GCSE HISTORY
Specification A Unit 2 Option C: Elizabethan England, 1558–1603

Sources Booklet

Sources A to E for use in answering Question 1
Source F for use in answering Question 2
Source G for use in answering Question 3
A view of William Cecil (Lord Burghley)

Source A  Queen Elizabeth I’s view of William Cecil.

From a statement made by Queen Elizabeth to William Cecil on his appointment as Secretary of State in 1558.

I give you the responsibility of being a member of my Privy Council and working hard for me and my country. I know that you will not be corrupted by any gift given to you and that you will serve the country faithfully. I can trust you to give me the advice that you think is best, even when it disagrees with my view. I know that you will always keep me informed of matters in confidence and keep them confidential.

Source B  A painting showing William Cecil in charge of the Court of Wards.

In 1561 Queen Elizabeth appointed William Cecil to the profitable position of Master of the Court of Wards. The Court of Wards looked after the orphans of nobles and their estates until they were old enough to inherit their titles.
A different view of William Cecil (Lord Burghley)

**Source C**  
From a report about William Cecil written by the Spanish Ambassador to Philip II in 1571. William Cecil helped to manage the sessions of Parliament.

> The most important person in the Privy Council is William Cecil, who does most of the Council's business. There are other councillors, but they are just puppets of Cecil and only repeat what he says. He is a heretic and very clever, dishonest and crafty in both what he says and does. He believes that Queen Elizabeth is unbeatable and therefore treats all ambassadors with great arrogance, using his trickery to try to outwit them.

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**Source D**  
A painting showing Sir Francis Walsingham, Lord Hunsdon (the Queen’s cousin), William Cecil, and Sir Walter Raleigh playing cards in the 1580s.

They are playing the Spanish card game called ‘Primero’, which was an early version of Poker. Sir Francis Walsingham is shown with the winning hand.
Source E  A painting of Queen Elizabeth I on a royal progress with her courtiers in 1601.

The Earl of Shrewsbury carries the Sword of State in front of the Queen. The artist, Robert Peake, was an official Court artist. In 1596 the Privy Council ordered all unflattering portraits of the Queen to be found and destroyed as they caused great offence to the Queen.
Turn over for Source F for use in answering Question 2
and Source G for use in answering Question 3
The Tudor family tree.
Source G (for use in answering Question 3)

A woodcut of a Puritan preaching.

The picture is from the first edition of 'The Book of Martyrs' by John Foxe, 1563.