3.3 Early Elizabethan England, 1559: The Religious Settlement: 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 reasons why Elizabeth may have wanted to avoid a more strictly Protestant religious settlement in 1559.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain why Elizabeth's government introduced a religious settlement in 1559 that tried to satisfy both Catholics and Protestants.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

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3 'The Religious Settlement of 1559 succeeded in creating lasting religious peace in England.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.3 Early Elizabethan England, 1559: The Religious Settlement: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

England still had a large number of people with traditional/Catholic beliefs, and Elizabeth wanted to avoid provoking rebellion or serious unrest so early in her reign **B1**

Elizabeth needed to be cautious in her relations with powerful Catholic states abroad, such as Spain and France, while England was still relatively weak **B1**

Answer: To avoid provoking domestic unrest, and to avoid provoking powerful Catholic states abroad.

Question 2

Level 1 Identifies one or two general reasons for a compromise settlement, 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 compromise, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **7-9**

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

Indicative content:

- Religious division inherited from previous reigns: Mary I's Catholic restoration followed Edward VI's Protestant reforms, leaving England deeply split by 1558, with significant numbers holding strong views on both sides.
- Fear of rebellion or serious unrest: alienating either committed Catholics or committed Protestants too openly risked provoking resistance at a time when Elizabeth's new and still insecure reign could not afford it.
- International caution: Elizabeth needed to avoid unnecessarily provoking powerful Catholic states such as Spain and France while England remained militarily and diplomatically vulnerable in 1559.
- The need for quick parliamentary agreement: a moderate settlement was more likely to gain acceptance from a Parliament and body of bishops that still included many with traditional sympathies, than a more radically Protestant programme would have been.
- Elizabeth's own likely personal preference for a cautious, moderate form of Protestantism, avoiding the doctrinal extremes seen under Edward VI and Mary I.
- These factors reinforced each other: domestic caution about unrest and international caution about provoking Catholic powers both pointed towards the same moderate, compromise outcome, which a Parliament with mixed religious sympathies was also more likely to pass quickly.

Question 3

Level 1 Shows limited relevant knowledge of the 1559 settlement and its aftermath, 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: the settlement did establish a lasting legal and institutional framework (the Prayer Book, the Oath of Supremacy) that remained broadly in place for the rest of Elizabeth's reign and beyond, avoiding the repeated, rapid religious reversals of the 1530s-50s.
- Against: recusancy persisted and grew, with fines raised sharply by a further Act in 1581, showing a continuing, unresolved body of Catholic non-conformity throughout the period.
- Against: Puritan dissatisfaction with the settlement produced ongoing conflict, such as the vestments controversy of the 1560s and the suppression of prophesyings in the 1570s, showing Protestant opinion was not fully satisfied either.
- Against: the settlement did not prevent serious plots and unrest linked to religion, including the Revolt of the Northern Earls in 1569 and later Catholic plots against Elizabeth's life.
- Balanced: the settlement's basic legal structure did prove durable, even though it never eliminated religious tension; 'lasting peace' may be too strong a description of what was, in practice, an uneasy and continually managed compromise.
- Judgement: the settlement succeeded in avoiding large-scale civil religious war and provided a stable legal basis for the Church of England that lasted, but ongoing recusancy, Puritan dissent and religiously-linked plots mean it created manageable stability rather than genuine, lasting religious peace.

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