**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 – Roman Catholicism**

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| **Category of Challenge** | **Continued Existence or Ethics or Theology or Mixture**  A theological challenge |
| Identification | The Arian Heresy |
| Sources | The teachings of Arius concerning the nature of the Trinity and of Jesus Christ |
| When | 4th century |
| Where | Impacted of the all of Christianity at the time – Northern Africa, Rome, Constantinople in particular |
| Aspects Involved | Social Structure, texts |
| Significance | Of critical importance as it defined major beliefs in the tradition – it dealt with the humanity and divinity of Christ |
| Stances | Arius: "If the Father begat the Son, he that was begotten had a beginning of existence: and from this it is evident, that there was a time when the Son was not. It therefore necessarily follows, that he had his substance from nothing".  Athanasius of Alexander: Took the opposing stance arguing that Christ was both fully human and fully divine  Emperor Constantine: stance that unity had to be established in the Tradition – avoid a schism. |
| Supporting Responses | The Council of Nicaea. |