



2023 History of Catholicism Examination Elementary and Middle School Division

Name _____

Country OR State _____

Division (circle ONE) – Elementary Middle School

ID Number _____

Instructions – Mark your answers on the scantron provided. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are worth –1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points.

1. Which of these is considered the first Pope of the Catholic Church?

- A. St. Peter
- B. St. Stephen
- C. St. Leo
- D. St. Boniface

2. The 451 CE Council of Chalcedon said that Jesus was which of these?

- A. completely divine
- B. separately human and divine at the same time
- C. part divine, part human, and part evil
- D. completely human and not divine at all

3. All of these were key to the growth of early Christianity in the Roman Empire EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the Pax Romana
- B. the extensive road network in the Roman Empire
- C. the existence of urban areas and large settlements
- D. the extensive knowledge of Hebrew and Aramaic in the early Empire

4. Which of these is NOT one of the synoptic Gospels?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

5. Which of these was one of the most important figures in the spread of early Christianity, establishing communities in places like Athens, Cyprus and Malta?

- A. St. Cyril
- B. St. Methodius
- C. St. Paul
- D. St. George

6. Which of these was NOT an important group that embraced the early Christian religion?

- A. slaves
- B. Roman and Jewish high priests
- C. poor people in cities
- D. aristocratic and wealthy women

7. Saint Denis of Paris is the most famous of the Catholic martyrs who is depicted carrying which of these?

- A. the True Cross
- B. a sword and shield
- C. Jesus's body
- D. his own head

8. The first persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire in the historical record occurred under the reign of which emperor?

- A. Nero
- B. Vespasian
- C. Julius Caesar
- D. Marcus Aurelius

9. By the early fourth century CE, which of these had become the most significant heresy of the early Church?

- A. Paulicianism
- B. Bogomilism
- C. the Humiliati
- D. Arianism

10. The Council of Nicaea, held in 325 CE, established which of these foundational church doctrines?

- A. the doctrine of the Holy Trinity
- B. the Immaculate Conception of Mary
- C. papal infallibility
- D. indulgences

11. In *On the Literal Meaning of Genesis*, St. Augustine contributed greatly to the modern interpretation of what significant concept?

- A. transubstantiation
- B. resurrection of the dead
- C. original sin
- D. the Assumption of Jesus

12. The Second Council of Nicaea in 787 CE attempted to address a major church controversy started by Byzantine Emperor Leo III that banned the veneration of which of these?

- A. the Virgin Mary
- B. religious icons
- C. the True Cross
- D. the Bible

13. In the 'Pentarchy' devised by Justinian the Great, which of these patriarchates was second in importance to Rome in governing the Church?

- A. Constantinople
- B. Jerusalem
- C. Antioch
- D. Alexandria

14. Which of these broke away from the Catholic Church in the Great Schism of 1054?

- A. Lutherans
- B. Albigensians
- C. Monophysites
- D. Orthodox Christians

15. Which of these is NOT considered one of the Great Church Fathers of the Western Church?

- A. St. Augustine
- B. St. Jerome
- C. Pope Formosus
- D. St. Ambrose

16. In Catholic theology, which of these is a place of temporary punishment for the purification of souls?

- A. Hell
- B. Purgatory
- C. Heaven
- D. Limbo

17. Popes Leo the Great and Gregory the Great were instrumental in establishing which of these principles, which establish the Bishop of Rome as the most important leader of the church?

- A. papal infallibility
- B. magisterium
- C. papal primacy
- D. ex cathedra

18. St. Anthony the Great, who lived as a hermit in the Egyptian desert in the 4th century, is considered the father of what spiritual tradition in the Church?

- A. wearing priestly robes
- B. the sign of the cross
- C. monasticism
- D. Catholic education

19. Which of these, a noted theologian and philosopher during the 13th century, wrote the *Summa Theologica* and was given the title 'Doctor Humanitatis' by Pope John Paul II in 1999?

- A. Benedict of Nursia
- B. Bernard of Clairvaux
- C. Bede the Venerable
- D. Thomas Aquinas

20. Which of these ended the Investiture Controversy in 1122?

- A. the 'Walk to Canossa'
- B. the First Lateran Treaty
- C. the Concordat of Worms
- D. the Council of Trent

21. The Spanish Inquisition, established in 1478, aimed to do which of these?

- A. convert Jews and Muslims to Catholicism
- B. suppress heresy and dissent within Catholicism
- C. spread Catholicism to the New World
- D. establish Catholic dominance in Europe

22. Which Pope called for the First Crusade in 1095?

- A. Pope Urban II
- B. Pope Innocent III
- C. Pope Gregory the Great
- D. Pope Adrian IV

23. In Medieval Catholic history the 'Babylonian Captivity' refers to a period when the papal court was located in which of these?

- A. London
- B. Constantinople
- C. Avignon
- D. Vienna

24. The doctrine of transubstantiation, articulated in the thirteenth century, which asserts which of these become the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist?

- A. the Bible
- B. the voices of the congregation
- C. thoughts and prayers
- D. the bread and wine

25. The papal bull *Inter caetera*, issued in 1493, divided the newly discovered territories of the world between

- A. France and England
- B. Spain and Portugal
- C. Italy and Germany
- D. the Netherlands and Sweden

26. Beginning in 1562, the Holy League fought a decades-long war against which of these in France?

- A. the Lollards
- B. the Quakers
- C. the Huguenots
- D. the Puritans

27. The Reformation Parliament, beginning in 1529, laid the groundwork for the break of which country with the Catholic Church?

- A. Spain
- B. Portugal
- C. Prussia
- D. England

28. Which of these best defines an indulgence, the sale of which helped spur the Reformation?

- A. confessing sins to a priest
- B. a way to reduce the amount of punishment one has to undergo for sins
- C. visiting a holy place or shrine
- D. a lesser sin that does not result in complete separation from God

29. The Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits, was founded by which of these in the sixteenth century?

- A. Saint Augustine
- B. Saint Thomas Aquinas
- C. Ignatius of Loyola
- D. Saint Francis of Assisi

30. Which of these was published by Martin Luther in 1517 and helped to begin the Protestant Reformation?

- A. *Confessions*
- B. *Ninety-five Theses*
- C. *Sic et Non*
- D. *The Apology*

31. The Council of Trent, held from 1545 to 1563, was a significant event for the Catholic Church that did which of these?

- A. initiated Catholic Counter-Reformation
- B. established the separation of church and state
- C. ended the practice of communion
- D. recognized the authority of the Pope over secular rulers

32. St. Francis Xavier played a significant role in spreading Catholicism to which of these places in the sixteenth century?

- A. Japan
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Brazil

33. The reign of Pope Innocent XI from 1676 to 1689 was marked by repeated conflicts with what powerful European monarch?

- A. Alfonso IV of Portugal
- B. Louis XIV of France
- C. Philip IV of Spain
- D. Charles II of England

34. Franciscan priest Junipero Serra was instrumental in establishing missions in which of the following in the eighteenth century?

- A. Brazil and Chile
- B. Guatemala and El Salvador
- C. Haiti and Santo Domingo
- D. California and Mexico

35. Roberto de Nobili, a Jesuit missionary, pioneered the practice of inculturation while working with the St. Thomas Christian congregation in what modern-day nation in the 16th century?

- A. Canada
- B. India
- C. Russia
- D. Norway

36. The Kangxi Emperor outlawed Christian missionaries in 1721 during what Chinese dynasty?

- A. Ming
- B. Yuan
- C. Qing
- D. Han

37. The *Index of Forbidden Books*, compiled by the Catholic Church in the late sixteenth century, aimed to do which of these?

- A. prohibit books considered heretical or immoral
- B. promote literacy and education among the clergy
- C. preserve ancient manuscripts and texts
- D. encourage the translation of the Bible into local languages

38. Which of these was NOT a crisis faced by the Church during the Enlightenment?

- A. skepticism
- B. the consolidation of papal authority
- C. criticism of church institutions
- D. growing secularism

39. In the 1839 papal bull *In supremo apostolates*, Pope Gregory XVI condemned which of the following practices?

- A. slavery
- B. capitalism
- C. absolute monarchy
- D. war

40. The Immaculate Conception is the belief that which of these was born without the burden of original sin?

- A. Joseph
- B. John the Baptist
- C. Elizabeth
- D. Mary

41. Pope Pius VI was taken prisoner by which of the following in 1798, shortly after the War of the First Coalition?

- A. Frederick William II
- B. Napoleon
- C. Charles IV
- D. George III

42. The papal bull *Sollicitudo omnium ecclesiarum*, issued by Pope Pius VII in 1814, restored what religious order that had been banned in 1773?

- A. the Dominicans
- B. the Benedictines
- C. the Jesuits
- D. the Cistercians

43. In 1793 during the French Revolution, France replaced the Roman Catholicism with a cult of which of these?

- A. brotherhood
- B. reason
- C. liberty
- D. democracy

44. John Carroll, the first American appointed both a bishop and archbishop, was a resident of what US state with historical ties to Catholicism?

- A. New York
- B. Pennsylvania
- C. Maryland
- D. Georgia

45. In the 1891 encyclical *Rerum novarum*, Pope Leo XIII advocated which of these?

- A. communism
- B. unregulated capitalism
- C. fair treatment of workers
- D. universal healthcare and old-age pensions

46. Which of these is NOT true of Pope Pius IX?

- A. he convened the First Vatican Council
- B. he declared himself a 'prisoner of the Vatican' after the capture of Rome
- C. he issued the Syllabus of Errors to condemn modernism
- D. he had one of the shortest reigns of any pope since the Middle Ages

47. Which of these, devised in the 19th century, is the concept that the Pope is preserved from error when speaking on matters of faith and morals?

- A. papal infallibility
- B. holy orders
- C. indoctrination
- D. confirmation

48. The Papal States were a region of Italy directly ruled by which of these until 1870?

- A. the King of Italy
- B. the Pope
- C. the King of France
- D. the Holy Roman Emperor

49. Which of these is NOT true of Pope Benedict XV's response to World War I?

- A. he referred to it as 'the suicide of civilized Europe'
- B. he excommunicated Catholics in the Central Powers
- C. he attempted to broker peace agreements to end the war
- D. he facilitated prisoner exchanges and arranged food aid for effected countries

50. The Reichskonkordat, signed in 1933, was an agreement between the Vatican and which of these governments?

- A. Switzerland
- B. the Netherlands
- C. Germany
- D. Luxembourg

51. In the 1950 encyclical *Humani generis*, Pope Pius XII conceded that which of these might be an acceptable belief?

- A. use of birth control
- B. evolution
- C. natural childbirth
- D. premarital sex

52. The version 'Ostpolitik' in which Pope John XXIII engaged during the Cold War involved which of these?

- A. dialogue with both Eastern European Communist nations and Eastern Orthodox Christians
- B. reconciliation with Israel and the Jewish faith
- C. interfaith dialogue with Hindus and Muslims
- D. the opening of the Vatican to Italian communists

53. The Vatican City, an independent city-state within Rome, became the sovereign territory of the Catholic Church in which century?

- A. the 16th
- B. the 18th
- C. the 19th
- D. the 20th

54. Which Pope convened the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, initiating significant reforms in the Catholic Church?

- A. John XXIII
- B. Paul VI
- C. John Paul II
- D. Benedict XVI

55. In February of 2013, Pope Benedict XVI became the first Pope to do which of these things in nearly 600 years?

- A. die in office
- B. make himself a saint
- C. resign the papacy
- D. be assassinated

56. Pope Francis is the first leader of the Catholic Church from what nation?

- A. Brazil
- B. Argentina
- C. the United States
- D. Russia

57. John Paul I, who reigned for 33 days in 1978, is often given what nickname as a reference to his brief tenure?

- A. 'God's banker'
- B. 'the Hand of God'
- C. 'the Winter King'
- D. 'the September Pope'

58. Pope Paul VI, known as the 'Pilgrim Pope', made history in all of these ways EXCEPT which of the following during his travels in the 1960s and 1970s?

- A. he was the first pope to fly on an airplane
- B. he was the first pope to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land
- C. he was the first pope to visit all seven continents
- D. he was the first pope to visit the Western Hemisphere

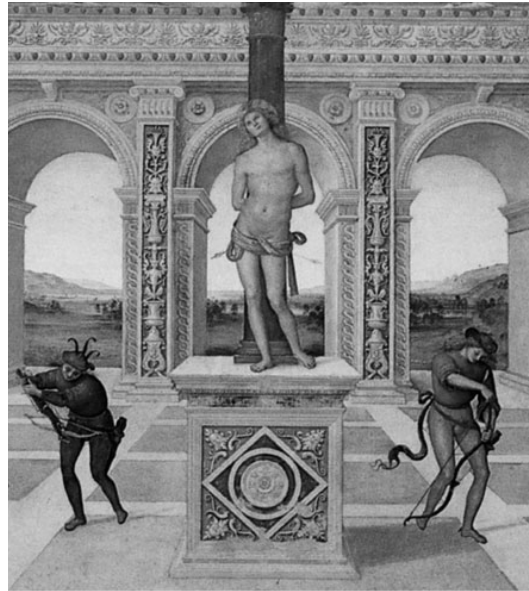
59. Due to the untimely death of John Paul I, 1978 was the most recent year in Catholic history given what name?

- A. 'tragic year'
- B. 'year of three popes'
- C. 'year of repentance'
- D. 'year of forgiveness'

60. The Bojinka plot, which involved a plot to assassinate John Paul II, was devised by what mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing in the US who is currently incarcerated at ADX Florence in Colorado?

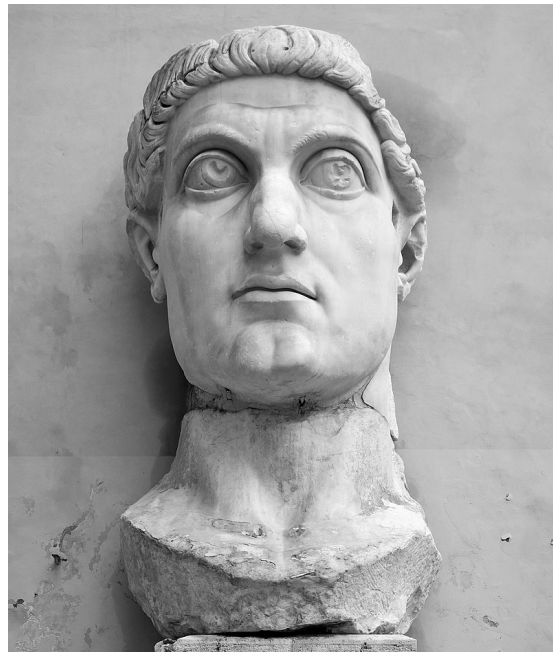
- A. Ramzi Yousef
- B. Timothy McVeigh
- C. Terry Nichols
- D. Eric Rudolph

Use the following images to answer questions 61-75.



61. Saint Sebastian, a frequent subject of Renaissance art, was supposedly healed after his execution was ordered by what method?

- A. crucifixion
- B. being shot with arrows
- C. burning at the stake
- D. drowning



62. The Edict of Milan, issued in 313 CE, granted religious tolerance to Christians in the Roman Empire under the rule of which emperor, pictured here?

- A. Augustus Caesar
- B. Diocletian
- C. Constantine
- D. Maxentius



63. The Edict of Thessalonica, which made the Catholic Church the official religion of the Roman Empire, was issued by what Roman emperor pictured here?

- A. Theodosius I
- B. Valens
- C. Arcadius
- D. Jovian



65. Which of these prominent Italian families produced four popes during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, including Leo XI?

- A. della Rovere
- B. Borgia
- C. Sforza
- D. Medici



64. The 'Warrior Pope', Julius II, established an armed force and honor guard made up of young Catholic men from what country in 1506 that still serves the Pope today?

- A. France
- B. Spain
- C. Switzerland
- D. Greece



66. Thinkers like Denis Diderot, pictured here, advocated the idea of Gallicanism, which said that which of these was comparable to the authority of the pope?

- A. priests and bishops
- B. intellectuals
- C. popular civil authority
- D. the Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church



67. This famous portrait of Pope Innocent X was painted in 1650 by what Spanish artist of *Las Meninas*?

- A. Diego Velázquez
- B. El Greco
- C. Francisco de Zurbarán
- D. Luis de Morales



69. In 1825, Pope Leo XII declared what Catholic celebration, usually taking place every 25 years, in which sins are forgiven and punishments for sins are lessened?

- A. jubilee
- B. consistory
- C. ex cathedra
- D. Marian year



68. In 1844, Andrew Kim, pictured here, became the first Catholic priest of what ethnicity?

- A. Japanese
- B. Korean
- C. Chinese
- D. Thai



70. Which of these, which became dogma in the mid-twentieth century, is the Catholic belief that Mary was taken bodily into heaven by God when she died?

- A. Theotokos
- B. the Annunciation
- C. the Dormition
- D. the Assumption



71. After his 1981 shooting, Pope John Paul II donated the bullet removed from his body to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, a shrine in what nation?

- A. Portugal
- B. France
- C. England
- D. Scotland



72. In 2002, John Paul II asked the media to stop using what name for vehicles like the one seen here because it was 'undignified'?

- A. 'popeswagen'
- B. 'popemobile'
- C. 'popecar'
- D. 'the holy roller'



73. Which of these is NOT true of Pope Benedict XVI?

- A. he was over 75 years old when he was elected to the papacy
- B. he was the first German pope since the 11th century
- C. he lived to the age of 95 but was not the longest-lived pope in history
- D. he had been an academic and Dean of the College of Cardinals prior to his election in 2005



74. Black smoke from the chimney in the Sistine Chapel indicates which of these during a papal conclave?

- A. a new pope has been elected
- B. the cardinals are counting the votes
- C. the old pope has died
- D. a vote has been counted but a new pope has not been elected



75. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe pictured here is related to a sighting of Mary in what heavily Catholic nation in the sixteenth century?

- A. Mexico
- B. Portugal
- C. Brazil
- D. Spain

Tiebreaker

This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the exam. There is no penalty for a wrong answer to this question. Write your answer legibly on the back of your scantron.

As of 2021, how many Catholic parishes are there in the world?