Question:

Write an account of the troubles faced by Elizabeth I at home.
(8 marks)

Answer:

Firstly, Elizabeth faced troubles at home with the religious settlement. There was extreme tensions between Catholics and Protestants since Henry VIII introduced the Church of England. Elizabeth wanted to find a balance between Catholicism and Protestantism to ease religious tensions so passed two laws in 1559. The Act of Supremacy made Elizabeth the Supreme Governor of the Church, and denying this was considered treason. And the Act of Uniformity made Protestantism England's official faith, and set out rules of religious practice. This retained some Catholic practices in the hopes that this would keep Catholics happy. Although there was broad support for this religious settlement, not everyone was happy with the changes Elizabeth had made. Catholics, as well as Puritans, objected the compromise.

This religious tension between Protestants and Catholics led to Elizabeth facing more troubles at home with Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary was Elizabeth's cousin, and was a Catholic, so she was supported by those that wanted a Catholic monarch in England. Mary was involved in a number of plots against Elizabeth, including the Babington plot of 1586. Babington was a young Catholic that plotted to kill Elizabeth and place Mary on the throne, in order to restore Catholicism in England. Babington wrote to Mary explaining his plot, however Walsingham intercepted the letters and showed the evidence to Elizabeth. This led to Mary's trial for treason, for which she was found guilty and executed. This caused major trouble for Elizabeth, as demonstrated how determined the Catholics were to remove her from the throne, and also worsened relations with Spain, which was a Catholic country with ties to Mary.

Feedback:

This answer would get 8/8 marks because the pupil has identified 2 key troubles faced by Elizabeth I at home (religious settlement and Mary, Queen of Scots). They have explained each point in depth using historical information, and written the events in chronological order, using links between the points.