**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**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category of Challenge** | **Continued Existence or Ethics or Theology or Mixture**  **Ethics, theology and continued existence** |
| Identification | The challenge of demands for religious freedom |
| Sources | The Cold War and Civil Rights Movement |
| When | 20th century |
| Where | The debate began in both Western Europe and the United States and culminated at Vatican II in Rome. |
| Aspects Involved | Texts, social structures |
| Significance | In the 1960s through to the 1980s this was seen to be significant as the survival of Roman Catholicism in Communist Europe was threatening the existence of the religion in the Eastern Block countries. In America it was seen to be of significance as the Roman Catholic Church was losing relevance in a society in which civil disobedience was seen as important to bringing peace and justice in the world of racism, the Vietnam War, Feminism etc. The debate was about the authority of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. |
| Stances | John Courtney Murray – American Jesuit provided the theology of religious freedom in which the individual must act conscientiously.  Vatican II: the release of the Decree on Religious Liberty  Cardinal Pell: argues that this decree is consistent with the teachings on Church authority |
| Supporting Responses | Statements by Pope Benedict with regard to the relationship between the Catholic Church in China and the government of China; Statements by Pope John Paul II on the Solidarity movement in Poland pre-1989; the current debate about religious freedom in Australia. |