



Elizabeth I Assessment



Poverty & Spanish Armada

Q5a: Describe the key features of the Vagabonds Act 1572



Punishments for being a Vagabond

- Pierced through the ear
- Other ear
- Execution if caught a third time

Local town / cities responsible for finding able bodied poor work giving them cloth to start their own businesses etc

Set up because of the rise in vagabonds, what is a vagabond etc

- **5 minutes max**
- **2 clear features**
- **Fill the space given in the exam paper**
- **Specific detail and knowledge**

Q5b: Explain why poverty had increased between 1558 and 1588 [12]

You MAY use the following in your answer

- **Population Growth**
- **Enclosures**
- **You MUST use one example of your own**



Level 1: This is for answers that are very general and disorganised. The points may be jumbled, containing little specific knowledge, and the student has also probably told a story without making any explanation. (1–3 marks)

Level 2: This level of answer will have some basic explanations of the issue in the question, with some organisation and also some examples of accurate knowledge. However in some places, the examiner might have to look for the link between the knowledge and the issue because it will be implied rather than clearly explained. You can't get more than 5 marks unless you include some knowledge that is not mentioned in the question. (4–6 marks)

Level 3: There will be a good explanation, with some analysis which is quite well directed at the issue in the question. There is a line of reasoning in the question showing clear thinking, but it might get mixed up in the middle. To get this mark, there has to be good own knowledge that is accurate and detailed. You can't get more than 8 marks unless you include some knowledge that is not mentioned in the question. (7–9 marks)

Level 4: Every part of a Level 4 answer explains very clearly the issue in the question. It does not get side-tracked into story-telling narrative sections, and the explanation shows good reasoning skills. The examiner should not have to guess or make any links for the student in the answer. Also, it must contain knowledge which is on a different aspect of the question and is detailed and specific. You can only get to Level 4 if you have included something that was not mentioned in the question — otherwise you will stay in Level 3 with a maximum of 8 marks. (10–12 marks)

Hints and tips

- Make sure you include some knowledge that is not in the question. Otherwise, the top 4 marks are automatically impossible to achieve.

The population increased massively in Elizabeth's reign. By the time she died, there were about an extra million people. This meant that there was a need for many more jobs. But there were actually fewer because the wool trade in England collapsed in the 1550s. Because there were not as many jobs, lots of people were forced to go from town to town, looking for work and begging. Population rises also meant more people needed somewhere to live.

Another reason was the bad harvests. There were quite a few bad harvests in Elizabeth's reign, but three were terrible, one as she became Queen and two later in her reign. This caused really bad problems with food prices going up so more people ended up hungry and having to beg for food. Also, lots of land owners started enclosing their land with fences so that they needed fewer labourers. This meant less money to pay but it also meant fewer jobs. Like I mentioned in the last paragraph, there were more people but not as many jobs. Lots of farm workers couldn't afford food or houses and they had to become vagabonds.

A third reason was that prices went up. This is called inflation. This is connected to the last reason, with bad harvests. As well as this, because homes became so scarce and in demand, it allowed landowners to put their rents up. As a result more people couldn't afford these rents so had to move out and seek new homes, with low wages if they had a job at all this further added to the poverty crisis and vagabondage increasing.

11/12. This answer is excellent in the main part. It has a clear structure and very good knowledge. It clearly shows the third example, without it this answer would be stuck at Level 2 7/12. Perhaps it could be more explicit in its reference to the question.

One reason for the increase in poverty was the population increase. There were more people in the country while Elizabeth was Queen so this meant more vagabonds. People who were vagabonds wandered the streets looking for money and work. Most of them were beggars. There were more once the population rose.

Another reason was bad harvests. This is where rain or cold kills most of the harvest and people needed the harvest for food. The bad harvests meant more people without jobs and this meant more vagabonds on the streets who had to beg. Lots of people were quite scared of the vagabonds and saw them as a threat, so they were whipped and kicked out of town most of the time.

Scoring **5/12** marks. There is some good stuff: the student has some knowledge about the vagabonds and bad harvests

The student needs to focus on the question a bit more. This is where you need an example or two for each topic that you revise. In addition, **there is no 3rd example of your own** other than those mentioned in the question, limiting the answer to a maximum of Level 2 — the student really needs to add something different. Of their own.

Key advice for this Question:

- 3 clear reasons shown in 3 explicit paragraphs
- Detailed knowledge
- PEEL in each paragraph
- No need for intro or conclusion
- A range of connectives



How might this topic be asked in a 16 marker?

Q5c. 'The main reason for increase in vagabondage is the growth in population.'
How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- the rise in population and poverty
- bad harvests

You must also use information of your own. *(16 marks)*



Q5c: “**English tactics** were the main reason the Spanish Armada failed” [16+4]

How far do you agree with this statement?

You **MAY** use the following in your answer

- Superior English Ships
- Weather
- You **MUST** use one example of your own



Level 1: This is for answers that are very general and disorganised. The points may be jumbled, containing little specific knowledge, and there will be no judgement, or the judgement will just be an opinion with no explanation. (1–4 marks)

Level 2: This is for answers which start to make an explanation but which are not very well linked to the question. There has to be some own knowledge in this level. There will be a judgement, but the reason might be weak or vague. Unless you add some knowledge that is different to the two prompts in the question, you can't get more than 7 marks at Level 2. (5–8 marks)

Level 3: This is for answers which make good explanation points which are linked specifically to the question. There may be some jumbled points or disorganisation, though this is ok for Level 3. There have to be good examples of own knowledge in this level, and there must be a judgement with a quite clear reason, though this might not be fully explained. Unless you add some knowledge that is different to the two prompts in the question, you can't get more than 11 marks at Level 3. (9–12 marks)

Level 4: Level 4 answers have to be clearly written and well linked together in an organised way. They need to be focused on the question and have a wide range of accurate and relevant knowledge. The most important part is the judgement. You can't simply say why the reason you chose is important, you need to be clear why it is more important than the other reasons. Unless you add some knowledge that is different to the two prompts in the question, you can't get into Level 4. (13–16 marks)

Hints and tips

- The question paper has suggestions for two points to include in your answer, but you need to add something else or the top mark you can achieve is 11/16. When you are revising, try to keep your notes in threes — three reasons for an event or three outcomes, for example — and it will be easier to think of a third in the exam.
- You don't need an introduction but it does help to start off in an organised way. If you write an introduction, keep it short and to the point.
- Don't story-tell. The examiner knows the story. The question will be about the outcomes of an event, or the reasons for an event. Stay focused on what the question is actually asking.
- Write in paragraphs. Make every point a paragraph.
- Make sure that you have linked every paragraph back to the question so that the examiner is not having to work out why the point is relevant.
- The judgement is really important. You need to state your opinion, but then you need to justify it. You need to be really clear about why your reason is more important than the others.
- Try using 'in conclusion' to start your judgement. This helps it to stand out to the examiner.

Key advice for this Question:

- Give your judgement in opening sentence
- On the one hand – supports the statement
- On the other hand – opposite view point
- Third paragraph supporting your view
- Conclusion – which and why is the most important reason and how that supports YOUR initial judgement
- **PEEL** in every paragraph



Similar Questions about the Armada

Q5b. Explain why Spain launched the Spanish Armada against England in 1588.

You may use the following in your answer:

- **Netherlands**
- **Francis Drake**

You must also use information of your own. *(12 marks)*



The Spanish had been involved in fighting in the Netherlands. Elizabeth was glad that this was tying up the Spanish, but then the Spanish sent a larger army there and also the Dutch leader was killed, so in 1585 Elizabeth made a decision to send 7,000 soldiers to the Netherlands led by the Earl of Leicester. Even though the English army did not do great, English and Spanish soldiers were now properly at war so Philip II started to plan an attack on England, the Spanish Armada.

Also, Francis Drake was causing a lot of financial problems for Philip II. He went to the West Indies with 30 ships and came home with £30,000 of Spanish treasure. This was a big problem because Philip needed money for his armies. Even when the Spanish Armada was being made, Drake sailed into Cadiz and burned loads of materials, and then sank some Portuguese ships with barrels for the Armada and captured a Spanish treasure ship. So Philip wanted some revenge.

Philip II also had a weak claim to the throne. He had been married to Mary Tudor, and when she died the throne went to Elizabeth. He could say that the throne should have been his.

11/12. This answer is excellent in the main part. It has a clear structure and very good knowledge. It clearly shows the third example, without it this answer would be stuck at Level 2 7/12.

Francis Drake was a very good captain. In 1585, he sailed to the West Indies with 30 ships. They missed the main Spanish force that they went for but did capture two important Spanish cities. When they returned, Drake was carrying £30,000 of Spanish treasure. His victories were a major problem for Philip II for two reasons. Firstly they were a humiliation. He was ruler of a major empire but could not stop Drake, even when he sailed directly into the port of Cadiz. Secondly, this was expensive for Philip. His empire and wars were expensive and he could not afford to lose his money. Therefore, Philip started to prepare his Armada because he needed to defeat this threat to his power which was England.

Also there were problems in the Netherlands, and the two countries fell out over it. This was a reason for the Spanish Armada, because it was to sort out the problems in the Netherlands that were about power and religion. But Drake's role was more important because this made Philip II angry and humiliated.

6/12. This student understands one reason very well and has used a lot of good detail. But the answer only discusses one reason, and that reason is one mentioned in the question. So the answer would achieve a low Level 3. It could be improved by adding an explanation of how the Netherlands fits in, or another factor of the students own.

How might this topic be asked in a 16 marker?

‘The decline in Anglo-Spanish relations in the years 1568-85 was caused by Elizabeth I’



How far do you agree? [16+4Spag]

You may use the following in your answer:

- Netherlands**
- Francis Drake**

You must also use information of your own.