

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 knowledge of the issues to explain your answer to the following question.

How far do you agree with the view that, in the last years of her reign, conflict with parliament caused real problems for Elizabeth?

(20)

~~1597 I promised to look at monopolies, didn't. 1601 common angry, she removes 12 m~~

Conflict with parliament caused few real problems for Elizabeth, and was just annoying above anything else. Both extracts agree that the issue of monopolies was big, but Simpson suggests it was much harder to deal with than Williams. ~~Neither extract talks about whether the problems did directly make Elizabeth's job more difficult.~~ Williams additionally mentions other problems from Parliament such as the issue of succession, while Simpson begins by being quite dismissive about the threat of Essex's rebellion. There is little focus on the problems these caused the Queen because there were ~~no problems~~ few problems caused, instead just distractions.

Monopolies are described as a 'grievance' by both extracts, suggesting they caused Elizabeth many difficulties. Parliament was 'at a standstill' because of them. However, the main conflict came from Elizabeth not keeping her promise to look into them in 1597, and so by 1601 parliament were much angrier. This was easily fixed though as Elizabeth then cancelled 12 monopolies and the conflict was over, showing it had never been a serious threat but simply a misjudgement on her part. Furthermore, parliament granted the 'heavy taxes' she requested, and so she and parliament both got what they wanted and all problems



(Section C continued) seemed to have been resolved.

Simpson suggests these monopolies were much more of a problem as Cecil 'attempted' but failed to subdue parliament. Considering monopolies had caused the price of salt to increase by x11 this ~~se~~ their anger seems legitimate. However, Simpson is far more dismissive of another problem he mentions: 'Essex's Rebellion'. Essex was a part of parliament and his conflict with the Queen caused much more severe problems as he directly threatened her power in his rebellion, and caused 'delayed Parliament' which was even more damaging with the threat of 'Spaniards' in 'Ireland'. ~~The~~ In reality this did not cause many problems for Elizabeth as she killed Essex and Lord Mountjoy successfully defeated the Irish and Spanish, however a delayed parliament could have been very serious if she had not been able to so quickly and effectively resolve the anger over monopolies.

Williams supports the idea that conflict with parliament did not cause real problems for Elizabeth as she 'intervened' and the house became 'harmonious' once more. This paints a slightly idealistic and exaggerated image of parliament, but ultimately proves correct as parliament do support Elizabeth and grant her every taxation she requests. The extract suggests other conflict over 'succession' and marriage, although this had little impact other than causing tension as Elizabeth did not change her stances or concede to any of their requests ~~if~~ to discuss the issues. As Williams says, she 'had never given an inch'. This is not strictly true as she compromised over pregnancy in the 1593 parliament and 'promised widespread reforms' later, however she did maintain her image of control and never lost anything vital, showing she always held the



(Section C continued) ~~power~~ even if she sometimes misjudged parliament.

In conclusion, ~~for~~ conflict with parliament caused almost no real problems for Elizabeth. Both extracts show she had to deal with their anger, especially over monopolies, but this did not impact on her ruling and ~~she always~~ most importantly she always received the taxes she requested and needed to fund her wars. The largest problem was posed by Essex, but this was quickly dealt with. There was the potential for some of the issues to do damage, such as the delay of parliament and their new 'principle' to address monopolies before taxes. However these never manifested themselves as real problems ~~it~~ due to Elizabeth's talent to subdue them, ~~and~~

