

AQA GCSE Model Answers

Paper 2: Elizabeth



Question 1: 'How convincing is Interpretation A about ...' (8 marks) Time = 10 minutes

Work out what is the interpretation saying. What is it saying about _____? Pick two things that it says in the interpretation. Do you agree with what it is saying?
Two clear paragraphs. Do **not** talk about provenance (who wrote it, when they wrote it etc.)! It isn't needed!

Interpretation A is convincing because...

Specifically it says...

This is convincing because I know that....

Another reason why Interpretation A is convincing is because.... (you can argue that it is not convincing).

Specifically, it says...

This is convincing because I know that...

Question 2: 'Explain what was important about...' (8 marks) Time = 10 minutes

This question is about an event/group/person during Elizabeth's reign. What was important about it? What does it show us as historians? What can we learn? Use the '2 because' rule!

This happened. This was because...

This was important because... x 2

Question 3: 'Write an account of...' (8 marks) Time = 10 minutes

- This is just like the Interwar Years paper. You need to tell me the story of something.
- Make sure you write chronologically i.e. start at the beginning!
- What happened? Cause and Consequence.
- Detail is the key for this question – dates and examples!
- Make sure you're clear on the sequence of events. Think of a timeline!

Question 4: Hardwick Hall (16 marks) Time = 25 minutes

This is nearly 10% of the GCSE. You've got to know Hardwick Hall inside and out! Think about:

1. Who was Bess of Hardwick? How did she gain her wealth?
2. How did Bess demonstrate her wealth at Hardwick Hall?
3. How did Hardwick Hall reflect new Renaissance ideas and architecture?
4. How did Hardwick Hall demonstrate support for Elizabeth I?
5. How did Hardwick Hall reflect that England was a stable country under Elizabeth I?

You will get a statement, just like with Medicine and Interwar Years.

You need to decide if you agree or not.

- P1 – stated factor (the one it says in the question – Agree)
- P2- Agree/Disagree
- P3 – Disagree
- P4 – Conclusion (Come to a judgement).

Example answers

Question 01 – How convincing is Interpretation A about theatre in Elizabethan England? Explain your answer using Interpretation A and your contextual knowledge. [8 marks]

Answer 1:

One way in which interpretation A is convincing is when it says 'All sorts of people watched plays which entertained and educated'. This is true as not only the rich watched theatre but it was also affordable for the poor. The rich sat in the stands, showing that they have higher authority than the poor who stood in the pit. The pit was a source of chaos and violence as people pushed and shoved to get a better view of the play being performed. Another way in which interpretation A is convincing is when it says 'although some Puritans object'. This is true as the Puritans saw the theatre as sinful and against God due to the plays being performed. They also thought it was a scene of crime as violence would usually occur at the theatre. And thought that it was wrong for the rich and the poor to be with one another as they had a strong belief in the great chain of beings and hierarchy at the time. The theatre also spread disease and was not sanitary as hundreds of lower class and poor gathered in the pit with one another.

AQA Commentary - level 3 answer (5-6 marks)

The response addresses more than one aspect of the interpretation. There is developed evaluation about the different types of people who attended the theatre. Other aspects of the interpretation are also addressed, though at a lower level. It is therefore credited at Level 3.

Answer 2:

Interpretation A is very convincing because we know Elizabethan theatre was enjoyed by the public. The interpretation mentions 'all sorts of people watched plays'. This is convincing because we know that the theatre, especially the globe theatre, was split so the poor could stand at the bottom in the pit for cheap and the wealthy would sit at the top. This was widely appreciated by both the wealthy and poor as wealthy people had a sense of hierarchy (being higher up than the poor) and the poor had a cheap source of entertainment.

AQA Commentary – level 2 answer (3-4 marks)

The response addresses one aspect of the interpretation. There is developed evaluation of social hierarchy in the Elizabethan theatre, supported with knowledge and understanding. However, as only one aspect of the interpretation is addressed, it is credited at Level 2 at the higher mark in the level.

Your analysis:

Why is answer 1 better than answer 2?

How could answer 1 be improved?

Question 02 - Explain what was important about Queen Elizabeth I's court. [8 marks]

Answer 1:

Queen Elizabeth's Court was important as it allowed her to gain loyalty amongst her people. Elizabeth did not want to remain static in London; instead, she was constantly moving to different residencies such as London Bridge and Greenwich. When she would move around, people that were in the Gentry would care for Elizabeth and spend much money on her which also saved Elizabeth money. It also allowed her to communicate more freely with other people. The Queen also introduced a system of patronage. This meant that to gain wealth and power, you had to have been very close to the Queen. Elizabeth would distribute key jobs to some men as well. This would create competition which would therefore create loyalty.

Queen Elizabeth's court was also important as it continued members known as the privy council. These men would offer the Queen advice although she did not have to follow them. Members of the privy council included Christopher Hatton – master of the house – Francis Walsingham – Spymaster – Robert Dudley and William Cecil. They were all great friends of Elizabeth and played crucial parts in her reign. For example, Francis Walsingham intercepted secret letters between Mary Queen of Scots and plotters which included ideas of killing the Queen.

AQA Comment: *Level 3 answer (5-6 marks)*

The response addresses two aspects of importance (Elizabeth's control and patronage, and the importance of the privy council). Both aspects are addressed in a developed manner, with explanations supported with contextual knowledge and understanding. The response is therefore credited at Level 3.

Answer 2:

When Elizabeth came on the throne in 1558 she created her own court. Some she took from Mary I's last court and some she chose on her own. As Elizabeth was a woman the court took on a slightly different role than usual particularly the privy council. They tried guiding her in her decisions to marry and have a child but also had to be extremely loyal to Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was close with her court that was mostly made up of nobility and gentry. Elizabeth took her court on progress which is when she toured the country staying in a different member of her court's estate. This was important as it saved her a lot of money as she was provided for. This was also important for her court as it built up their status. It was known that she took 400 wagons including her bed with her to all the estates.

The court were important in influencing her decision making but also not being afraid to voice their opinions. Elizabeth gave out special jobs and favoured certain members of the court this made them more obedient to her and caused rivalry among them as they fought for her attention.

AQA Commentary: *Level 2 (3-4 marks)*

The response addresses more than one aspect of importance, showing simple reasoning supported with knowledge. There is an attempt to link to the importance of the court in terms of Elizabethan progresses, though this requires further substantiation. It is credited at Level 2, at the higher mark in the level.

Your analysis:

Why is answer 1 better than answer 2?

How could answer 1 be improved?

Question 03 - Write an account of how the Spanish Armada was defeated. [8 marks]

Answer 1:

The Spanish armada set off in 1588, but didn't go according to plan for the Spanish. In 1587 Sir Francis Drake (with funding and permission for Elizabeth) captured Spanish ships and raided them, bringing home thousands in treasure – this also bought England an extra year to prepare for the armada and massively set back the Spanish, putting them up to their inevitable defeat.

English tactics were superior – not only were they more prepared (thanks to Drake) but they had better communication and leadership. The Spanish leader was inexperienced and suffered with sea sickness, in comparison to Drake. The English cleverly used fireships – this confused the Spanish, causing them to scatter, breaking their formation. The English fought from a distance, they were close enough to attack but not to be overthrown by the Spanish. The weather also helped the Spanish defeat – wind blew back Spanish ships, causing them to crash, breaking their ships and losing their already rotting food, leading to severe starvation. This was seen as a sign that God was on England's side overall, leading people to believe that God wanted Protestantism. This helped Elizabeth's problem with religion in England.

Overall English victory was awarded and Spanish defeat left their economy weak and left Elizabeth seen as a hero.

AQA Comment: *Level 3 answer (5-6 marks)*

The response shows developed analysis. In addressing English tactics, it clearly links the analysis to the issue in the question (the defeat of the Armada), with a good range of knowledge and understanding used in support. It is credited at Level 3, at the bottom of the level.

Answer 2:

Gathering the Spanish Armada began after England's choice to become mainly Protestant and their continuous privateering of Spanish gold. Before the attack had begun, English ships discovered Spain's huge amount of ships in 'The Singeing of the King's beard' burnt some down using fireships. The Spanish's plan was to sail to Poland where troops waited, which could be transported across the English Channel and dropped off to launch a ground attack on London. However, torch signals allowed England to spread news of the attack quickly, so before Spanish ships made it to Poland, English ships engaged. Spain's fighting strategies relied on bigger boats with better cannons to form a crescent shape, allowing all their ships to fire onto the centre whereas England used smaller, faster and more easily manoeuvrable ships to reposition quickly. This also worked well with fireships, which could chase down and burn other ships. While Spain created their formation which took lots of time and coordination to move out of, England took the opportunity to light fireships. This

panicked the armada, and not being able to break formation, lost them a few ships. Once the Spanish had scattered from fear of more fireships, the armada fled north, to loop up over Scotland and back to Spain. However they faced terrible storms while traveling and almost lost all the remaining ships in the storm.

AQA Comment: *Level 2 answer (3-4 marks)*

The response shows a simple analysis of the defeat of the Armada. It provides a narrative of the events of the Armada, though this is somewhat generalised and not entirely focused on the issue of defeat. While it contains some inaccuracies -for example, there is clear confusion over the location and also the role of the fireships - there remains enough in the response to indicate simple understanding. It is credited at Level 2.

Your analysis:

Why is answer 1 better than answer 2?

How could answer 1 be improved?

Question 04 - 'The main change that Elizabethan manor houses demonstrated was the new fashions of the time.' How far does a study of Hardwick Hall support this statement? Explain your answer. You should refer to Hardwick Hall and your contextual knowledge. [16 marks]

Answer 1:

The main change that Elizabethan manor houses demonstrated was the new fashions of the time. For example, another change that Hardwick demonstrated was the influence of continental fashions in the building and the contents. The loggia was inspired by Italian Renaissance architecture. Originally this was meant to go all the way round the building and thus it would be fashionably symmetrical. Inside Hardwick there are Turkish carpets and French furniture. Bess shared a love of French furniture with Robert Dudley and there were six French chairs that were some of the most ostentatious furniture in the house. But these probably came from Chatsworth. Much of Bess's fashion and style comes from the 1570s when she was married to William Cavendish. There is evidence of Flemish design in the marble used for fireplaces.

For example, another change shown by Hardwick is not fashionable but technological. Glassmaking was given a big boost during Elizabeth's reign. From the 1570s English glass production boomed. By 1590 England was making all its own glass and Hardwick Hall is famed for having, 'more glass than wall.' Bess had her own glass factories. Hardwick used vast amounts of lead and it was only technical advances from the 1560s in Somerset and Derbyshire with the invention of smelting mills with waterwheel-powered bellows and tall chimneys that transformed the industry. This lead was needed for double and triple pile buildings like Hardwick.

Overall, the main change demonstrated was new fashions as Bess not only incorporated new architectural features influenced by the Renaissance, but also fashionable furniture and decorations.

AQA Comment: Level 3 answer (9-12 marks)

The response shows developed knowledge and understanding of the factor given in the question and one other. It also reaches a conclusion. To reach Level 4, the answer needed to address a further factor as well as make sustained judgement throughout.

Answer 2:

For example, Hardwick Hall shows the fashions of the Elizabethan age in its design. Bess of Hardwick used the most fashionable architect, Robert Smythson, to design it. It was fashionable for Elizabethan country houses to be symmetrical which Hardwick was, and the chimneys were internal so as not to spoil the symmetry. Some of the windows were false with stone behind them just to keep the symmetry. It was a change because now houses did not have to be around a central courtyard

as in earlier times and Elizabethan houses were often shaped as the letter E or H to show respect to Queen Elizabeth.

AQA Comment: *Level 2 answer (5-8 marks)*

The response gives a simple explanation of the factor given in the question. It was awarded towards the bottom of Level 2. To reach Level 3, the answer must explain a second factor that influenced the design, building and decoration of Hardwick Hall as well as reach a conclusion.

Your analysis:

Why is answer 1 better than answer 2?

How could answer 1 be improved?