



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 2 Section B/C: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretation A for use in answering Question 01



Interpretation A An interpretation of Queen Elizabeth and Parliament.

Adapted from 'Elizabeth I – Profiles in Power' by Christopher Haigh, 1998.

Queen Elizabeth did not like Parliament. She only held one when she needed money. Her ideal Parliament gave her money and then went home. In short, the message was clear – shut up, pay up, pack up. But some MPs wanted to debate other things like marriage, the succession, religious reform, Mary, Queen of Scots, and foreign policy. Elizabeth's Parliaments were influenced, although never controlled, by members of her Privy Council, such as William Cecil. Parliamentary debate was not always kept on 'safe' issues but MPs strayed into areas defined as off-limits by Elizabeth.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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