

History: Unit 2

Lesson 13 of 30

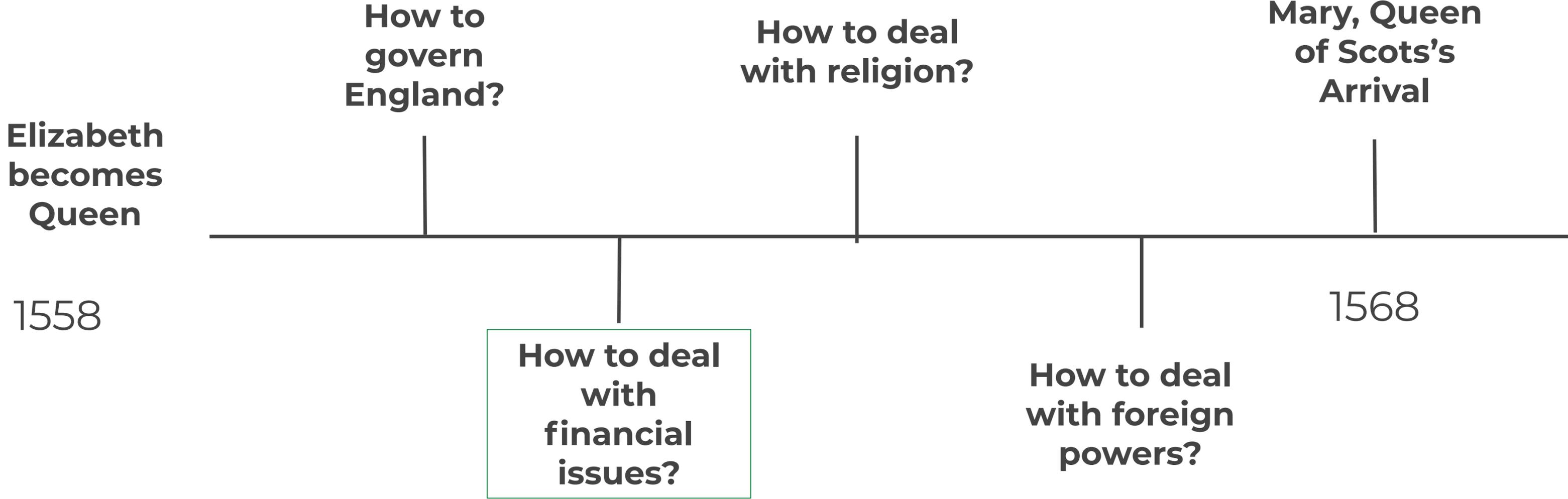
# Enquiry Lesson: To what extent were Elizabeth's early years as a monarch challenging?



**What were the key challenges Elizabeth faced in her early reign?**



# What were the key challenges Elizabeth faced?



# What were the key challenges Elizabeth faced?

## Challenge one: Governance

Elizabeth relied on central and local government. She relied on a trustworthy **Privy Council** to help her rule. She also relied on local officials including **Lord Lieutenants** and **Justices of the Peace** to maintain loyalty to the monarch and keep law and order. She had to ensure that she had loyalty from all groups in order to maintain her royal authority.



# What were the key challenges Elizabeth faced?

## Challenge two: Finance

Elizabeth inherited the **Marian debt** of £300,000. She relied on several sources of finance, one of them being **Parliamentary subsidies**. She had to rely on Parliament to grant this to her, as well as their ability to raise taxes in England. Raising taxes could make Elizabeth unpopular, and relying on Parliament was also a concern because she did not want them to feel as though they were becoming powerful enough to challenge her. Therefore, she had to spend very carefully in the early years of her reign.



# What were the key challenges Elizabeth faced?

## Challenge three: Foreign powers

England was a small nation that was not popular in Europe. Elizabeth inherited the traditional rivalry with Scotland and France, who were part of the **Auld alliance**. Spain was Europe's most powerful nation and was strictly Catholic. **Philip II Spain** had enjoyed influence in England during his marriage to **Mary I** 1554-1558. Spain led the **counter-Reformation** alongside the **Papacy**. Elizabeth had to be careful not to antagonise these foreign powers.



# What were the key challenges Elizabeth faced?

## Challenge four: Religion

Elizabeth had to settle the religious question when she became Queen. She wanted to find a 'Middle Way' between Catholicism and Protestantism to please the majority of people. She accepted that people would have their own religious beliefs and did not want to persecute them for their beliefs. Her **Religious Settlement** and authority as **Supreme Governor** of the Church of England were accepted by the majority of people in England. However, she did begin to face opposition in the mid 1560s from Puritans, who began to question some aspects of her religious settlement and wanted further reform. The Pope also began to encourage Catholics in England to stop attending Church of England services.



# What were the key challenges Elizabeth faced?

## Challenge five: Mary, Queen of Scots

**Mary, Queen of Scots** had a **legitimate** claim to the throne. To make matters more difficult, she was also a Catholic who had French support. Elizabeth felt threatened by Mary as early as 1560, when she signed the **Treaty of Edinburgh** with Scottish Protestants to agree that Mary would stop claiming to be the heir to the English throne. In 1568, Mary **abdicated** the Scottish throne and fled to England. Her presence in England was a huge difficulty for Elizabeth, who had several different options of what she could have done with Mary, but all of these options could have created further issues. She did not want to allow Mary get into a stronger position by helping her go abroad or return to Scotland, but she also did not want to be responsible for her own cousin's death. Her presence in England provided hope for some extreme Catholics that Elizabeth could be replaced with a Catholic monarch.



**To what extent were  
Elizabeth's early years  
challenging?**



# How can a monarch be challenged?



# To what extent were Elizabeth's early years challenging?

There are different interpretations of this question...

**Historian A:** Elizabeth came to the throne at the age of 25. She was unmarried and never supposed to be Queen. She took the throne at a time of religious instability in England and they were a small and unpopular power. Her settlement was not able to please Protestants and Catholics and by the mid-1560s she faced opposition from both sides. These early years were hugely difficult for Elizabeth and most of these issues later turned into actual challenges which threatened the stability of her realm.



# To what extent were Elizabeth's early years challenging?

There are different interpretations of this question...

**Historian B:** Elizabeth was welcomed to the throne after the unstable years of Edward VI and Mary I. She quickly gained support in her Privy Council by appointing councillors who had served previous Tudor monarchs. The Tudor dynasty had reigned successfully since 1485 with very few direct challenges to any monarch. Elizabeth carefully chose the 'Middle Way' in terms of religion and pleased the majority of Catholics and Protestants, with very little opposition. Even Catholic European powers had a muted reaction, and the Pope offered little guidance to Catholics in England. Crucially, there was no direct opposition to Elizabeth's authority as Queen in the early years of her reign.



# Glossary - some of the key words from lessons 1-12

**Privy Council** - The small group of advisors chosen by the monarch to support her in the running of government on a day-to-day basis

**Parliamentary subsidies** - taxes that were raised and collected by the Parliament that could be granted to the monarch for extra finance

**Counter-Reformation** - the Catholic mission to stop the Protestant Reformation in Europe

**Religious settlement** - the name given to Elizabeth's decision about what to do with the religion in England that was described as the 'Middle Way'

**Treaty of Edinburgh** - An agreement between Elizabeth and the Protestant Lords that Mary, Queen of Scots would not claim to be the heir to the English throne



# Written task

## Two key enquiries:

- **What was the biggest challenge Elizabeth faced between 1558-1569?**
- **To what extent were Elizabeth's early years as a monarch challenging?**



# To what extent were Elizabeth's early years as a monarch challenging?

## Suggested structure: PEEHEEL

**Point:** Signpost a reason to **agree** that Elizabeth's early years were challenging

**Evidence:** Give specific factual detail to support your argument

**Explain:** Say why the evidence you have selected supports your argument

**However:** Bring in a counter-argument to **disagree** that Elizabeth's years were not so much of a challenge

**Evidence:** Give specific factual detail to support your argument

**Explain:** Say why the evidence you have selected supports your argument

**Link:** Answer the question - to what extent (how much) were the early years challenging?



## Sentence stems

*Elizabeth's early years could be seen as challenging because...*

*For example... in addition*

*This was therefore challenging because...*

*On the other hand, it could be argued that...*

*For example...*

*This shows that...*

*Overall, it can be argued that the years were challenging to a \_\_\_\_\_ extent because...*

