

Key Question 1: How successful was the government of Elizabeth I?

KEY EVENTS/ TIMELINE	
November 1558	Elizabeth became Queen following the death of her half-sister Mary I.
January 1559	Elizabeth's coronation was a lavish affair which cost around £16,000 and lasted for three days, despite the fact that Elizabeth inherited debts of £227,000.

KEY GOVERNMENT BODIES	
The Council of Wales and the Marches	The body responsible for exercising royal power in Wales. It was headed by the Lord President and their headquarters were in Ludlow.
The Court of Great Sessions	Twelve of the thirteen Welsh shires (excluding Monmouthshire) were divided into four court circuits. Circuit judges would tour each county, holding sessions twice a year. They would deal with serious crimes such as murders and riots.

KEY IDEAS	
Patronage	Special favours such as land or positions at court which were given to people in order to retain their support.
Freedom of Speech	Elizabeth decided which topics could be debated in Parliament. MPs, in theory, could decide which topics to discuss; but, in reality, Elizabeth stopped them from discussing issues such as her marriage, succession, foreign policy and religion.
Taxation	Any additional money needed by Elizabeth was usually raised by asking Parliament to increase taxes. There was an increase in taxes at a local level to help pay off the 'Marian debt' during Elizabeth's reign.
Royal Court	The centre of political power during Elizabeth's reign. Members of the Royal Court were advisors, government officials, ladies-in-waiting and servants. Their main court residence was Whitehall Palace, in London.
Privy Council	Advisors and ministers appointed by Elizabeth to help her rule. Elizabeth appointed 19 Privy Councillors after her coronation in 1559.
Factions	Through patronage, Elizabeth naturally generated rivalry between her courtiers. This led to rival factions developing at court. Elizabeth was generally very successful at playing these factions against each other to maintain their loyalty.
Monopolies	Monopolies gave individual nobles and merchants the sole right to manufacture or sell particular goods. They could then control the supply of that particular product and raise prices to increase their profits. Elizabeth also made money from granting monopoly licenses.
Royal Progresses	Elizabeth toured the countryside for 6-8 weeks in summer, staying at the houses of wealthy nobles (which cost them a fortune). People would try to catch a glimpse of the Queen when she was in the area.
Parliament	There was no Prime Minister or political parties. MPs were all wealthy, landowning men. Parliament's two main functions were introducing new laws and raising taxes. Parliament was only called thirteen times in 45 years by Elizabeth. (1559, 1563, 1567, 1571, 1572, 1576, 1581, 1584-85, 1586-87, 1589, 1593, 1597-98, 1601)

KEY ROLES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Lord Lieutenant	Another wealthy landowner who would inform Elizabeth about law and order in their area. In Wales, the President of the Council of Wales and the Marches also served as Lord Lieutenant.
Deputy Lieutenant	One was appointed in each Welsh shire to assist the Lord Lieutenant. They were responsible for defending the area and supervised the work of JPs.
Justices of the Peace	Wealthy landowning gentry who voluntarily took on the task of organising law and order in their area. There were 30 to 60 JPs per county.
Sheriff	They were concerned with legal affairs such as swearing in juries, delivering prisoners to court and helping with the collection of taxes.
Parish constable/ night watchman	Local men were appointed by the JP to do this unpaid role for one year at a time. They were given a range of duties and supervised by the JPs. Night watchmen patrolled towns at night looking out for criminals.
Overseer of the poor	Organised the collection of the poor rate (a local tax) before distributing the money to the people in the area most in need of assistance.

KEY PEOPLE	
Sir William Cecil (Lord Burghley)	Secretary of state and closest advisor to Elizabeth for the vast majority of her reign. A moderate Protestant and Privy Councillor who helped Elizabeth control Parliament.
Robert Dudley (Earl of Leicester)	A trusted advisor and a Privy Councillor, member of the Royal Court and later commander of the military. He was a Puritan who often fell out with Cecil. Was rumoured to be Elizabeth's lover.
Sir Francis Walsingham	The man in charge of Elizabeth's secret service network of spies who advised on foreign affairs. He uncovered the plot that led to Mary, Queen of Scots' execution.
Sir Christopher Hatton	Vice Chamberlain of the Queen's household, he was responsible for organising Elizabeth's progresses.

SUMMARY
Elizabeth was a strong monarch for most of her reign. Elizabeth was popular, which helped her ensure loyalty and obedience. She was skilful in her handling of powerful nobles and maintained a firm control over Parliament throughout her reign. Local government worked well for Elizabeth.