the plot and had the leaders arrested.



#### Significance

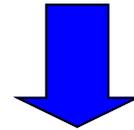
- **11,000** Catholics were arrested
- The **Act for the Preservation of the Queen's Safety** was passed.

### Babington —1586

Anthony Babington was a Catholic, with links to the French.

He planned for the Duke of Guise to invade with 60,000 men, kill Elizabeth and put Mary on the throne.

Encoded letters were uncovered by Walsingham.



#### Significance

- **31 priests** were executed.
- Catholics across the country were arrested.
- Under the **Act for the Preservation of the Queen's Safety**, **Mary QOS was executed 8 February 1587**.
- A legitimate Catholic heir was removed.



## 2.1.3—Who was Mary, Queen of Scots, and why was she significant?

### Treaty of Edinburgh—1560

Elizabeth had sent money and troops to support Protestant rebellion in Scotland. The treaty stopped this, but Mary had to give up her claim to the English throne.

### Mary comes to England 1568

Mary escaped prison in Scotland and raised an army, which lost a battle at **Glasgow in May 1568**. Mary fled to England where she was kept under house arrest until she was tried for murder.

### Execution in 1587

Walsingham knew that Mary had involvement in the Throckmorton and Babington Plots. Elizabeth reluctantly **signed her death warrant in 1586**. She knew that Philip was planning an invasion and didn't want English Catholics to rally around Mary.

### Mary loses Scotland 1567

Mary's second husband, **Lord Darnley**, was murdered and she married **Earl Bothwell** who was a key suspect in the killing. This caused a Protestant rebellion which removed Mary.

### Mary is imprisoned

A proposed marriage to the Protestant **Duke of Norfolk** fell through (they would have had Protestant children and reduce Mary's threat). Elizabeth sent her to prison in **Coventry**.



## 2.2—Relations with Spain until 1585.

### 2.2.1—Reasons why there was tension with Spain.

<b>Commercial Rivalry in the New World</b>	England had vast trading networks in the East, however they wanted to exploit opportunities in the New World. Spain controlled large parts of South America and granted licenses for countries to trade there. <b>In 1493</b> , the Pope granted power over all new lands to Spain.
<b>Commercial Rivalry in Europe</b>	The British cloth and wool trade was vital to the economy. <b>Wool was 81.6% of all English exports</b> . Most of this trade got to Europe through <b>Antwerp, which was controlled by the Spanish</b> .  <b>In 1568</b> , Spanish ships too shelter in English ports from bad weather, Elizabeth took their gold. <b>Philip then banned English trade with the Netherlands</b> .
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Elizabeth was under pressure from the mainly Protestant Privy Council to help Dutch rebels. The Privy Council offered secret help, through <b>weapons and training</b> , to the Dutch.  Elizabeth also made an alliance with the heir to the French throne, the <b>Duke of Anjou</b> , to rival Spain's power.
<b>Francis Drake</b>	In <b>1572</b> , Drake raided the Spanish colony in Panama, stealing <b>£400,000 worth of treasure</b> .  Drake <b>circumnavigated the globe between 1577-80</b> , attacking Spanish colonies <i>en route</i> . <b>In 1572, he stole £20,000 (worth approx. £20 million today)</b> from the Spanish colony <b>Nombre de Dios</b> . In <b>1579</b> , he attacked the Spanish treasure ship, <b>Cacafuego</b> , and stole <b>£140,000 worth of cargo</b> .

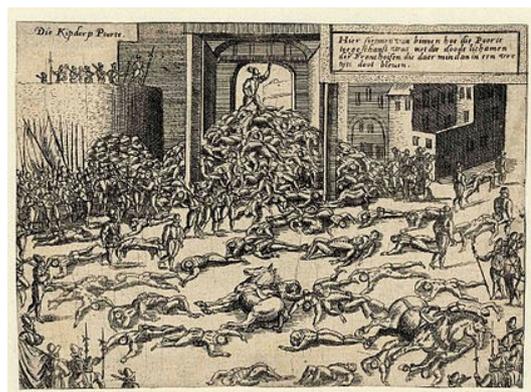
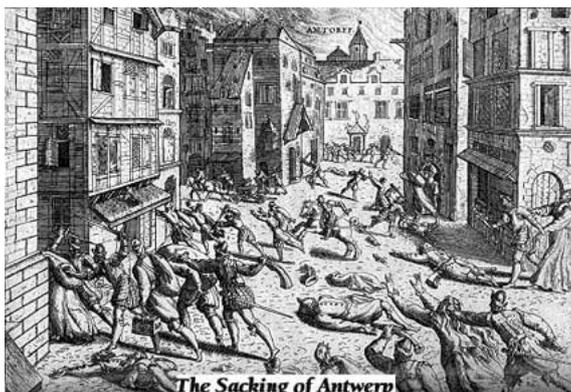
### 2.2.2—The Spanish Fury and Pacification of Ghent.

By 1576, the cost of maintaining the war in the Netherlands was too much for the Spanish to bear. Their soldiers, angry at lack of payment, mutinied and attacked **Antwerp** in **November 1576**. The Spanish forces **killed around 7,000 Dutch** civilians. This led to all **17 Dutch provinces uniting against the Spanish** (even the Catholic ones) and signing the **Pacification of Ghent**. It demanded:

- The removal of all Spanish troops in the Netherlands
- The restoration of political autonomy for the Dutch (allowing them to run their own country)
- An end to religious persecution of Protestants.

Elizabeth supported the treaty and agreed to send a **loan of £100,000 to support Dutch rebels**, and an **expeditionary force** at some point in the future to ensure the terms were kept to. **Philip's brother, Don Juan**, arrived in the Netherlands and signed the agreement in **February 1577**.

However, **less than 6 months later** the Spanish arrived again. Elizabeth hired a mercenary, **John Casimir**, to raise an army of **6,000 and assist the Dutch**. However, his forces attacked Dutch Catholic churches which helped persuade Dutch Catholics to make peace with Spain.



## 2.2.3—William of Orange, Duke of Alençon and the Treaty of Joinville.

In 1584, three events made it more likely that Elizabeth would have to directly intervene in the Netherlands.

Event	Description and explanation
Death of the Duke of Alençon. <b>10 June 1584</b>	The Duke of Alençon visited England in <b>October 1581</b> . Elizabeth agreed to give him <b>£70,000</b> for support in the Netherlands, with the promise of more later.  They also proposed a <b>marriage</b> . This would make England and France allies, and more able to oppose the Spanish dominance of Europe. When he died of malaria in 1584, Elizabeth lost a key ally against the Spanish. It also led to an internal power struggle in France, making them a less powerful enemy to Spain.
Death of William of Orange. <b>10 July 1584</b>	William of Orange was <b>murdered</b> by a Catholic assassin, <b>Balthasar Gerard</b> who was a supporter of Philip. This left the Dutch rebels without their leader, and meant that Elizabeth had to make a decision between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the Dutch rebels openly, and causing war with Spain</li> <li>• Allowing the Netherlands to be completely controlled by Spain, and Spain could then be free to attack England.</li> </ul>
The Treaty of Joinville <b>1584</b>	The French <b>Catholic League</b> signed the <b>Treaty of Joinville in 1584</b> with Philip II. It was an agreement to rid France of Protestants. When the <b>King of France agreed to it in 1585</b> , it meant that France and Spain were allies against Protestantism.

Duke of Alençon  
Died 10 June 1584



William of Orange  
Assassinated 10 July 1584



The deaths of the Duke of Alençon and William of Orange cause problems for Elizabeth's foreign policy because:

- he could no longer fight the Spanish in the Netherlands
- although France's new heir to the throne was Henri of Navarre, a Protestant, leading French Catholics formed a Catholic League to stop him
- it led to a religious war in France, meaning it was too unstable to be a useful ally to England.
- it showed how easy it was for a leader like Elizabeth to be assassinated
- Dutch Protestants needed a leader and looked to Elizabeth. She did not want this role as she could be seen as trying to overthrow Philip II.
- without a leader, the Dutch rebels could be defeated by Spain, leaving England as Philip II's next target.

## 2.3—War with Spain, 1585–88.

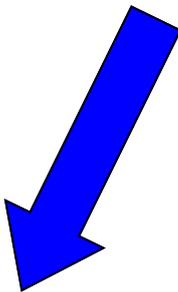
### 2.3.1—English direct involvement in the Netherlands.

The involvement in the Netherlands was inevitable after the Treaty of Joinville.

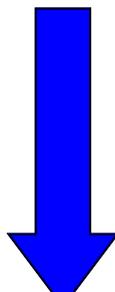
Treaty of Nonsuch, 10 August 1585.	Treaty of Berwick, 1586
<p>The Treaty put England and Spain at war, as Elizabeth agreed to direct English action in the Netherlands. It stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• England would finance an army of <b>7,400 troops</b></li><li>• Queen Elizabeth would choose a commander of the troops, to work with the Dutch rebels.</li></ul> <p>Elizabeth chose one of her favourites, <b>Robert Dudley</b>, to lead the forces.</p>	<p>Was an agreement between England and Scotland. It stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elizabeth I and James VI would <b>maintain Protestantism</b> as their countries' main religion.</li><li>• Elizabeth I and James VI would <b>assist each other if either were invaded.</b></li></ul> <p>This made England's Northern border more secure and allowed Elizabeth to concentrate on Spain.</p>

### 2.3.2—The role of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

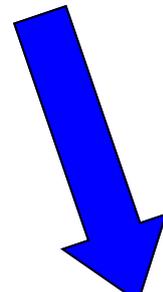
Robert Dudley failed massively in the Netherlands because:



He accepted the title **Governor-General of the Netherlands**. Elizabeth made him **resign** the position immediately because it suggested that she was trying to **depose Philip II**.



He suffered several heavy defeats to the Duke of Parma, and was only able to slow his advance through the Netherlands rather than stop it.  
They did manage to **take some forts outside the town of Zutphen**.



His reputation was damaged when an English Captain, **Rowland York**, handed one of the forts back to the Spanish. The Governor of Deventer, **Sir William Stanley**, defected and gave the town to the Spanish. Dudley had appointed him, so the Dutch lost faith in his ability as a leader.

Dudley's major achievement in the Netherlands campaign was that he managed to stop the Duke of Parma from taking the deep-water port of **Ostend**. The failure to capture any deep-water ports proved an important factor in the failure of the **Spanish Armada in 1588**.

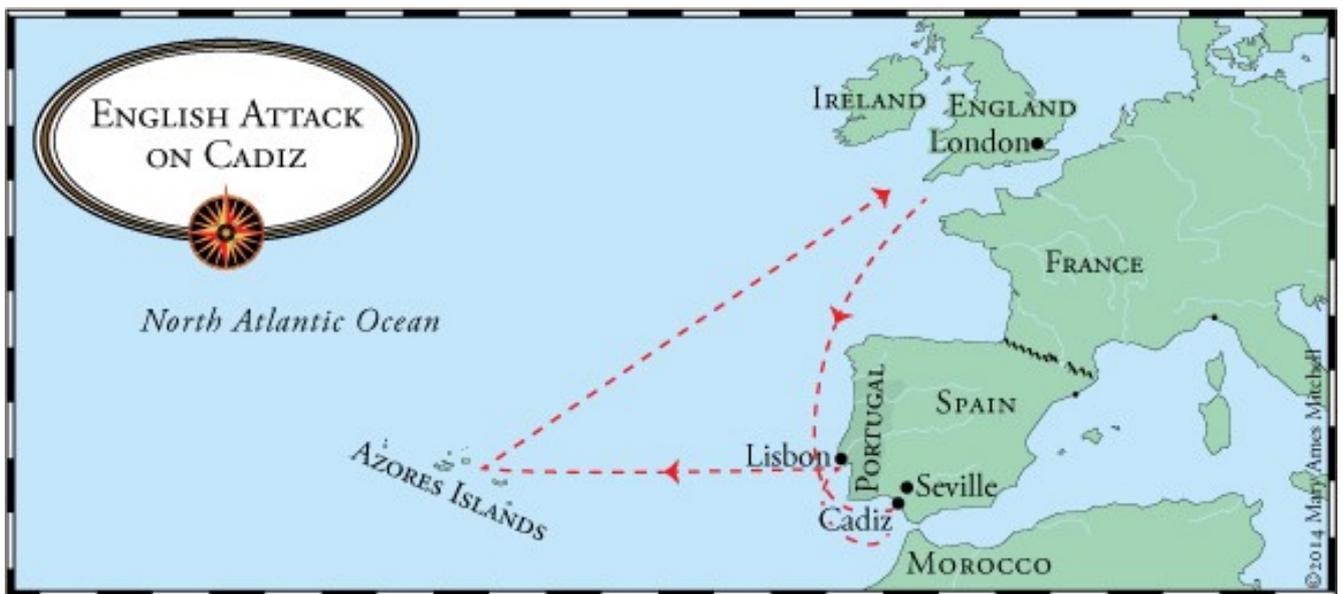


### 2.3.3—The 'singeing of the King of Spain's beard,' 1587.

When it became clear that war with Spain was inevitable, Elizabeth sent Sir Francis Drake to disrupt the Spanish preparations.

In **March 1587**, Elizabeth ordered him to attack the naval fleet at **Cadiz harbour**, in Southern Spain. Over the course of **three days**, Drake **destroyed 30 ships**. He then sailed West to the **Azores**, attacking Spanish treasure ships coming back from the New World.

The attack meant that Spain was **delayed in building the Armada by a year**, buying England crucial time to prepare defences.



## 2.4—The Spanish Armada, 1588.

The Spanish plan was to sail to Calais, and collect the Duke of Parma and his 30,000 men. They would then cross to Kent and invade England.

It set sail from Lisbon on **28 May, 1588**, and headed for the English Channel. **The fleet was 130 ships, 8,000 sailors and 18,000 soldiers.** It was delayed by bad weather and not seen from England until **19 July**.

On **21 July**, the Armada sailed up the English Channel in a crescent formation. The English followed them for **eight days**, attacking them from afar but with little success.

On **6 August**, the Spanish anchored at Calais. The English commander, **Lord Howard**, filled **eight unmanned ships** with flammable materials such as tar and gunpowder, set them alight and sailed them towards the Spanish ships. The sight of the fire ships made the Spanish panic. They pulled up their anchors and were blown out of the harbour, losing their tight formation.

On **8 August**, Lord Howard attacked the Spanish at **Gravelines**. Many Spanish ships were lost and **1,000 sailors died**, whereas the English **did not lose any ships** and around **50 men died**.

Bad winds blew the Spanish out into the North Sea and they decided to make their way around Scotland and past Ireland back towards Spain. However, strong storms around wrecked **40 Spanish ships** off the coasts of Scotland and Ireland. Many Spanish sailors drowned, while those who made it to shore were killed by the locals.

**80 ships** made it back to Spain in **August**.



# Why did it fail?

<b>Spanish Plan</b>	Never took into account the difficulty of transmitting messages from the Armada to Parma's men. It also did not plan for any delays, which happened when there was an outbreak of dysentery among the troops, and they were attacked by Dutch soldiers.
<b>Spanish Leaders</b>	The <b>Duke of Medina Sidonia</b> was chosen to lead the Armada due to his social status, and relationship with King Philip. He was not an experienced naval commander.
<b>English Leaders</b>	<b>Lord Howard</b> and <b>Francis Drake</b> were experienced and very skilful naval leaders.
<b>Ship design</b>	The Spanish ships were designed for boarding and raiding other ships. The English were smaller and more agile, and would not be easily caught by the Spanish. Furthermore, the Spanish had different guns on board which took different sized balls—difficult to manage in the heat of battle.
<b>Weather</b>	There were unusually strong storms around the UK during the Summer of 1588.
<b>English tactics</b>	The English kept their distance and used long-range guns, which the Spanish did not have. Their use of fireships caused the Spanish to panic and lose their protective formation = easier to attack.

## Module 2 Quizzy.

1. Who led the Northern Rebellion?
2. Which port did the Northern rebels capture?
3. How much could recusants be fined after the Ridolfi Plot?
4. Which French duke did Elizabeth propose marriage to?
5. What year was the Throckmorton Plot?
6. Which two powerful individuals supported the Throckmorton Plot?
7. Which act was passed following the Throckmorton Plot?
8. Which French Duke was to supply troops for the Babington Plot?
9. Who uncovered the plots against Elizabeth?
10. What are the three reasons that Mary, Queen of Scots, was a threat to Elizabeth's position?
11. When was Mary, Queen of Scots, executed?
12. What did the Pope grant to Spain in 1493?
13. What was England's major export in the 16th century?
14. Which group pressured Elizabeth to intervene in the Netherlands?
15. How much treasure did Drake steal from the Spanish in 1572?
16. When was the sacking of Antwerp?
17. How many civilians died during this attack?
18. What treaty was drawn up in response to the sacking of Antwerp?
19. Who led the mercenary forces despatched by Elizabeth?
20. Which of Elizabeth's allies died in June 1584?
21. Which of Elizabeth's allies was assassinated in July 1584?
22. Who led the English army in the Netherlands?
23. What title did Robert Dudley accept in the Netherlands?
24. What event did Drake lead between April—May 1587?
25. How many ships were destroyed during Drake's attack on Cadiz?
26. By how long did the attack delay the Armada?

# EXAM QUESTIONS: IRAQ WAR

## DESCRIBE TWO FEATURES OF... (4 marks)

- Describe two features of the Northern Rebellion
- Describe two features of the sacking of Antwerp
- Describe two features of the Pacification of Ghent
- Describe two features of the Treaty of Nonsuch.

## EXPLAIN WHY...(12 marks)

- Explain why the Throckmorton Plot was a threat to Queen Elizabeth.  
You may use:
  - Mary, Queen of Scots
  - the foreign threat.
- Explain why there was growing tension between England and Spain between 1576-85.  
You may use:
  - the Netherlands
  - the actions of Francis Drake.
- Explain why events in the Netherlands were a challenge for Queen Elizabeth.  
You may use:
  - the Privy Council
  - the assassination of William of Orange in 1584.

## 'Statement presenting a point of view.' How far do you agree?

- 'Religion was the main cause of the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569-70.' How far do you agree?  
You may use:
  - Catholic grievances
  - the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland.
- 'The loss of major allies was the main cause of English direct involvement in the Netherlands after 1584.' How far do you agree?  
You may use:
  - the Duke of Alençon
  - Robert Dudley
- 'The failure of the Spanish Armada to invade England was down to bad luck.' How far do you agree?  
You may use:
  - The weather
  - The role of Medina Sidonia