

Knowledge Organiser: Queen, Government and Religion, 1558-69

		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words.	
<p>Elizabeth came to power in 1558, inheriting problems with religion, poverty and foreign policy. She became queen after both her brother, Edward VI (1537-1553), and her sister, Mary I (1516-1558), had died. Despite inheriting all of these problems she brought many strengths, ruled well and brought stability back to England. Most importantly, she developed a Religious Settlement, to end the religious tension in England but this caused opposition.</p>		1558	Elizabeth took the throne, aged 25. She ruled by the divine right (the belief that a monarch's right to rule came from God).	Accession	The act of taking up a position as the ruler of a country.
		1559	Elizabeth's religious settlement aimed to establish a form of religion that be acceptable to both Protestants and Catholics.	Illegitimate	The child of unmarried parents. The illegitimate child of a monarch had no right to inherit the throne.
		1568	Mary, Queen of Scots fled from Scotland to the north of England. Elizabeth imprisoned her.	Succession	Inheriting or taking up a position or title.
Summarise your learning		Who or what were these people/events?		Treason	The crime of betraying one's country, especially by attempting to kill or overthrow the monarch or government.
Topic 1: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-69	Elizabeth ruled over a population of about 3 million. Society was structured, with God, then the Queen at the top. Elizabeth was responsible for the big decisions, but could only rule effectively with the support of the nobility and the gentry.	Court	The monarchs key servants, advisors and friends.		
		Privy Council	A council of around 19 leading courtiers, advisors and government officials that met at every day. They advised on domestic and foreign issues.	Legitimacy	The belief that a monarch has the right to govern.
				Catholicism	The Church in Western Europe before the Reformation. The Pope was the head of the Church.
Topic 2: Elizabeth's problems and decisions, 1558	<p>Legitimacy - People, especially Catholics did not recognise her father's marriage to her mother and so thought she was illegitimate and so should not have inherited the throne</p> <p>Marriage - People expected her to marry a man to guide her and for her to have children. However, an English husband would have made other English nobles jealous and a foreign husband would be unpopular.</p> <p>Gender - People did not believe that women made good leaders, especially after Mary I's chaotic reign.</p> <p>Financial - At this time, the monarch was expected to pay for all the costs of running a country. Elizabeth inherited a debt of £300,000. Elizabeth cut back royal spending from the beginning of her reign, called in debts and sold royal land.</p> <p>Threats from abroad - England was at war with France and there was threat of a French invasion - 3 months into her reign Elizabeth made peace with France.</p> <p>Religion - Elizabeth had to establish a religious agreement that would keep both Catholics and Protestants content.</p>	William Cecil	Elizabeth's most notable secretary of state, who held the position until 1573.	Protestantism	Christians who broke away from the Catholic Church during the Reformation. They believe in the teachings of the Bible but reject the authority of the Pope.
		Robert Dudley	Earl of Leicester and a trusted advisor until his death in 1588. He and Elizabeth were very close and there were rumours that he and Elizabeth were lovers.		
		Sir Francis Walsingham	He was in charge of Elizabeth's secret service and advised on foreign affairs. In 1586, he uncovered the plot that led to Mary, Queen of Scots' execution.	Regent	A person who rules a country for a limited period during the minority, absence, or disability of the monarch.
		King Philip of Spain	In the 1560s, King Philip proposed to Elizabeth. He was a Catholic who had been married to Mary I, Elizabeth's sister. Elizabeth rejected this offer.	Abdicate	To give up the position as King/Queen.
		Francis Duke of Alencon	Marriage negotiations went on for nearly a decade with Francis, who was heir to the French throne. There were political advantages to be gained from this alliance, e.g. influence over French policy in the Netherlands.	Usurp	To take control by force or without the right to do so.
		Topic 3: Challenges to the Religious Settlement, 1558-69	Elizabeth created her own church calling it 'The religious settlement'. Elizabeth made herself the Head of the Church - the Supreme Governor. Churches had ornaments and decorations. Priests had to wear a surplice but could get married. The Bible and church services had to be in English. A new Protestant Prayer Book had to be used in church. All clergy had to take an oath saying that they accepted Elizabeth's titles and would use the new Prayer Book. The Puritans felt that the new Church did not go far enough. They believed it was too much of a compromise with Catholics and wanted a more extreme form of Protestant service. Some Catholics (recusants) refused to attend the new church services. They believed in Latin Mass.	Mary, Queen of Scots	Mary was Elizabeth's cousin and nearest relative and so would become Queen on Elizabeth's death. MQS was queen of Scotland and she was Catholic so many Catholics would have preferred her as their queen. Some Catholics believed that Elizabeth was illegitimate so they thought MQS should actually be Queen. Mary also had a son to be an heir whereas Elizabeth did not.

