

Task sheet

Activity 1

Match the problems with the solutions on p.2.

Activity 2

Complete the table on p.3 to record the issues and to evaluate the seriousness of the threat posed by each group.

Activity 3

Record on the continuum how serious a threat the Catholics were for Elizabeth.

Nature and extent of the Catholic challenge

Problems	Solutions
<p>The Pope was attempting to restore Catholicism across Europe and end the rise of Protestantism. This Counter-reformation meant leading an active fightback to strengthen Catholicism and limit the influence of new Protestant states.</p>	<p>Phillip's annoyance at Elizabeth's support for Protestant rebels led to an imposed trade embargo with Antwerp in 1563. As 66% of England's trade went through the port this was a crucial blow to England's finances. The embargo only lasted a year as Spain realised they needed English trade as well.</p>
<p>It is thought that one third of the nobility and a significant number of the gentry were recusants. Many of these were in the north of the country.</p>	<p>A protestant uprising by the Huguenots occurred in 1562 and Elizabeth saw this as an opportunity to seize control of Calais once more. Elizabeth sent 6,000 men along with the Earl of Leicester to support the rebels. The uprising failed though and Elizabeth signed a treaty accepting the loss of Calais forever.</p>
<p>France was a powerful Catholic with strong links to Scotland through Mary of Guise, the mother of Mary Queen of Scots. England had been fighting a war against France under Mary I who was allied with Spain. This war had been unsuccessful and England had been forced to give up Calais.</p>	<p>Elizabeth wanted to avoid a war at all costs with Spain. She could not afford conflict, nor could she compete with the Spanish levels of military spending. To support the Dutch rebels Elizabeth send money, paid for mercenaries and gave support to other countries that were willing to fight on England's behalf.</p>
<p>Phillip of Spain had initially been on good terms with Elizabeth and had even proposed marriage. However as a strict Catholic he did not like England's support of Protestant rebels both in Scotland and France.</p>	<p>In 1570 the Pope issued a Papal Bull – this expelled Elizabeth from the Catholic Church and encouraged English Catholics to rebel against her.</p>
<p>The Netherlands tensions were growing between the native Dutch and the ruling Spanish. Spain had always owned the Netherlands, but usually they had ruled themselves. As the Spanish increased their influence and import of Spanish methods in the Netherlands the Dutch revolted.</p>	<p>The Northern Rebellion occurred in 1569. This was an uprising by the earls of Westmoreland and Northumberland where they marched on Durham, forced the cathedral to perform a Catholic mass before attempting to march south. The rebels dispersed when a Royal army was sent. 450 rebels were executed in a show of strength by Elizabeth.</p>

	Problem	What happened?	How dangerous was the issue for Elizabeth? Why?
Pope			
Gentry and nobility			
Foreign powers			

Elizabeth faced
no Catholic
challenge at all

The Catholic threat
to Elizabeth was
serious and grave



Where do you think the Catholic challenge was to Elizabeth? Explain your decision ...