**THE NATURE OF CHALLENGE**

**TO A PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS TRADITION OVER TIME**

**Area of Study 4.1**

**Outcome:** To discuss, analyse and compare stances and supporting responses

taken by religions as they are challenged

The second part of this Area of Study requires the analysis and comparison of 4 examples of challenges over time to theology, ethics and continued existence of a particular Religious Tradition/Denomination. In order to demonstrate this second part of the Area of Study, the following knowledge and skills need to be developed.

**For a Particular Religious Tradition/Denomination over time - Analyse and Compare**

An Overview of Challenges (minimum 4) involving theology, ethics and continued existence for at least one Religious Tradition/Denomination.

* the sources of the challenges the aspects of religion which are involved
* when and where the challenges occurred/are occurring
* the aspects of religion which are involved
* what makes the challenges significant
* the stances adopted in the face of challenges
* the responses supporting the stances

**Interpret, Synthesise and Apply**

Reference to a variety of both Primary and Secondary Resources is helpful in order to support the above analysis, explanation and comparison.

**Religious Tradition - Christianity over time- 1st Century to 21st Century CE**

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| **Category of Challenge** | **Continued Existence** | **Ethics** | **Theology** | **Mixture** |
| **Identification** | Becoming a Separate Religion | Conversion of Pagans | The Great East West Schism | The Great Western Schism |
| **Sources** | Expulsion from Judaism  Roman redefinition of Judaism to exclude Christians (Gentile or Jewish) | Expansion of Christianity into New World Countries  Disagreement over what constitutes being human  Different ethical principles  re salvation and violence | Long standing disagreements over the Trinity, papal authority, leavened or unleavened bread in Eucharist, finally brought formal break between Eastern Orthodox Church and Roman Catholic Church | Political tension aggravated by growing prominence of France in hierarchy of Church.  Reformist policy of Pope Gregory XI and offensive behaviour of Pope Urban VI lead to split in Cardinals allegiance |
| **When** | 84CE  96CE  Till 400’sCE | 16th and 17th centuries CE | 1054 CE | 1378-1417 CE |
| **Where** | Synagogues  Rome | Rome  New World Countries | Initially Constantinople and southern Italy, becoming wide spread through East and West Europe | Three centres for Western Christianity each with own Pope and supporters, both religious and political, in Rome, Anagni and Avignon |
| **Aspects Involved** | Beliefs  Rituals  Texts  Symbols  Social Structures  Ethics  Places, Spaces, Times, Artifacts | Ethics  Beliefs  Texts  Symbols  Rituals  P,S,T,A | Beliefs  Rituals  Power and authority of Pope  Places and Spaces | Social Structures in the Power and authority of Pope; unity of Church; confusion for adherents.  Beliefs |
| **Significance** | Now an illegal religion in Roman Empire, open to outright persecution depleting numbers in certain communities and at varying times. Also problems of authenticity in leadership, teachings and practice and of faithfulness (apostasy) developed | Contradicted earliest ethical teachings of Jesus, Paul (1st century CE) and Pope Gregory 1 (601CE)  Lead to genocide.  Discredited Christianity in eyes of New World countries | Unity of Church broken  Lead to intolerance and violence between the two branches of Christianity  Lead to many calls for reform in Western church coming from political and religious leaders. | Danger of disintegration of Church.  Initial internal dispute spread to diplomatic leaders. Began the disharmony that would fester and lead to the Reformation. |
| **Stances** | Keep low Profile  Spread the Word  Faithful resistance  Antipathy  Denial | Accommodation of and respect for other cultures within Christianity  We’re right, you’re wrong-no flexibility | Both claimed to be “The One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church”. | Each faction maintained their authentic right to the Papacy |
| **Supporting Responses** | Living out the Word  Accepting martyrdom  Critical and abusive tracts  Secrecy, Conversion | Blend Christianity with local mores, seek common ground.  Tact and tolerance.  Work first with elite.  Aggressive and intolerant assault on native cultures mores and practices.  Ignore the earlier teachings and enforce inflexible Christianity with violence as necessary. | Retained their divergent views over the authority of the Pope, the understanding of Trinity and various ritual practices. | Forcefully demanded allegiance from Christians in their jurisdiction  Engaged political and military support from secular leaders. |