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# GCSE HISTORY

Paper 2 Section B/C: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

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## Interpretations Booklet

**Interpretation A** for use in answering Question 01



**Interpretation A** An interpretation of the Earl of Essex.

Adapted from an article by Richard Cavendish in 'History Today', 2001.

Essex soon charmed the elderly Queen when he arrived at Elizabeth's court in his early twenties. He was tall, handsome and generous, but also arrogant and reckless. He showed daring but little judgement on military expeditions. Elizabeth gave him titles and a monopoly which made him wealthy but Essex was vain and jealous which made him easily offended and unwilling to be ruled by a woman. He failed in Ireland, which he blamed on enemies at Court. He then ignored Elizabeth's orders by returning to England where he plotted to seize the Queen and take control of the government.

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