

Paper 2, Question 5a

Describe two features of Mary, Queen of Scots' threat to Elizabeth I. (4 marks)

Exam tip

Keep your answer brief. Two points with some extra information about each feature is all you need.

Average answer

Some people said that Mary, Queen of Scots, had a stronger claim to the English throne than Elizabeth I.

Some Catholics plotted to put Mary, Queen of Scots, on the throne.



The answer identifies two features, but there is no supporting information.

Verdict

This is an average answer because two valid features are given, but there is no supporting information.

Use the feedback to rewrite this answer, making as many improvements as you can.

Strong answer

According to contemporaries, Mary, Queen of Scots, had a stronger claim to the English throne than Elizabeth I. Some Catholics thought that Elizabeth was illegitimate and should not be queen of England.

There were several Roman Catholic plots to put Mary, Queen of Scots, on the throne. The Ridolfi plot of 1571 was organised by an Italian Catholic banker with support from the pope.



The answer has identified two features. It describes what some Catholics thought of Elizabeth I's claim. It also gives an example of a plot that shows that other countries were involved, reinforcing the level of threat.

Verdict

This is a strong answer because it gives two clear features of Mary, Queen of Scots' threat to Elizabeth I and gives extra detail to make the descriptions more precise.