The strength of Elisabeth’s I policy

Elisabeth I was the daughter of Henry VII and Catherine of Aragon.

She became queen of England in 1558. The first problem Elisabeth I had to face was that England was a divided nation: on one side there were the protestant believers and on the other side there were the Catholic ones. She decided to restore the Protestantism but she granted Catholic freedom of worship.

Elisabeth I was an intelligent queen: she had receive an excellent education and she could speak French, Italian and Latin, the language of science. She had a strong personality and a political genius.

During her reign she had to face the problems of marriage and succession, the above mentioned problem of religious division, the domestic discontent and the foreign threats.

In the matter of the problems of marriage she used her condition of unmarried as a political weapon: she encouraged the hopes of European princes with whom it was important to keep on good terms.

To impress her subject she wore magnificent clothes adorned with rich jewels. So People had an image of a queen majestic, powerful and elegant.

In the matter of the foreign policy she recognised Spain as her main trade rival and enemy so she increased exploration and overseas trade expanded, making England a commercial and sea power. In 1588 Spain decided to invade England but the English won. Supremacy at sea enabled Elisabeth I to lay the basis of England’s empire, and after she encouraged England to colonise new country in the name of trade.