3.7 Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88: Elizabethan Society and the Voyages of Exploration: 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 goods or crops that voyages of exploration in this period are traditionally credited with introducing to England.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain why Elizabethan exploration and long-distance voyages, such as those of Drake and Raleigh, were important for England in this period.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

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3 'Financial profit was the main motive behind English exploration in Elizabeth's reign.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.7 Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88: Elizabethan Society and the Voyages of Exploration: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

tobacco	**B1**
the potato (both traditionally linked to Raleigh's expeditions to the Americas, though the exact route by which either first reached England is debated by historians)	**B1**

Answer: Tobacco and the potato.

Question 2

Level 1 Identifies one or two general reasons why exploration was important, 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:

- Economic benefits: voyages such as Drake's circumnavigation brought back enormous quantities of plundered wealth, and expeditions opened up, or attempted to open up, new trade routes and markets, as with Frobisher's search for a Northwest Passage to Asia.
- National prestige: successful voyages such as Drake's circumnavigation demonstrated England's growing skill and confidence as a maritime nation, encouraged by Elizabeth's public support, for example knighting Drake in 1581.
- Early steps towards overseas colonisation: Raleigh's Roanoke expeditions laid the groundwork for later English settlement in North America, even though the Roanoke colonies themselves did not succeed in this period.
- A political/diplomatic dimension: English voyages that plundered Spanish shipping and colonies, such as Drake's, deliberately provoked and weakened a powerful Catholic rival, tying exploration closely to the wider conflict with Spain.
- These strands were connected in practice: a single voyage such as Drake's circumnavigation delivered plunder, prestige and provocation of Spain all at once, which is part of why Elizabeth continued to support such expeditions despite the diplomatic risk.
- Overall, economic reward, national prestige and rivalry with Spain reinforced each other, so voyages such as Drake's served several of Elizabeth's purposes at the same time.

Question 3

Level 1 Shows limited relevant knowledge of Elizabethan exploration, 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: Drake's circumnavigation was overwhelmingly justified to its backers, including Elizabeth, by the huge plunder it returned, and voyages such as Frobisher's were funded by investors expecting a direct financial return.
- Against: national rivalry with Catholic Spain gave voyages such as Drake's a political as well as financial purpose, since damaging Spanish wealth and prestige mattered to Elizabeth's government regardless of direct profit.
- Against: Raleigh's Roanoke voyages were driven significantly by the ambition to establish a lasting English colony and claim to territory, an aim not reducible to short-term financial gain, and one that in fact lost money for its investors when the colony failed.
- Against: the search for a Northwest Passage under Frobisher reflected a genuine wish to find new, shorter trade routes to Asia, a longer-term strategic as well as financial goal.
- Balanced: profit, national prestige, colonisation and rivalry with Spain were usually pursued together within the same voyages, so isolating one single motive risks oversimplifying Elizabethan exploration.
- Judgement: while financial reward was often the most immediate and persuasive argument used to attract investors, the pattern of voyages across the period, especially Raleigh's costly and unprofitable colonisation attempts, suggests that national prestige and rivalry with Spain mattered at least as much to the crown itself as profit did.

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