

TOPIC I: CHURCH HISTORY

A. Before the Great Schism of 1054, the main Christian churches that accepted the decisions of the first four Ecumenical Councils (mainly the churches of Rome and Constantinople) were beset by a number of heresies. Describe briefly 1) the essential belief of each heresy, and 2) the belief of the church that it contradicted. 3 pts. each: two for correct identification of heresy, 1 pt. for correct identification of the belief it contradicted.

1. Gnosticism

2. Marcionism

3. Nestorianism

4. Iconoclasm

5. Monothelism (also called Monoenergism)

6. Monarchianism (also called Modalism)

7. Pelagianism

A . Briefly 1) identify (by profession or standing in society) the following significant persons and 2) note what they are best known for in church history (2 pts. each; 30 pts. total).

Augustine

Anselm

Athanasius

John of Damascus

Cyril of Alexandria

Diocletian

Ulrich Zwingli

Irene

Gregory Palamas

Honorius I

John Chrysostom

Leo I (of Rome)

Phillip the Fair

Theodosius

Urban II

C. Why are the following locations important in Church history from its origins through 1560 (give at least one important reason for each) (2 pts. each; 16 pts. total).

1. Canossa

2. Antioch

3. Avignon

4. Alexandria

5. Geneva

6. Münster

7. Florence-Ferrara

8. Wittenberg

D. Answer ONE of the following three questions (10 pts.)

A. The “filioque controversy” is the single most important theological reason for the split between the Eastern and Western branches of Christianity. Describe 1) what the controversy is about; 2) when, where and why the use of the “filioque” first arose; 3) the two main reasons why it was rejected by the Eastern churches; 4) how the absence or presence of the “filioque” is to this day reflected in the religious mentality and practice of Eastern and Western churches.

B. Describe three critically important historical events or confrontations involving the Pope of Rome and other bishops or secular rulers in which the Pope asserted his supreme authority and in this way tried to confirm his claim to be the final arbiter in spiritual and/or secular affairs.

C. Based on the life of Martin Luther, describe the gradual radicalization of the Protestant revolt against Roman Catholicism: how it began, how it developed, and what its most radical manifestations were.

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TOPIC II: CHURCH DOCTRINE AND ECCLESIOLOGY

A. Define the following terms (3 pts. each; 33 points total)

1. Apophatic theology

2. Conciliarism

3. Soteriology

4. “Penal substitution” theory of atonement

5. “Real Presence”

6. Essence vs. energies

7. “Natural revelation”

8. Theosis

9. Justification

10. “Sola Scriptura”

11. Monergy

B. Give brief (3-4 sentences) answers to the following questions

1. Name two major Christian groups that practice infant baptism and one which is opposed? What are TWO arguments given in favor of infant baptism and two opposed? (8 pts.).

a. Groups (denominations) that practice it:

b. Group (denomination) opposed to it:

c. Two arguments in favor:

d. Two arguments opposed:

2. The word “tradition” means different things for Eastern Orthodoxy, Roman Catholicism and most versions of Protestantism. Describe these differences. (6 pts.)

3. Define what “sacrament” means from a Protestant perspective, list the two sacraments most commonly acknowledged by Protestants and the main reason they reject other sacraments (7 pts.).

4. List the sacraments acknowledged by Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy that most Protestants do not accept as sacraments (5 pts.).

5. What is the major difference between the way Eastern Orthodoxy views the nature and consequences of Adam and Eve’s sin, and the way its nature and consequences are interpreted in the Catholic and most Protestant traditions? (5 pts).

6. Although Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism both have similar views on the sacraments, there are many differences between them. List three sacraments where differences emerge, and specify at least one difference for each of the three. (6 pts.)

C. Pick ONE of the following two questions and give a detailed answer in essay form (15 points).

C.1 A theologian might rightly argue that there is a real, direct correlation between 1) a church’s belief regarding the nature and significance of the Eucharist and 2) the way the church organizes itself as an institution and conducts its worship services. Explore this hypothesis.

C.2. The role and significance of “good works” is different for each of the three major Christian

divisions we have studied. Describe in detail these differences and the theology underlying the differences.

TOPIC III: LITURGY AND WORSHIP

A. A very important feast day in the Roman Catholic Church is the Immaculate Conception. Why is it so important in Catholicism, and why is the theology underlying the Immaculate Conception rejected by Eastern Orthodoxy? (6 pts.)

B. Describe the tripartite structure common to early Christian church buildings and why Protestant churches in particular deviate from this architectural norm. (6 pts.).

C. Icons play an important role in the Orthodox Church, and to some extent in the Roman Catholic Church. Most Protestant churches reveal an “iconoclastic” spirit, at least historically. What are two

arguments AGAINST the creation and veneration of icons, and two corresponding COUNTER-ARGUMENT in defense of icons? (8 pts.).

1a. Against:

1b. Counterargument

2a. Against

2b. Counterargument

D Here are the names of seven major feasts celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions (and also in some Episcopalian churches). Give a brief description about which event each one celebrates. Then pick out the ones that are “fixed feasts” and the ones that are “moveable feasts” and explain the difference between these two categories (8 points).

The Annunciation celebrates...

The Ascension celebrates...

Christmas celebrates...

Easter/Pascha celebrates...

Palm Sunday celebrates

Pentecost celebrates...

The Transfiguration celebrates...

The three: “fixed” feasts in the list above are...

They are called “fixed” because...

The four “moveable” feasts are...

They are called “moveable” because...

IV. Are there some areas not covered on this exam that you studied for very well, and you wish you could demonstrate your knowledge? Pose up to three questions, give the answers, and earn up to six points in extra credit:

Question #1:

Answer:

Question #2:

Answer?

Question #3:

Answer: