



Foxford Learning Plan

YEAR 11

Topic Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88

Key Vocabulary

Accession	The achievement of gaining a position of power. For example, a new queen ascends to the throne.
Armada	Spanish word for a large fleet of ships or navy.
Astrolabe	An instrument used by sailors/explorers to work out their position using the stars.
Clergy	People who have been trained by and work for the Church.
Colony/colonist	A country under full or partial control of another, occupied by settlers (colonists) from the invading country.
Court	The community of people who lived and or worked closely with the Queen including advisors, officials, ladies-in-waiting and servants.
Dynasty	A ruling family and their many generations.
Excommunicate	To be excommunicated meant you were no longer a member of the Catholic Church.
Galleon	A type of ship used by the Spanish.
Heretic	A person whose religious beliefs are different to those of the ruling church.
New World	The 16 th Century name for North and central America, especially during the age of exploration.
Piracy	The practice of attacking and stealing from ships at sea.
Privy council	The ministers chosen by the monarch to help them rule the country.
Propaganda	Materials issued by the government to make people think or behave in a certain way.
Protestant	A member of one of the Christian churches that separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century.
Puritan	Puritans were people who wanted to “purify,” or simplify, the Church of England.
Secretary of State	The most important person on the privy council. They supervised all government business, managed Parliament meetings and was in close contact with the queen.
Succession	The act or process of inheriting a title, including in the English monarchy.
Vagabond	Wandering beggars who often turned to crime. They were seen as a threat to society in the 16 th Century and treated harshly.

Key Skills

Over the course of the topic, I will be able to: -

Identify the problems Elizabeth I faced when she became Queen of England and what challenges she will face as the new monarch both at home and from foreign threats.

Understand the organisation of Elizabethan society, government and the role of the monarch.

Explain how Elizabeth dealt with the problems she faced in her reign including her successor, religion, threats from Spain and France, Mary Queen of Scots, the Spanish Armada and plots against Elizabeth at home.

Evaluate the extent to which Elizabeth solved the problems she faced successfully.

Synthesise knowledge of the period to write effective exam responses.



I will understand

1. The situation on Elizabeth’s ascension; the organisation of society, Elizabethan government, the troubles Elizabeth I inherited from former rulers and her priorities for a successful dynasty
2. The problem of religion, Elizabeth’s religious settlement and challenges to it
3. Defence from plots at home (in England)
4. Foreign threats including the Spanish Armada and the reasons why England was successful against the attempted Spanish invasion
5. The creation of an era of prosperity; the age of exploration, the problem of the poor, education and leisure