

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
	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.