



Were Catholics or Puritans a greater threat to Elizabeth's religious settlement?

Having looked at Elizabeth's religious settlement, it is important to learn who threatened it. Many did agree with the settlement, but strong Catholics and strong Protestants (Puritans), were unwilling to go along with it.



CATHOLICS

Some Catholics became known as **Recusants** - these Catholics would rather suffer punishment than attend the new Elizabethan church services.

They were seen a dangerous because their **loyalty** was divided - they had to obey the Queen, but as Catholics it was their duty to obey the Pope as well. The Pope had said anyone who killed Elizabeth would be carrying out God's wishes.

At the start of the reign anyone who did not attend church services was fined one shilling. However, soon the punishments became harsher: in 1580 the fine became £20 per month. If you couldn't pay you would lose your land. Punishments continued to get harsher.

Missionary priests were sent to England by the Catholic church. These were English priests trained abroad. Known as **Jesuits**, they tried to keep the Catholic religion alive. They were prepared to die for the Catholic church. Many travelled using secret routes to reach England. To the government such priests were **traitors**. These priests were supported and paid for by foreign countries such as France and Spain. As supporters of the Pope, they had to follow his orders. At worst this meant killing Elizabeth!

If caught, these priests suffered terrible torture and execution. They were executed not for their religious beliefs, but for **treason**.



PURITANS

Unlike the Catholics, the Puritans did not challenge Elizabeth's claim to the throne. They also couldn't be accused of working for a foreign power. However, by refusing to go along with the religious settlement they were challenging the authority of the Queen.

Recusants	Catholics who would rather be punished than attend Elizabeth's church
Loyalty	Being true, honest and faithful
Jesuits	English missionary priests trained abroad to spread Catholic beliefs .
Traitor	Someone who commits treason.
Treason	Committing a crime against the monarch - punished by death.



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QUESTIONS

1 What does 'Recusant' mean?

2 Copy and complete the text below:

Recusants were seen as _____ because their _____ was divided. They had to obey the _____ but as Catholics it was their _____ to obey the _____.

3 How do you think the Pope would react if someone killed Queen Elizabeth I?

4 What was the fine for not attending a church service at the start of the reign?

- 5 a) What was the fine by 1580?
b) What happened if you couldn't pay the fine?

6 Copy and complete the text below:

The Catholic church send missionary _____ to England. These were English priests trained _____. They were known as _____ and they tried to keep the _____ _____ alive - they were even prepared to _____ for the Catholic church.

- 7 a) What did the government call the Jesuits?
b) What does the term traitor mean?
c) Which foreign countries supported and paid for the Jesuits?

8 If Jesuits followed their orders, what, at worst, did this mean?

- 9 a) What happened to the priests if they were caught?
b) What were they executed for? CHOOSE and EXPLAIN:

Religious beliefs OR Treason

10 Copy and complete the text below:

The Puritans did not _____ Elizabeth I's _____ to the throne. They also couldn't be _____ of working for a _____ power. However they did challenge the Queen's authority by refusing to _____ with the _____.

BONUS QUESTION:

Who were the greatest threat to the Elizabeth settlement - the Catholics or the Puritans? Make a list of your reasons and ideas!