

SECTION C

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 5 Historians have different views about whether there was a general crisis of government in the last years of Elizabeth I's reign. Analyse and evaluate the extracts and use your own knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How far do you agree with the view that, in the years 1589–1603, war undermined the stability of England?

(20)

~~I do agree with the idea that war undermined the stability~~

This essay will show my facts and idea in a way that proves the stability of England was tested during the years 1589–1603 under Elizabeth.

This is due to the rebellion Elizabeth faced from Spain and Ireland. It cost her a great deal to financially cope with the war, and with the loss of her country. Since I state "the struggle against Spain was not only costly in financial terms, but men were killed at an alarming rate". This quote shows the concern of England as they didn't have the finance to not only deal with the destruction caused by Spain but they couldn't just replace all the men that were dying. Therefore, Elizabeth had to think of all costs, more effective ways to fight off the Spanish. This was done through ways such as



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Sending burning boats out, this was very successful.

Also, Source 1 shows us that ~~employment~~ society in general was on the decline. This meant that men who returned home returned to an economic disaster. It was difficult to afford food, houses and to get a job. This is proven through the quote "a sequence of poor harvests in the mid-1590's. and by the 1596 there was a shortage of corn". This meant that there was a particular crisis of food as trade was not successfully being exchanged as there was the fear of the Spanish at sea. The source also states 'those who were officially discharged found it hard to find employment on coming home'. All these economic declines added up to make life very difficult. The rise of price for the little harvest produced was difficult to pay for without men earning enough money for their families.

However, Source 2 states "while the lower orders suffered economic hardship, the rich were growing richer". Although to some, this may come across as a good thing as the nobles were used for tax to finance some of



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(Section C continued) the poor. this wasn't necessarily the case for the reign of Elizabeth. The poor continued to be poor, with little food due to the harvest decline. Yet those working "in the areas to do with supplying the forces: food, clothing, munitions and, above all shipping". The weather-stayed weather which could undermine England as Elizabeth was supposed to be named to her country rather than a man.

This leads on to England's stability being at risk as there was not a male successor lined up or any successor for that matter. This could bring back the instability of religion, especially as that was what the Spanish Armada was invading for, to enforce Catholicism. This also meant that the Tudors would come to an end, this may have been ^a particularly ~~top~~ unpopular idea for the nobles as they flourished as it says in Source 2 "the wealthy continued to become wealthier".

Overall, Elizabeth proved to be quite a stable ruler, especially since the Spanish attempted invasion 4 times and she managed to defeat them. Also, in Source 2 it says that "a few economic historians would see the origin of the industrial revolution in the 16th



(Section C continued) years of Elizabeth. This could have been a follow up from the fact that Elizabeth was married to her country, and did what she could to protect it rather than purchasing a man.

