**Catholics and Puritans: the Religious Settlement of 1558-9 and its aftermath**

Candidates will use their knowledge of the Settlement and reactions to it to explain why certain ideas and beliefs were held, why certain actions were taken and why certain events happened.

Candidates may be asked, for example, to explain why competing religious positions were so strongly held; why Elizabeth acted as she did in enforcing the Settlement; why the Religious Settlement survived such a clamorous birth; why both Catholics and Puritans were dissatisfied with the Settlement; how Elizabeth’s government dealt with continuing opposition; or why the Catholic threat had largely disappeared by the end of the reign.

**Past Questions**

**Jan 09 - Catholics and Puritans: the Religious Settlement of 1558-9 and its aftermath**

1. Why did Elizabeth pursue a compromise religious settlement in 1559? 25 marks

Mark scheme:

L1: Elizabeth’s main intention was to secure a lasting religious settlement for her people. There was little doubt that this would be Protestant in line with her own preference; the issue was how Protestant it would be? In deciding this Elizabeth was influenced by a number of causal factors, for example, the religious upheavals of the preceding decade, the real danger posed by France and Scotland, or the need to preserve the fragile friendship with Spain.

L3: Elizabeth wanted to secure a religious settlement that most of her people could follow – she had no desire to ‘make windows into men’s souls’. Her intentions were practical and conservative in that she wanted to avoid unrest.

L5: Catholics were a danger and so were some Protestants. Elizabeth made them all go to one church and fined them if they didn’t go.

1. Why did Elizabeth’s religious settlement survive despite opposition from both Puritans and Catholics? 25 marks

L1: The Settlement itself – the Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity – had many positive qualities. There was the invention of the title of Supreme Governor and proclamation of a moderate Protestant position, together with the lenient pursuit of Catholic recusants. Its popularity was strengthened by the improving foreign situation in the 1560s – particularly in neutralising French influence in Scotland – and by a run of good harvests over the same period.

L3: Catholics objected strongly to Elizabeth’s legislation. The Act of Uniformity was the main bone of contention as far as the Catholics were concerned. A minority of Catholics could not accept that Elizabeth’s policies towards them were quite lenient.

L5: No-one liked Elizabeth’s settlement so they all objected to it. Catholics wanted Philip II to invade and turn the country Catholic again.