3.8 Elizabethan Government in 1558: Court, Privy Council and the Problems Elizabeth Inherited: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.

1 Give one way Parliament in 1558 differed from the Privy Council in power and function.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Name the social group in towns that governed local affairs and often sat on borough councils in Elizabethan England.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

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3 State two duties of the Privy Council in 1558.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

4 Explain why Crown finances were a serious problem for Elizabeth in 1558.

You may use the following in your answer:
- the level of Crown debt and limited royal income
- the costs of defending the realm against threats such as France

You must also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 4 is 12 marks)

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5 'The main problems Elizabeth inherited in 1558 were financial weakness and religious division.' How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:
- the Crowns financial position and debt
- the religious divisions between Protestants and Catholics

You must also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 5 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.8 Elizabethan Government in 1558: Court, Privy Council and the Problems Elizabeth Inherited: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Parliament met less frequently and primarily enacted laws and granted taxation, rather than advising day to day policy like the Privy Council **B1**

Answer: Parliament met only occasionally to pass laws and grant taxation, unlike the Privy Council which advised the monarch on daily government.

Question 2

The town burgesses or the merchant elite (town council members) **B1**

Answer: The town burgesses or merchant elite who served on borough councils.

Question 3

identifies one duty, e.g. advising the monarch on policy and administration **B1**

identifies a second duty, e.g. directing enforcement of royal policy across the realm, including responses to local disorder **B1**

Answer: Advising the monarch on policy and administration, and directing enforcement of royal policy including responses to local disorder.

Question 4

Level 1 Identifies one or two simple reasons why Crown finances were a problem, with little supporting detail or explanation. **1-3**

Level 2 Begins to explain reasons with some relevant detail, showing an understanding of the financial pressures Elizabeth faced. **4-6**

Level 3 Explains several reasons clearly, supported by accurate and relevant detail, and begins to show links between the reasons. **7-9**

Level 4 Offers a well-developed explanation of why Crown finances were a serious problem, supported throughout by precise, accurate detail and clear analysis of connections between causes and consequences. **10-12**

Indicative content:

- High Crown debt after recent wars, leaving the Exchequer with regular interest payments that reduced available revenue for policy or defence
- Limited royal income from Crown lands and customs duties, weakened by previous grants, sales of monastic lands and mismanagement, so the ordinary revenue base was too small to meet running costs
- The loss of Calais removed customs revenue and a trading foothold, reducing income and increasing the perceived need for spending to secure security or prestige
- Cost of defence and the need to maintain ready forces or militia in case of French aggression, placing pressure on already stretched finances
- Parliament could be asked to grant taxation, but this was uncertain politically; Elizabeth could not rely on immediate extra revenue without political cost, limiting short term solutions
- Consequences included limits on foreign policy options, greater dependence on credit and borrowing from financiers, and pressure to economise in government spending which could weaken administration or social order

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Question 5

Level 1 Shows limited knowledge of the problems Elizabeth inherited and offers a simple, unsupported judgement about the statement.	**1-4**
Level 2 Shows some relevant knowledge and begins to weigh factors, but the argument is only partially supported and the judgement is limited.	**5-8**
Level 3 Shows good knowledge and balance, explaining a range of factors and reaching a supported judgement on how far the statement is accurate.	**9-12**
Level 4 Shows precise, well-selected knowledge and provides a balanced, analytical evaluation of the factors, reaching a sustained and well-supported judgement on the accuracy of the statement.	**13-16**

Indicative content:

- Support: financial weakness was central because high Crown debt and limited ordinary revenue constrained Elizabeths ability to fund defence and pay for government, affecting her freedom of action
- Support: religious division was a major immediate domestic problem because a significant portion of the population and elite held Catholic sympathies while many others supported Protestant reforms, risking unrest if settled harshly
- Against: the loss of Calais and the French threat constituted a separate security problem that forced urgent foreign-policy considerations, so military and diplomatic pressures were as important as finance and religion
- Against: government structure and the existing personnel, such as an operative Privy Council and local officials like JPs and Lords Lieutenant, gave Elizabeth administrative capacity to manage problems, so weaknesses could be mitigated by effective governance
- Analysis: the problems were interconnected, for example financial weakness limited the response to the French threat and made managing religious settlement harder because military and diplomatic spending competed with domestic needs
- Judgement: a balanced conclusion might argue that while financial weakness and religious division were among the main problems, the security threat from France and the loss of Calais, together with the need to rely on existing administrative structures, mean the statement is only partly true unless it recognises the combined nature of Elizabeths challenges

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