ARGUMENTATIVE TEXT ABOUT THE RELIGIOUS PROBLEM IN ENGLAND

At the start of the 16th century everyone in England was **Catholic**. However, some scholars abroad were beginning to argue that the Catholic Church had become too wealthy, corrupt and had moved away from the Bible.

**Henry VIII**, followed imperialistic dreams. He had an immense wish to command and his ministers were hardly allowed to interfere with his decisions. His name is linked to the English Reformation. He did not like the spread of Lutheranism in England and defended the Catholic Church against Luther. He had made himself Head of the Church in order to divorce Catherine of Aragon, but his Church had remained an English Catholic Church. The king needed money to cover the cost of his court and of the expensive wars. He knew that the Church owned large estates and that the monasteries had treasures in gold and silver metalwork and jewellery . The church also reduced the Crown’s income because people had to pay taxes to it.

During Edward VI’s reign, England and Wales became more Protestant, with the Prayer Book and services in English. However, upon his death, **Mary I** returned the country completely to the Catholic faith, burning over 280 Protestants during her short reign. Therefore, when Elizabeth became Queen, both Protestants and Catholics were eager to see what religion she would follow and whether religious persecution would take place.