**Practice Question 2**

Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain reasons behind the Northern Rebellion of 1569.

Source 1

The main impetus moving the earls from conspiracy to revolt lay in the actions of the Queen, who feared their intentions. Admittedly, she had reasons aplenty to be suspicious of Thomas Percy, seventh earl of Northumberland. His family had a tradition of both loyal service and rebellion; the latter had most recently been exhibited by his father’s participation in the Pilgrimage of Grace [1536]. Long a traditionalist, and deemed a “rank papist” in 1559, he became formally reconciled to the Catholic Church in late 1567 or early 1568 by Master Copley, a wandering priest. His wife, Anne, was a strong-minded woman who shared his religious views. His revived Catholicism sharpened his existing sense of grievance at the slights and insults he had received at Elizabeth’s hands.

And insults he had received in abundance. To the detriment of his and other ancient families, the early Tudors has pursued the twinned projects of taming “overmighty subjects” and extending effective royal control into outlying regions.

K. J. Kesselring, *The Northern Rebellion of 1569: Faith, Politics and Protest in Elizabethan England* (2007), p. 46

Source 2

From 1568 political and diplomatic developments allowed the government to rally Protestant support in the face of a international Catholic threat. In May 1568 the deposed Mary, Queen of Scots arrived in Cumberland. As both a Catholic and a direct claimant to the English throne, through her mother, Henry VIII’s sister, Margaret, she was a focus for Catholic discontent in the north of England. In the autumn of the same year Anglo-Spanish relations broke down with John Hawkins’s attack on Spanish treasure ships off the cost of Mexico, signalling the end of the Hapsburg alliance. 1568 was an crucial year for English Catholics. The government’s fear of a Catholic plot in the wake of Mary, Queen of Scot’s arrival in England seemed well-founded.: towards the end of 1568 prominent Catholic gentry openly refused to attend church services in defiance of the Act of Uniformity. In September 1569 quarrels at court led to the flight and arrest of the duke of Norfolk, the champion of Catholic interests, and in November the northern earls, Thomas Percy, earl of Northumberland, and Charles Neville, earl of Westmoreland, rose in rebellion in favour of Mary and there were pro-Catholic rebellions in Ireland. The Northern rebellion was crushed; the government’s reaction was harsh, 450 rebels were hanged. Catholic JPs were faced with accepting the Supremacy and Act of Uniformity or be deprived. On 22 February 1570 the Pope issued the bull Regnans in Exclesis, excommunicating Elizabeth in a belated sign of support for the northern rebellion. The move against Catholics in 1569-70 marked the end of the government’s confused policy of most of the 1560s. ‘From now on Catholics were to be trusted less and less. Patriotism, if not religious conviction, demanded that all good subjects of the Queen look upon them as the enemy’. Royal authority was reasserted and a distinctly Elizabethan England, based upon Protestant patriotism and loyalty to the queen, was beginning to emerge.

David Grummitt, ‘Early Elizabethan England: the Reassertion of Royal Authority’, (unpublished paper)