



GCSE HISTORY

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

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretation A for use in answering Question 01



2 5 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 2 B / C

Interpretation A An interpretation of poverty in Elizabethan England.

Adapted from 'Poverty in Elizabethan England' by Paul Slack, in 'History Today', 1984.

Towards the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign conditions were getting worse for most of the population. There was price inflation, harvest failure and famine. As a result, large numbers of vagrants wandered the country and caused disorder. People in authority felt threatened by this and it prompted the government to act. The success of some towns also showed how the poor could be helped. The Elizabethan Poor Laws were one of the most important of the Queen's achievements.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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