**Generalised or specific evidence?**

* Generalised evidence
* Specific evidence

There was a big divide in the country over religion with Marian exiles returning expecting a Protestant settlement, further Protestants in the universities, London and the South East, whilst the nobility and the gentry was still largely Catholic.

There was a big divide in the country between Protestants and Catholics. Henry VIII had been a Protestant, then a Catholic, Edward had been a Protestant and Mary a Catholic, so it had left the country unsure about religion.

£300,000 debt

The Treaty of Edinburgh removed French troops from Scotland and asked Mary Queen of Scots to stop using the English coat of arms, although she never formally agreed to this.

Treaty of Edinburgh in 1560

**‘Religion was the most serious problem facing Elizabeth in 1558’. How far do you agree with this statement?**

**Paragraph 1**

Another factor that faced Elizabeth was foreign affairs. For example, there were French troops in Scotland, the traditional back door to England as a result of the Auld Alliance. The relationship between Scotland and France was cemented further by the half French Mary Queen of Scots who had a claim to the English throne. The problems with France also included the fact that England was still technically at war with them and had lost Calais. Moreover, Elizabeth had to keep the Spanish Habsburgs onside and France and Spain were both Catholic which links to religion.

**‘Religion was the most serious problem facing Elizabeth in 1558’. How far do you agree with this statement?**

**Paragraph 2**

Another factor that faced Elizabeth was foreign affairs.For example, there were French troops in Scotland, the traditional back door to England as a result of the Auld Alliance. ***This made foreign affairs serious because with French troops so close England it put England at risk of attack.*** The relationship with France was cemented further by the half French Mary Queen of Scots who had a claim to the English throne. The problems with France also included the fact that England was still technically at war with them and had lost Calais. ***This made foreign affairs even more serious as the troops in Scotland were well placed if the war with France continued. This would be a problem because war was very expensive and Elizabeth could not afford a war given the debt she had inherited from Mary.*** Moreover, Elizabeth had to keep the Spanish Habsburgs onside and France and Spain were both Catholic which links to religion. ***This caused a further serious problem as there was a real risk of them uniting in a Catholic Crusade against Elizabeth. She could also not afford to upset Spain because their control of the Netherlands made them very important for trade. Clearly, foreign affairs caused many significant problems for Elizabeth.***

**‘The war with Spain was the most serious problem facing Elizabeth at the end of her reign’. How far do you agree with this statement?**

**Paragraph 1:**

Nonetheless, the seriousness of this problem can be reduced when one considers that few historians doubt the fact that Elizabeth’s decision to go to war was the correct one and physically, she won a war on 4 fronts. This victory reduced the seriousness of this problem because ending the war with Spain meant that attention could be diverted to Ireland. The seriousness of the problem of Spain was also reduced by the fact that Elizabeth used it as an excellent propaganda opportunity, for instance with her stirring speech at Tilsbury and the issuing of medallions celebrating God’s verdict on the divide between Protestantism and Catholicism. However, despite this evidence one must conclude that overall it was Spain and not Ireland that was the biggest problem facing Elizabeth overall.

**‘The war with Spain was the most serious problem facing Elizabeth at the end of her reign’. How far do you agree with this statement?**

**Paragraph 2:**

Nonetheless, the seriousness of this problem can be reduced when one considers that few historians doubt the fact that Elizabeth’s decision to go to war was the correct one and physically, she won a war on 4 fronts. This victory reduced the seriousness of this problem because ending the war with Spain meant that attention could be diverted to Ireland and Tyrone’s rebellion could be easily dealt with. It also re-established the balance of power between France and Spain and a strong independent Netherlands emerged. The seriousness of the problem of Spain was also reduced by the fact that Elizabeth used it as an excellent propaganda opportunity, for instance with her stirring speech at Tilsbury and the issuing of medallions celebrating God’s verdict on the divide between Protestantism and Catholicism. However, despite this evidence one must conclude that overall it was Spain and not Ireland that was the biggest problem facing Elizabeth overall. It was Spain that drained the country’s finances and caused unrest. Furthermore, Elizabeth’s lack of decisive action meant that the problem of Ireland was harder to deal with because of the potential of Spanish support and the use of Ireland as a base for a Catholic invasion.

the potential of Spanish support and the use of Ireland as a base for a Catholic invasion.