Success of Poor Laws – Helped many poor people, helped reduce threat of rebellion, system remained for 200 years, poverty still rose.

**The Issue of Unemployment and Vagrancy**

**Government Legislation**

1563- Statute of Artificers – compulsory 7 year apprentice 1572- Vagrancy Act – punishments for vagrants 1576- Act for Relief of the Poor – 1 House of correction per county 1598- Act for Relief of the Poor –Overseers appointed to supervise 1598- Act of Punishment for Rogues – vagabonds banned (begging) 1601- Act for Relief of Poor – legal framework to attack poverty

Thomas Harman wrote a book about Vagabonds- Hooker – stole items. Clapper Dudgeon – arsenic Doxy – female, hid items in bag Abraham Man – acted mad Ruffler – ex-soldiers threatening Drumerer – acted dumb Counterfeit Crank – sucked soap

**Lifestyle of the Gentry**

Copied lifestyle of rich

**Homes** – Modernised stone, brick or half-timbered homes. Large windows, fireplaces and brick-built chimneys.

**Fashion** – modern, stylish outfits, without fine threads or jewels.

**Education** – grammar schools, Oxford / Cambridge, became lawyers or clerics.

**Lifestyle of the lower classes**

**Homes**- Lived in smaller homes, one room with animals, an earth floor with timber frame walls. Wattle and Daub infill with thatched roofs. **Fashion-** possessed few changes of clothes, usually made of cloth. **Education and Leisure-** very little education, only church Sunday schools if lucky, little time to socialise, went to local inn for cock fighting or bear baiting.

**Lifestyle of the rich**

How they increased wealth – agriculture, specifically sheep farming rather than labour intensive work / exploitation of minerals / advantageous marriages

**Homes** – ‘Great Rebuilding’ / Mansions / Symmetrical houses (E or H) / Large glass windows / large fireplaces / long gallery for socialising/ Burghley House **Fashion** – latest fashion with finest material (silk or linen) and fine jewels. **Education** – home tutored in classics and languages, Daughters taught how to run a house as they would do in the future.

**Poverty in Elizabethan Times**

Impotent poor- unable to work, needed poor relief Able-bodied poor- capable of work, but unwilling/unable

Causes of Poverty -

* Rural Depopulation – Countryside to towns
* Rack renting – sharp increase in rents
* Costly foreign wars – unemployed soldiers
* Rising population – (2.7 million to 4.1 million)
* Changes of farming methods

**Contrasting Lifestyles of Rich and Poor**

**20%-30% lived on edge of poverty, bad harvests and rising unemployment tipped them over the edge.**

The Monarch - Queen Elizabeth I

Nobles and Lords - Great Landowners, 50 families earning £6000 per year

Gentry – lesser landowners, 10,000 families earning £200 per year.

Wealthy Merchants – buying and sell goods, 30,000 families // Professionals – the emerging middle class like doctors and clergy.

Yeoman – owned property with a few servants / Tenant Farmers – rented 10-30 acres of land (100,000 families.

Cottagers – small gardens and small-scale industries / Skilled Artisans – men with a trade

Landless unskilled labourers – seasonal jobs, unemployed The Poor and the Unemployed

LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND POOR