

You are going to read an article in which Queen Elizabeth I of England and Mary, Queen of Scots, are compared. For questions 1-15 choose from the sections (A-D). The sections may be chosen more than once.

Which section

- describes Elizabeth's difficult ascent to the throne of England? 1 _____
- mentions the Scottish Reformation? 2 _____
- reports Mary's feelings towards Elizabeth? 3 _____
- explains why both Elizabeth and Mary had a claim to the English crown? 4 _____
- explains why Elizabeth decided never to get married? 5 _____
- tells you when Mary became Queen of Scots? 6 _____
- explains how Elizabeth and Mary were cousins? 7 _____
- tells you that Elizabeth was older than Mary? 8 _____
- mentions Mary's upbringing at the Court of France? 9 _____
- hints at Elizabeth's longevity? 10 _____
- describes Elizabeth's unwillingness to have her cousin executed? 11 _____
- speaks about Mary's beauty and lack of judgement? 12 _____
- explains why Mary had to escape to England? 13 _____
- tells you that Elizabeth was the last of the Tudors? 14 _____
- deals with Mary's unfortunate marriages? 15 _____

Rival queens: Elizabeth Tudor and Mary Stuart

A Queen Elizabeth I of England and Mary, Queen of Scots, were both fascinating monarchs in their own right, but even more intriguing was the power struggle that raged between them. Their relationship is the story of two queens ruling on one island, each embodying dramatically opposing qualities of character, ideals of womanliness and religious faiths. Both women had a claim to the throne of England: Elizabeth was the Protestant daughter of King Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn; Mary was the grand-daughter of Henry VIII's sister Margaret, who had married James IV of Scotland, a Catholic. Elizabeth was Mary's elder by only nine years. Both women were ambitious, passionate and cunning. Yet despite their similar status as queens and cousins, they were also very different from each other.

B Mary became Queen of Scots only six days after her birth in 1542, upon the death of her father, King James V of Scotland. In 1548 she was sent to France, to grow up at the Court and finally marry the Dauphin, who was king as François II from 1559 to 1560. Her status was never in question, and therefore she never questioned it herself.

Elizabeth's path to her throne was much more tumultuous. When her mother was beheaded so that Henry VIII could marry his third wife, the 3-year-old princess was declared illegitimate and removed from the succession. Ultimately her place in the succession was reinstated, but this in no way guaranteed that she would ever become queen. First in line was her Protestant half-brother Edward, who died young. Next came the devoutly Catholic Mary I, Elizabeth's half-sister from Henry VIII's first marriage, under whom Elizabeth even spent some time in the Tower of London. It was only upon Mary's death in 1558, when Elizabeth was 24 years of age, that she finally ascended the throne herself.

C The relationship between Elizabeth Tudor and Mary Stuart was multi-faceted (despite the fact that the two queens never met). For most of her life, Mary referred to Elizabeth as a dear sister, and actively sought her cousin's favour. When, after her husband's death, Mary returned to Scotland, she was 18 and a beauty. She was soon married again, to Lord Darnley, an English Catholic. But when she was tired of him, she allowed herself to agree to his murder and marry the murderer, Bothwell. This foolish act shocked Scottish society and marked the beginning of her ultimate downward slide.

Elizabeth, on the other hand, although she was somewhat jealous of her cousin's romantic exploits and was possessed of deep feeling herself, had realised early on that she could never marry her favourite, Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester. Having inherited a weak, divided country coveted by all the Catholic monarchs of Europe, she was revolutionary in her insistence on ruling alone and inspired in her use of celibacy as a political tool.

D On her return to Scotland in 1561, the Queen of Scots had found a strong internal opposition in a country that was becoming increasingly Protestant. The revolt was led by John Knox, the reformer of the Church of Scotland, and many Scottish lords, secretly encouraged by Elizabeth who feared a unified Catholic Scotland, took up arms against their Queen.

Fleeing from Scottish rebels, Mary thought to run to Elizabeth for refuge and support but, from the very moment she crossed the border in 1568, English Catholics began plotting to make her Queen of England, with the intention of restoring Catholicism.

Elizabeth kept her virtually prisoner in a remote castle for more than eighteen years, during which she could never bring herself to have her cousin executed for treason. Only when irrefutable proof of Mary's involvement in a plot to assassinate her was produced, did Elizabeth finally consent to sign the death warrant: Mary Stuart was beheaded on February 8, 1587.

When Elizabeth died in 1603, at the unusual age of 70, the throne of England went to her nearest relative: James VI of Scotland, the son of the rival queen and her murdered husband, Lord Darnley.

KEYS

1 B - 2 D - 3 C - 4 A - 5 C - 6 B - 7 A - 8 A - 9 B - 10 D - 11 D - 12 C - 13 D - 14 D - 15 C