

4.1 THE NATURE OF CHALLENGE OVER TIME TO CHRISTIANITY

Area of Study 4.1

Outcome: To analyse and compare stances and supporting responses taken by religious traditions or religious denominations as they are challenged

The second part of this Area of Study requires the analysis and comparison of **3** 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 needs to be developed.

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

From the Overview of Challenges done in the first part of this Area of Study (which would have included the particular tradition, **three** challenges are chosen involving theology and/or ethics and/or continued existence for one Religious Tradition/Denomination.

- the sources of each of the three challenges
- when the challenges occurred/are occurring
- the aspects of religion involved in each of the three challenges
- why each challenge was significant
- the stances adopted in the face of each of the three challenges
- the supporting responses for the stances of each of the three challenges

Interpret, Synthesise and Apply

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

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

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	16 th and 17 th centuries CE	1054 CE	1378-1417 CE

Aspects Involved	Beliefs Rituals Texts Symbols Social Structures Ethics Places, Spaces, Times, Artefacts	Ethics Beliefs Texts Symbols Rituals Places, Spaces, Times, Artefacts	Beliefs Rituals Social Structures in 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 (1 st 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	Various Keep low Profile Spread the Word Faithful resistance Antipathy Denial	Accommodation of and respect for other cultures within Christianity OR We're right, you're wrong-no flexibility	Hostile intolerance 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. OR 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.