



**The Magisterium**

The nature of the Catholic Magisterium and its exercise in both its ordinary and extraordinary forms by both popes (pontifical) and councils (conciliar) with reference to Evangelium Vitae (65)

The nature and importance of the Second Vatican Council, its history and four key documents

**Key Sources of Authority**

“Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person’s life.” Evangelium Vitae

“The Church should never depart from the truth inherited from the Fathers. But at the same time she must ever look to the present, to the new conditions and the new forms of life introduced into the modern world.” Pope John XXIII

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5: 16

| Key Beliefs   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| What did Evangelium Vitae teach?  | Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), a key encyclical of Pope John Paul II in 1995, is, in his words, a “pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life!” This involves care for the innocent, weak and vulnerable, love for enemies, care for creation and the environment. |   |
| Why was Vatican II necessary?   | The Catholic Church had spread throughout the world; attitudes to the family were changing; after the war the world needed a moral force for good; lot of things in the Church were out of date and needed to be ‘freshened up’.  |   |
| What were the 4 key documents of Vatican II and how did they change the Church? | GAUDIUM ET SPES (Joy and hope) encouraged Catholics to work for peace and Justice (this led to the creation of CAFOD)   | LUMEN GENTIUM (Light of the people) explained how ordinary (lay) people can be involved in the work of the Church to be ‘lights to the world’ (e.g. become readers, sing in choir etc.) |
|   | DEI VERBUM (Word of God) outlined the importance of the Bible. Encouraged Catholics to study the Bible  | SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM (Sacred liturgy) made changes to the mass and how people worship to make it simpler and more understandable (no longer in Latin; priest faces the people etc.)   |
|   |   |   |

### Exam Practice

What do Catholics mean by the ‘**Magisterium**’? (2)

Explain the importance of the **Second Vatican Council**. (8)

### Key Connections

How do the key documents of Vatican II relate to Church teachings on Abortion, Euthanasia and Stewardship?

How do the key documents of Vatican II relate to the work of CAFOD/ SVP and the Catholic duty to evangelise?