3.1 Early Elizabethan England, 1569-1587: Mary, Queen of Scots and the Revolt of the Northern Earls: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Write in full sentences for Questions 2 and 3. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Give two consequences of the discovery of the Ridolfi Plot (1571) for the Duke of Norfolk and for Mary, Queen of Scots.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain why the Revolt of the Northern Earls took place in 1569.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

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3 'Religion was the main cause of the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.1 Early Elizabethan England, 1569-1587: Mary, Queen of Scots and the Revolt of the Northern Earls: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

the Duke of Norfolk was executed in 1572	**B1**
Mary, Queen of Scots was placed under stricter supervision and viewed with even greater suspicion by Elizabeth's government	**B1**

Answer: Norfolk was executed (1572); Mary faced stricter confinement and greater government suspicion.

Question 2

Level 1 Identifies one or two general reasons for the revolt, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-3**

Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one or two reasons, supported by some accurate detail. **4-6**

Level 3 Explains two or three reasons for the revolt, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **7-9**

Level 4 Explains three or more reasons for the revolt in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the reasons connect. **10-12**

Indicative content:

- Religion: the earls and many of their followers in the North had never fully accepted the Protestant religious settlement of 1559, and restoring the Mass at Durham Cathedral in November 1569 showed a genuine desire to reverse Elizabeth's religious changes.
- Loss of regional power: Northumberland and Westmorland resented the growing authority of centrally appointed officials, such as the Earl of Sussex as President of the Council of the North, which reduced the traditional influence of the old northern noble families.
- The succession question: some of the earls hoped Mary, Queen of Scots could be married to the Duke of Norfolk and recognised as Elizabeth's heir, or even placed on the throne, linking the revolt to wider anxiety about who would succeed the unmarried Elizabeth.
- Personal and feudal loyalty: many ordinary participants were tenants of the rebel earls and joined out of traditional loyalty to their lords rather than from strong religious or political conviction of their own.
- These factors were interconnected: restoring Catholicism, or at least reducing central Protestant control, would also have restored the earls' traditional religious and political authority in the North, so the revolt cannot easily be reduced to a single, isolated cause.

Question 3

Level 1 Shows limited relevant knowledge of the causes of the Revolt of the Northern Earls, and offers only a simple, unsupported opinion on the statement. **1-4**

Level 2 Shows some relevant knowledge and identifies relevant factors, but the argument is only partly supported and lacks a developed judgement on how far the statement is accurate. **5-8**

Level 3 Shows good relevant knowledge and explains a range of factors, reaching a supported judgement on how far the statement is accurate, with some links made between factors. **9-12**

Level 4 Shows precise, well-selected knowledge and explains a range of factors in a balanced way, reaching a fully supported and sustained judgement on how far the statement is accurate, with clear analytical links between factors and consistently accurate use of specialist historical terminology. **13-16**

Indicative content:

- Supporting: religious conservatism in the North, opposition to the 1559 religious settlement, and the symbolic restoration of the Mass at Durham Cathedral all point to religion as a genuine and significant cause.
- Against: the earls' loss of regional political power to new, centrally appointed officials such as the Earl of Sussex and the Council of the North gave them a strong political motive independent of religion.
- Against: the succession question and the hope of marrying Mary to the Duke of Norfolk were as much about political ambition and the future of the monarchy as about restoring Catholicism.
- Against: personal loyalty and feudal ties between the earls and their tenants meant some followers joined out of loyalty to their lords rather than religious conviction, as suggested by uneven support across the region.
- Balanced: religion, regional power and the succession question were closely linked, since restoring Catholicism, or at least reducing central Protestant control, would also have restored the earls' traditional authority in the North.
- Judgement: the revolt's failure to spread widely beyond a religiously conservative core suggests that religious conviction alone was not strong enough across the country to sustain rebellion, which might support seeing the earls' political calculation, rather than pure religious zeal, as the deeper cause among the leadership specifically, even though religion clearly mattered to many ordinary participants.

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