# 3.5 Early Elizabethan England, 1568-88: Relations with Spain and the Armada: 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 Spanish Armada's defeat for England.

**(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)**

**2** Explain why relations between England and Spain worsened so seriously between the 1570s and 1587.

**(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)**


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**3** 'The main reason Spain launched the Armada in 1588 was English support for the Dutch revolt.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

**(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 3.5 Early Elizabethan England, 1568-88: Relations with Spain and the Armada: 30-minute Pack

## Question 1

| | |
|---|---|
| it was seen as a major boost to Elizabeth's prestige and popularity, and to England's confidence as a naval power | **B1** |
| it removed the immediate threat of a Spanish invasion, although the war with Spain itself continued for years afterwards | **B1** |

**Answer: A major boost to Elizabeth's prestige, and the removal of the immediate invasion threat, though the war continued.**

## Question 2

| | |
|---|---|
| **Level 1** Identifies one or two general reasons for the deterioration in relations, 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, 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:**

- Continued English privateering against Spanish shipping and colonies in the Americas, openly encouraged rather than stopped by Elizabeth, for example through Drake's circumnavigation of 1577-80 and his knighthood in 1581.
- Growing English support for the Protestant Dutch rebels against Spanish rule, culminating in direct military intervention under the Treaty of Nonsuch in 1585.
- Religious hostility: Philip II saw himself as a defender of Catholicism against a heretic Protestant queen, a stance sharpened by the 1570 papal bull excommunicating Elizabeth.
- The execution of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1587, which Philip could present as both a personal/religious grievance and a further justification for invading England.
- Drake's 1587 raid on Cadiz, though it delayed the Armada, was itself further proof of continuing English aggression rather than a cause of the initial deterioration in relations.
- These factors built on one another across the 1570s and 1580s, so that piracy, religious hostility and the Netherlands intervention together moved relations from rivalry to outright preparation for war by 1587-88.

## Question 3

| | |
|---|---|
| **Level 1** Shows limited relevant knowledge of the causes of the Armada, 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 Treaty of Nonsuch of 1585 was a direct, open act of war-by-proxy against Spanish authority in the Netherlands, arguably the most concrete provocation before 1588.
- Against: religious motive - Philip II's role as a leading Catholic monarch, especially after the 1570 papal bull and the 1587 execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, gave the invasion a strong religious justification of its own.
- Against: continued English piracy against Spanish shipping and the Americas, led by Drake, directly damaged Spanish wealth and prestige over many years, a persistent and separate irritant to the Netherlands question.
- Balanced: these causes were closely connected, since English intervention in the Netherlands, English piracy and English Protestantism were all seen by Philip as part of the same hostile, heretical challenge to Spanish and Catholic interests.
- Balanced: the timing of the Armada, prepared through 1586-88 after Nonsuch (1585) and Mary's execution (1587), suggests these later events acted as the immediate triggers on top of longer-running grievances.
- Judgement: while the Netherlands intervention was the most direct and recent trigger before 1588, the accumulation of religious and economic grievances across the whole period means no single cause fully explains the Armada on its own.


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