

# GCSE History

Paper 2 British Depth Study  
Question 3/4  
Judgement question



## Q3/4: Judgement question

- **This question will ask you to evaluate a statement about history. The statement could focus on change and/ or continuity, causation, consequence, significance.**
- It is worth 16 marks.
- Choice of question – read both and choose carefully.
- We advise that you spend 25 minutes answering this question (extra time: 31.5 minutes), including up to 2 minutes for thinking/ planning time.
- Using knowledge in addition to the stimulus points can help you to achieve a higher mark.
- You do need to reach a judgement. This can be done in an introduction or conclusion. You must explain your judgement – explain your criteria or weigh the evidence.



# Q3/4: Judgement question

## Our question

'The most significant challenge to Elizabeth I's religious settlement, in the years 1558–68, came from English Catholics.'

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- recusancy fines for not attending church
- the Puritan campaign against crucifixes

You **must** also use information of your own.

- You will be given 2 **stimulus points** to help you answer the question.
- You do not have to use these – you can replace them with knowledge of your own.
- You should aim to cover 3 aspects of content throughout your answer.
- Remember to include a judgement – how far do you agree?

(16)

1. Look for the focus of the question - what you need to explain – **significant challenge**
2. Look for the history you need to focus on – **Elizabeth I's religious settlement, 1558-68, English Catholics**
3. Take up to 2 minutes to plan your answer



## Q3/4: Judgement question

### Other options

'After the death of Edward the Confessor, Edgar the Aethling had the strongest claim to the throne.'

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- family connection between Edward and Edgar
- House of Godwin

You **must** also use information of your own.

(16)

'Richard I's victory at Acre was his main achievement during the Third Crusade.'

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Saladin's surrender
- Richard I's victory at Arsuf

You **must** also use information of your own.

'The main reason for Henry VIII's break with Rome was his desire for an annulment.'

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Pope Clement VII's opposition to the annulment
- Thomas Cromwell

You **must** also use information of your own.



# Q3/4: Judgement question

## How to answer the question

'The most significant challenge to Elizabeth I's religious settlement, in the years 1558–68, came from English Catholics.'

How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

(16)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- recusancy fines for not attending church
- the Puritan campaign against crucifixes

You **must** also use information of your own.

1. **Explain the challenges that came from English Catholics (and others)** to the religious settlement.  
*For example, connections abroad, influence in the North, threat of invasion.*
2. **Support your explanation with knowledge from the years 1558-68.** *For example, recusancy fines, church services, Puritan challenges to crucifixes and vestments.*
3. **Reach a judgement** about whether the English Catholics posed the most significant challenge and explain.



## Q3/4: Judgement question

### What is your examiner looking for?

A clear argument that the most significant challenge was from English Catholics.

Knowledge from the years 1558-68 to support the argument.  
3 aspects of knowledge.

An explanation of why the challenge from English Catholics was significant.

I agree with the statement that the most significant challenge to the religious settlement was the English Catholics. When Catholics refused to attend the mass that the religious settlement had made mandatory, Elizabeth was reluctant to prosecute them. Initially, Catholic recusants were not punished, and were allowed to practise Catholicism privately. This was significant as it shows that Elizabeth was cautious when dealing with Catholics, as she, correctly, feared angering them.





## Q3/4: Judgement question

### What is your examiner looking for? **The judgement**

A judgement made at the beginning of the answer.



I agree with the statement that the most significant challenge to the religious settlement was the English Catholics. When Catholics refused to attend

Referred to throughout.

The judgement is concluded at the end of the answer.

Judgement is explained.



Overall, Elizabeth's reactions to both Catholic and Puritan challenges show the differing significance between the threat of both groups. The preoccupation of foreign power also meant

that the most significant challenge to the religious settlement was the English Catholics.



## Q3/4: Judgement question

### What makes a good answer?

- **Start each paragraph with a direct focus on the question**

*“Following the religious settlement, Elizabeth I did face challenges from ...”*

- **Connectives to explain the focus of the question.**

*“This was a challenge because ...”, “This shows the challenge was significant because ...”, “However, this shows the challenge was not significant because ...”*

- **Knowledge to support the explanation – try not to just describe what you can remember.**

*“This can be seen when ...”*

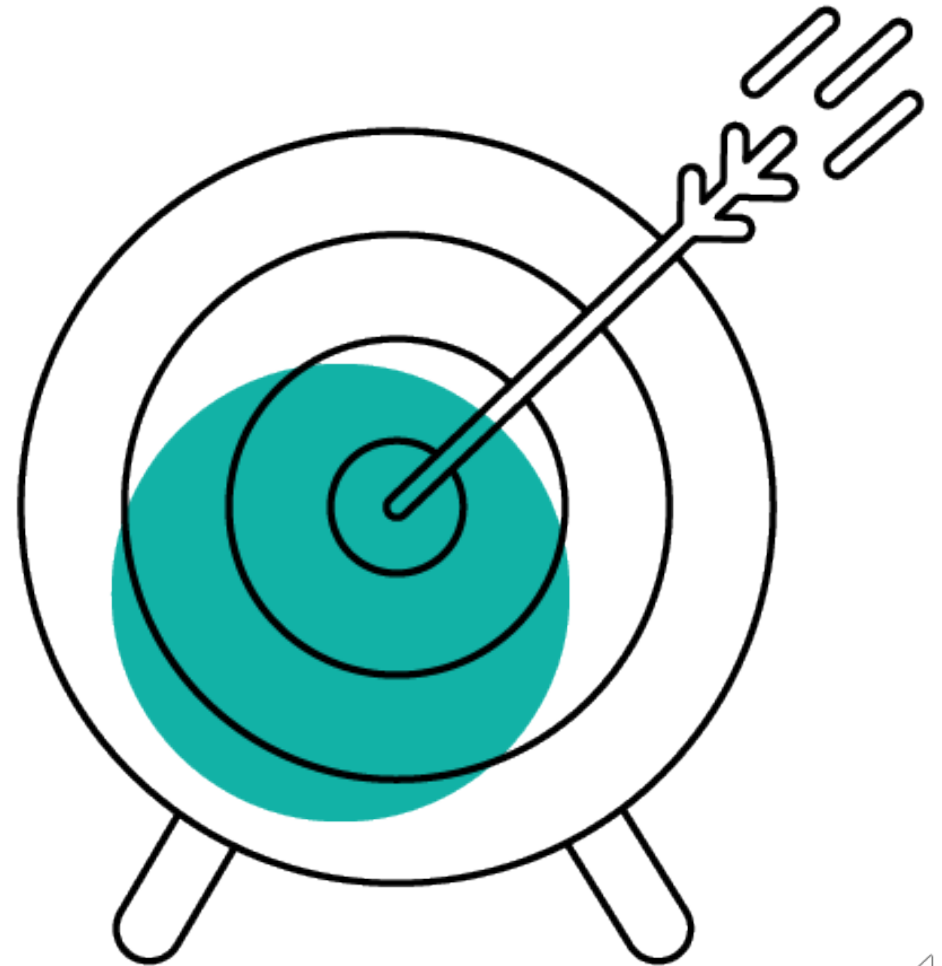




# Student support

In this video we have looked at how you should answer Q3 and Q4 on Paper 2 British Depth Study of your GCSE History exam.

Find revision tips and guidance on command words on the Edexcel website [here](#).





Pearson

