

Catholic beliefs in the 16th century

The appearance of the Church should be grand to celebrate God and his importance therefore Churches were to be elaborately decorated with statues and shrines. Elizabethan Catholics believed that Church services and the Bible should be in Latin, as they had been for a thousand years. They saw the role of priests as the link between God and the people. The Pope was a representative of God, and had been especially chosen by him. The role of priests was incredibly important; they were expected to remain unmarried and to devote their lives to God. They wore elaborate robes to celebrate their importance. Priests were also able to forgive sins of the people. This could be facilitated by individuals who left gifts, or indulgences, which were given to the Church.



Protestant beliefs in the 16th century

Elizabethan Protestants believed that Church services and the Bible should be in the language of the people so that the ordinary people could understand them. For the same reason, the Church should be plain in appearance so the wealth of some did not intimidate others and also to allow the people to concentrate on the sermons of the priest. The clergy in the Protestant Church are ordinary people who should lead normal lives and wear ordinary robes. They can choose to marry if they wish and have a family. There is no hierarchy in a person's relationship with God - people could find God without a priest and there is no Pope or God's elected person with any authority. Only God could forgive sins, no one else.

	What did Catholics believe?	What did Protestants believe?
Services		
Priests		
Appearance of the church		
Sins		
The Bible		

Factors for the diamond nine exercise

<p>Both France and Spain were strongly Catholic countries who had the support of the Pope.</p>	<p>Catholicism remained strong in the North and West of England.</p>	<p>Mary I had burnt 289 Protestants during her reign for being heretics.</p>
<p>Up to 8,000 of the clergy were considered to be Catholic in their beliefs, although they remained loyal to the Queen.</p>	<p>The House of Lords was largely Catholic, whilst the House of Commons was largely Protestant.</p>	<p>It is thought that up to a third of the nobility and gentry were Catholic.</p>
<p>London, the South East, and East Anglia were strong areas of Protestantism.</p>	<p>Some English Protestants who had fled abroad in the time of Mary I returned. These individuals, called Marian Exiles, had strong reformist views and opposed any compromise towards Catholics.</p>	<p>Elizabeth's Privy Council, dominated by William Cecil, was largely Protestant. Some members such as Robert Dudley displayed Puritan sympathies.</p>

