

## The Elizabethan Age, 1558-1603

### The Puritan threat

#### Puritanism

The Puritans, extreme Protestants, opposed Elizabeth during her reign. They became more radical as her reign went on.

**Task:** Complete the gap fill about the Puritans.

The Puritans were given their name because they wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the church of any forms of \_\_\_\_\_. Under \_\_\_\_\_ many had been forced to leave and head to \_\_\_\_\_. When they came back they were even more radical, and criticised Elizabeth's \_\_\_\_\_ Settlement. They opposed bishops, colourful \_\_\_\_\_ and kneeling to receive communion. They also hated \_\_\_\_\_, drunkenness, theatre and dancing on the village green. There were different types of Puritans, but the most radical was the \_\_\_\_\_, who wanted to break away from the national church.

Mary

paintings

purify

Separatists

Religious

gambling

Catholicism

Europe

#### Puritan challenges to the Religious Settlement

**Task:** Match up the challenge to the correct description.

The Vestments Controversy 1566	A Presbyterian system was suggested, including abolishing all bishops, and elected ministers. This would have weakened Elizabeth's power, and was rejected. Cartwright lost his job.
Proposals by Thomas Cartwright 1570	Anonymous pamphlets were produced attacking the church and the bishops. They lost the Puritans support as they contained violent, sarcastic and offensive language, completely against the Puritan beliefs.
French marriage pamphlet of John Stubbs, 1579	Many Puritan priests refused to follow instructions about the specific clothes they were to wear. Many Puritan priests were dismissed, and Elizabeth insisted the correct dress be worn.
The Marprelate Tracts, 1588-89	Elizabeth was criticised for entering talks with the Duke of Anjou, a Catholic. The author of the critical pamphlet was charged with seditious writing and sentenced to have his hand cut off, and was then imprisoned for 18 months.

**Task:** Which of the above do you think was the most serious threat to Elizabeth?

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## Puritan opposition in parliament and the Privy Council

Elizabeth found it difficult to ignore Puritans, as they were in here Privy Council and MPs in parliament. These are some individual who attempted reform within parliament:

- Walter Strickland, 1571

Puritan MP for Yorkshire called for a new Book of Common Prayer and the banning of vestments. He was prevented from attending parliament, and Elizabeth actually closed parliament down to stop his ideas being discussed.

- John Field and Thomas Wilcox 1572

Two clergymen who published books arguing the Presbyterian church structure was in-keeping with the bible. They also criticised the Book of Common Prayer. They were both imprisoned for a year for breaking the Act of Uniformity. Puritan printing presses were ordered to be destroyed.

- Peter Wentworth, 1576

Puritan MP for Barnstable complained that MPs were not allowed to discuss religion. He was imprisoned for a month in the Tower of London, and parliament was closed down.

- Peter Turner, 1584

Puritan MP for Bridport proposed a bill to change the government of the church. It failed to receive support after one of Elizabeth's loyal Privy Councillors attacked it in the House of Commons.

- Anthony Cope, 1586-87

Puritan MP for Banbury called for the abolition of Bishops and the replacement of the Book of Common Prayer. The bill failed and Cope was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Parliament was again closed down.

**Task:** Put the above into order of how serious a threat they were to Elizabeth (1 = most serious). Then explain why you have chosen your most serious.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

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## Measures taken to deal with the Puritan challenge

Having blocked demands for reform within parliament, Elizabeth applied equal force to stop Puritanism at a local level.

**Task:** Match up the measures taken to their correct descriptions.

Banning of 'prophesyings'	The new archbishop issued three articles in 1583, where he demanded uniformity, forcing the clergy to accept bishops, the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty-Nine Articles. 300-400 ministers refused, and were removed.
John Whitgift's attack on Presbyterianism	These were meetings where prayers and sermons were said in the 1570s. Elizabeth asked Archbishop Grindal to ban them, but he refused. Elizabeth suspended Grindal and banned them herself.
Halting the Brownists	Many pamphlets were being issued criticising the church and urging people to form a Separatist Church. The Act was introduced, and it gave the authorities the power to execute suspects. Henry Barrow, John Greenwood and other leaders were executed. This marked the end of the separatist movement.
The Act against Seditious Sectaries, 1593	A breakaway Puritan church was set up by Robert Browne in Norwich in 1580. He was imprisoned, and emigrated to Holland upon his release. His followers continued to emerge, and two were hanged for distributing Brownist pamphlets in 1583

**Task:** Which was the most effective method of dealing with the Puritans, in your opinion?

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