

Name _____
Eighth Grade Religion Comprehensive Examination Answers

Question # One (25 points) The Early Church

1. The Teachings of St. Augustine of Hippo
 - a. Original Sin is man's powerlessness to be the friend of God without God's help.
 - b. Free Will is the choice we have to either accept or reject the offer of God's friendship.
 - c. Grace is God giving us everything we need in order to be His friends. We just have to accept his grace freely given.
 - d. Baptism washes away Original Sin in the sense that I have made a fundamental choice for God by saying, "Yes I want to accept God's grace in my life. I accept God's help in becoming His friend."

2. The Great Councils (For each council explain the heresy and explain the dogma defined.)
 - a. Nicaea

Heresy: Arius is the priest from Alexandria in Egypt. He teachings that Jesus is not divine and during the Incarnation God did not become man. His teaching is called Arianism.

Dogma: Athansius was the champion of the Council of Nicaea. He helped the Council to write the Nicene Creed which says that Jesus is one in being with Father; God from God, light from light, true God from true God. Therefore Jesus is divine and at the Incarnation, God did become man.

 - b. Ephesus

Heresy: Nestorius, the bishop of Constantinople was teaching that Jesus was 2 persons. He was a divine person and a human person. His divine person was housed in his human person.

Dogma: The Council of Ephesus declared that Jesus is one person with two natures. Jesus has a fully divine nature and a fully human nature. Mary is the Theotokos, the God-bearer; the Mother of God.

 - c. Chalcedon

Heresy: An old monk from Constantinople named Eutyches was teaching that Jesus' human nature was absorbed by his divine nature; therefore Jesus was not fully human.

Dogma: The Council reaffirmed the Council of Ephesus, stating that Jesus is one person with 2 natures. Jesus is fully divine and fully human.

7. Explain the Trinity.

When we say God is a Trinity we mean that God is triune. That is we believe that there is one God who has revealed Himself as Three Persons. The Second Person of the Trinity has 2 natures. The

Second Person of the Trinity was incarnated in Jesus and Jesus has two natures; fully divine and fully human. The three Persons are:

- Creator who we call Father (created to be God's friends).
- Savior (became a man to show us how to live in friendship with God) we call the Son was incarnated in Jesus who is fully divine and fully human.
- Sanctifier (to sanctify means to make holy/helps us to become God's friends today) we call the Holy Spirit.

Question # Two: (25 points)

Who's Got the Power? Who Will Dominate the Church/State Partnership?

1. What is the purpose of the Church/State Partnership? The purpose of the Church/State Partnership is to create an orderly and stable society. By the Church and State working together there can be common values and rules by which everyone lives.
2. Fill in the timeline:
 - a.) Pre-313: There is no partnership at this time. The Roman Empire has made Christianity illegal and is fiercely persecuting Christians.
 - b.) 313: The emperor Constantine ends the era of persecution by issuing the Edict of Milan which legalizes Christianity. Constantine begins to bestow favors and benefits on the Church. The partnership begins.
 - c.) 313 – 400: The Empire dominates the partnership. The emperors view the Church as a department within their government. This is the time of caesaropapism.
 - d.) 400 – 476: The Empire is decaying and crumbling. The power of the emperors is decreasing in the West. The papacy is beginning to fill in the power vacuum left behind by lack of imperial leadership. This is the time when Pope Leo I declares himself the Pontifex Maximus.
 - e.) 476 – 1500: The Church and the papacy dominate the partnership. It is the Church who is taming the barbarians and Christianizing them, stabilizing society, crowning kings and emperors. It is the Church who gives birth to European culture by combining the old Roman culture with the barbarian world thus creating European culture. This is the time of Christendom.
 - f.) 1500 – 1648: We have the mess of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations. It is the time of dissent and religious wars. Europe is torn apart by all of this.
 - g.) 1648 – 1789: This is the age of the Absolute Monarchs. There is no longer one Christian Church in Europe. Rather we have now the Catholic Church and many, many Protestant Churches. We have the Catholic world and the Protestant world. Kings and emperors seek to have total control over their subjects; including their religious practice. Every country has its' Established Church, the state sponsored church, whether it is Catholic or Protestant. All other illegal churches are persecuted. Kings and emperors attempt to totally control the Church within their country.
 - h.) 1789 – present: There is a strict separation between Church and State. The partnership no longer exists. This separation is often hostile while the government tends to limit the power and the influence of the Church. Oftentimes the government passes laws restricting the freedoms of the Church to preach and teach.

Question # Three: (25 points)

Popes of the Nineteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries

Describe the major contribution of each of the following popes.

1. **Pius IX (1846 – 1878)** Had the longest papacy in history. Was pope during the Fall of Rome and the loss of the Papal States. Began a new era of strong moral and spiritual papal leadership. Called for Vatican I which defined the dogma of Papal Infallibility. Defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.
2. **Leo XIII (1878 – 1903)** First pope to be born after the French Revolution. He dealt with the new social problems arising from the Industrial Revolution. Wrote the papal encyclical *Rerum Novarum* which called for a new world order in which the rights of the urban industrial worker would be respected. Supported the rights of workers to form unions and seek fair wages.
3. **Pius X (1903 – 1914)** The first pope of the 20th century. Called for greater involvement of lay people in the work of the Church. Promoted Catholic Action groups. Encouraged the daily reception of Communion. Lowered the age of when a child could receive their First Communion to age 7.
4. **Benedict XV (1914 – 1922)** Pope during World War I. Condemned World War I as being unjustifiable and caused by a lust for power and extreme nationalism. Spent huge sums of money, nearly bankrupting the Vatican in order to care for the victims of the war, refugees, wounded, homeless. At the end of the war he called on the victors not to blame Germany for the war and to create a just peace. They refused to listen to his advice, thus planting the seed for World War II.
5. **Pius XI (1922 – 1939)** Through his three papal encyclicals he confronted the three major social evils of the early 20th century; Fascism, Nazism, and Communism. He negotiated the Lateran Agreement of 1929 establishing Vatican City and creating peace with the new Italian kingdom.
6. **Pius XII (1939 – 1958)** Pope during World War II. Worked extensively behind the scenes to protect as many Jews as possible from the horrors of the Holocaust. After World War II he had to deal with the oppression of the Church by Communism throughout Eastern Europe.
7. **John XXIII (1958 – 1963)** Elected to be a transitional, caretaker pope. Shocked the world by calling for Vatican II which would update the Church and help the Church to become an important influence in the world. Wrote a papal encyclical which called for world leaders to work for peace.
8. **Paul VI (1963– 1978)** Brought the Second Vatican Council to a successful conclusion. Spent his years implementing the teachings of Vatican II throughout the Church. Held the Church together and from splitting due to schism.
9. **John Paul I (1978 – 1978)** Had the shortest papacy in modern history. Died in his sleep of a massive heart attack after being pope for 33 days.
10. **John Paul II (1978 – 2005)** Had the second longest papacy in modern history. The first non-Italian pope in 455. The first Polish pope. Very instrumental in the collapse of world-wide Communism in a peaceful manner. Prepared the Church to enter the 3rd millennium.

11. **Benedict XVI (2005 – 2013)** Says the greatest problems facing the Church and society today are relativism and secularism. Relativism says that there is no objective truth; that all truth is subjective. Secularism says that religious values have no place in the public arena or the public forum. Benedict tells us that without objective truth and the freedom to bring our religious values to have an influence in society, society and civilization will undo itself and collapse. Resigned from the papacy in February 2013 stating he did not have the physical strength necessary to guide the Church.

12. **Francis (2013 --)** The first pope to be elected from Argentina, from the Americas, from South America, Latin America. Before his election to the papacy he was Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires. Before being chosen to become a bishop he spent many years as a Jesuit serving the Society of Jesus in many areas including as Provincial Superior of all Jesuits in Argentina. He is the first Jesuit in history to be elected as a pope. All throughout his life and in all the many roles he has served, his primary concern has been for the poor and neglected in society. By taking the name Francis he recalls to mind St. Francis who embraced a life of poverty in order to serve all and reminds the Church of its primary mission to serve the poor and the needy.