The Two Popes
A papal tête-à-tête by Anthony McCarten

07th June – 12th July 2024

Teachers’ Resource Pack
This teachers’ pack includes information as well as tasks and topics to be dealt with in the classroom. The tasks do not necessarily build on each other. Cut and paste as you please, and please consult the official program for additional information.
Background information

The Author

Anthony McCarten

Anthony McCarten is a New Zealand-born novelist, playwright, journalist, television writer and four-time Academy Award nominated filmmaker. He is best known for writing the biopics *The Theory of Everything* (2014), *Darkest Hour* (2017), *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018) and *The Two Popes* (2019), and producing motion pictures that entertain and inspire through the examination of some of history’s most interesting people. He received Academy Award nominations for Best Adapted Screenplay for *The Theory of Everything* and *The Two Popes*, and won two BAFTA awards for the former. Notably, the first three of these films won consecutive Oscars in the Best Actor category (for Eddie Redmayne, Gary Oldman and Rami Malik). *Bohemian Rhapsody* is the second highest grossing box-office drama of all time, after *Titanic*. His non-fiction work, *Darkest Hour*, was a Number 1 *Sunday Times* Bestseller. He lives in London.

The Director

Psyche Stott

Psyche is a freelance Theatre Director. Her work has taken her to Rome, Australia, Europe and throughout the UK. *It is a privilege to return to make The Two Popes with the team at The English Theatre Frankfurt, especially whilst they reside at the zoo!* Previous productions for ETF include The German premieres of *The Children* by Lucy Kirkwood and *Girl on a Train* adapted by Rachel Wagstaff. In what seems like a lifetime ago- she won the Channel 4 Regional Directors Award (now the Regional Theatre Young Director Award) enabling her to take up the role of Director in Residence at Northern Stage. Continuing as Associate Director for their UK tour of *Our Friends in the North*. Training also includes the National Theatre Studio. She is a regular guest Director for the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and LAMDA. She is also on the audition panel for RADA. Productions for RADA include: *Against* by Christopher Shinn, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Something Unspoken*, *Kindertransport*, *The Five Wives of Maurice Pinder*, *Women of Twilight*. Productions for LAMDA: *Boudica*, *Duchess of Malfi*, *The White Devil* and scenes from Shakespeare.
Some directing highlights include: **Jekyll & Hyde**, a new adaptation (Story House, Chester); Lucy Kirkwood’s **NSFW** (Platform Theatre London); The 20th anniversary production of David Farr’s **Elton John’s Glasses** (Watford Palace Theatre); **The Fighting Bradfords**, new commission (Gala Theatre, Durham); **Blue Remembered Hills** (Northern Stage & UK Tour); **Skylight** (Teatro Dell’Orologio, Rome); The Australian premiere of the Award winning British hit comedy Calendar Girls (for Gordon Frost Organisation, Lyric Theatre, QPAC Brisbane, Theatre Royal Sydney and Comedy Theatre Melbourne); Calendar Girls (Chichester Festival Theatre and New UK Tour); Pub Quiz (New Writing North and Northeast Theatre Consortium Regional Tour). Directing for BBC Radio: Brian Friel’s **Hedda Gabler** (produced by Sparklab for BBC Radio 4).

www.psychestott.co.uk

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**The Two Popes – Synopsis**

An intimate story of one of the most dramatic transitions of power in the last 2,000 years. Frustrated with the direction of the church, Cardinal Bergoglio requests permission to retire in 2012 from Pope Benedict. Instead, facing scandal and self-doubt, the introspective Pope Benedict summons his harshest critic and future successor to Rome to reveal a secret that would shake the foundations of the Catholic Church. Behind Vatican walls, a struggle commences between both tradition and progress, guilt and forgiveness, as these two very different men confront their pasts in order to find common ground and forge a future for a billion followers around the world.

We first see Pope Benedict, on a weekly private visit to enjoy a TV soap and Bavarian soup, revealing to a horrified Sister Brigitta his plan to retire. We then see the Argentinian Cardinal Bergoglio confronting an equally dismayed Sister Sophia who begs him not to retreat into private life. After a prolonged exposition, the meat of the play consists of a meeting between the two men in Rome that reveals their religious rivalry and shared guilt.

Theology aside, one plays Mozart, the other dances to Abba. The main point, however, is to show that the two men are haunted by a sense of sin: Benedict for being over-protective of his priests and Bergoglio for failing to shield his followers from the military junta.

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**Character descriptions**

**Pope Benedict**
Academically inclined Pope, criticized for being too distant with his followers and for glossing over sexual abuse scandals within the Catholic Church. Traditionalist. Wants to retire and convince Bergoglio to become his successor.

**Cardinal Bergoglio**
Argentinian Cardinal with a dark past, who loves to tango and to listen to Abba. He is an adherent of Liberation Theology. Haunted by guilt. Wants to retire.

**Sister Brigitta**
German nun and Benedict’s book editor. Benedict’s confidante.

**Sister Sophia**
30 year old Argentinian nun. One of Bergoglio’s followers.
Joseph Ratzinger / Pope Benedict

Benedict XVI (born April 16, 1927, Marktl am Inn, Germany—died December 31, 2022, Vatican City) was the bishop of Rome and head of the Roman Catholic Church from 2005 to 2013. Prior to his election as pope, Benedict led a distinguished career as a theologian and as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. His papacy faced several challenges, including a decline in vocations and church attendance, divisive debates concerning the direction of the church, and the effects of the scandal beginning in the late 1990s surrounding the church’s handling of numerous cases of sexual abuse by priests. Citing health issues, in 2013 he became the first pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415.

Early life and career

Ratzinger’s father was a policeman and his mother a hotel cook. The youngest of three children, Ratzinger was six years old when the Nazis took power in Germany in 1933; his parents, who were staunch Catholics, were hostile to the regime. Ratzinger entered the seminary in 1939. In 1941 he was compelled to join the Hitler Youth, and in 1943 he was drafted into the German military, serving in an antiaircraft unit in Bavaria before being sent to Hungary to set tank traps in 1945. He deserted in April of that year and was captured by American forces and held prisoner for a brief period.

After the war, Ratzinger continued his education in the seminary and, later on, taught dogma and theology in Freising, Bonn, Münster and Tübingen. In 1969 he moved to the University of Regensburg, where he later became vice president. During his long academic career, Ratzinger wrote a number of important theological works, including Introduction to Christianity (1968) and Dogma and Revelation (1973). His work in theology attracted attention and he was asked to serve as an expert assistant at the Second Vatican Council (1962–65). One of the more progressive figures at the council, Ratzinger opposed those who hoped to limit reform. Ratzinger’s university years, however, brought about a transformation of his views. The student protests and denunciations of Christianity that he witnessed while teaching at Tübingen reminded him of the tactics of the Nazis and gradually led him to adopt a more conservative theological perspective.

For more than two decades, Ratzinger was the pope’s closest adviser, with whom he shared a similar history, both having lived under totalitarian regimes, and their views concerning the church were substantially the same. Ratzinger earned a reputation as a hard-liner. He condemned liberation theology and suppressed more-liberal theologians such as the Brazilian Leonardo Boff and the American Charles Curran.

Papacy

After John Paul II’s death, Ratzinger was elected pope. Although he said he had prayed not to be chosen, Ratzinger humbly accepted his election on April 19, 2005, becoming at age 78 the oldest newly elected pope since Clement XII (1730–40). Benedict XVI immediately took steps to continue John Paul’s dialogue with Judaism and Islam and with other Christian churches. Further, he declared that one of the goals of his papacy would be to revitalize the Catholic church in Europe. Benedict also indicated that he would maintain his predecessor’s conservative orthodoxy on matters of sexuality, priestly celibacy, and ecclesiastical organization.

In 2010 allegations of sexual and physical abuse by parish priests and in parochial schools—particularly in Germany, Ireland, and the United States—brought Benedict, and his role in the cases in Germany in particular, under close media scrutiny. In a pastoral letter, Benedict rebuked the bishops of the Catholic Church in Ireland for a failure of leadership. In February 2013 Benedict announced that he would resign at the end of that month, citing age and health concerns.
The subsequent election of Pope Francis brought the papacy into uncharted territory with two popes living in Vatican City.

In 2022 a report commissioned by the archdiocese in Munich accused the retired pope of mishandling at least four cases of sexual abuse by priests when he was the archbishop there. Benedict denied wrongdoing in the cases but asked for forgiveness for his handling of the cases. 
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Benedict-XVI

Cardinal Bergoglio / Pope Francis

Pope Francis (Latin: *Franciscus*; Italian: *Francesco*; Spanish: *Francisco*; born Jorge Mario Bergoglio; 17 December 1936) is the Pope and head of the Catholic Church, the bishop of Rome and sovereign of the Vatican City State. He is the first pope to be a member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), the first from the Americas and the Southern Hemisphere, and the first born or raised outside Europe since the 8th-century papacy of the Syrian Pope Gregory III.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Bergoglio worked for a time as a bouncer and a janitor as a young man before training to be a chemist and working as a technician in a food science laboratory. After recovering from a severe illness of pneumonia and cysts, he was inspired to join the Jesuits in 1958. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1969, and from 1973 to 1979 was the Jesuit provincial superior in Argentina. He became the Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and was created a cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II. He led the Argentine Church during the December 2001 riots in Argentina.

Bergoglio’s tenure as head of the country’s Jesuits coincided with the military coup in Argentina (1976) led by Lieut. Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla. During the ensuing Dirty War (1976–83), a campaign by the country’s military dictatorship against leftists and other perceived subversives, between 10,000 and 30,000 people were “disappeared” (kidnapped, tortured, and usually killed) by the military and the police. Bergoglio later claimed to have hidden several people from the authorities, even helping some of them to flee the country. In 1976 two Jesuit priests who had worked in poor neighborhoods were disappeared; they were found alive, but drugged, in a field five months later. Years after the Dirty War, Bergoglio’s role in the priests’ kidnapping and release generated controversy. Some critics faulted Bergoglio for failing to protect the priests and even accused him of turning the men over to the regime. Others accepted Bergoglio’s claim that he covertly interceded with the regime to secure their eventual release.

During the economic crisis in Argentina beginning in the late 1990s, which culminated in 2002 in the rapid devaluation of the country’s currency, Bergoglio acquired a public reputation for humility, living in a simple downtown apartment rather than in the archbishop’s residence and traveling by public transportation or by foot rather than in a chauffeured limousine. He became an outspoken advocate for the poor and an able politician, deftly promoting the church’s position on social matters in meetings with government officials. His theological conservatism, however, set him at odds with the center-left administrations of Pres. Néstor Kirchner (2003–07) and his wife and successor, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner (2007–15). Bergoglio was a particularly vocal critic of Fernández’s social initiatives, including the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2010. Fernández in turn depicted Bergoglio as a right-wing extremist and a supporter of the Videla dictatorship.

In February 2013 Bergoglio was elected pope and chose the name Pope Francis. Francis took charge of a church at a crossroads. In the early 21st century Roman Catholics constituted more than one-sixth of the world’s population, many of them in Latin America and Africa. Yet scandals, particularly the clergy sexual abuse scandals that first arose in the 1980s and ‘90s, undermined the church’s stature, particularly in the United States and Europe. In his earliest public addresses and in his first public mass, Francis called for spiritual renewal within the church and greater
attention to the plight of the poor, and he sternly condemned the forces that diverted the church from its ministry and set it at risk of becoming a “pitiful NGO.” He also reached out to his political opponents, including Fernández, whom he invited to his first official papal address. Yet he incensed some traditionalists by appearing on that occasion in a simple tunic rather than in the more traditional papal garments.

Francis soon became noted for making statements that conveyed an openness to different perspectives on Catholic doctrine, particularly regarding social issues and sexual ethics. Such statements were subsequently either toned down by the Vatican or seemingly contradicted by Francis himself. For example, Francis surprised both liberals and traditionalists when in a September 2013 interview with an Italian Jesuit magazine he criticized the church for having been “obsessed” with issues such as homosexuality, abortion, and birth control. That remark encouraged speculation both within and outside the church that a major shift in Catholic teaching and practice on such matters as same-sex marriage and contraception would follow. Yet, in the following year, Francis spoke out against same-sex marriage and defended the “traditional” family. Moreover, he affirmed the church’s categorical opposition to abortion. Although Francis spoke sympathetically of women’s rights and acknowledged women’s historical role in the church, he did not endorse the ordination of women as priests.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Francis
https://britannica.com/topic/cardinal-Roman-Catholicism

**Jesuits**

- The Society of Jesus is a male order of the Catholic Church, with 19,000 members worldwide
- It was established in 16th Century Europe as a missionary order, and members swear vows of poverty, chastity and obedience
- The order became so powerful that it was suppressed at the end of the 18th Century but later restored
- Jesuits have a reputation as expert communicators

**Argentina’s “Dirty War”**

The Dirty War (Spanish: Guerra sucia) is the name used by the military junta or civic-military dictatorship of Argentina (Spanish: dictadura cívico-militar de Argentina) for the period of state terrorism in Argentina from 1974 to 1983 as a part of Operation Condor, during which military and security forces and death squads in the form of the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance (AAA, or Triple A) hunted down any political dissidents and anyone believed to be associated with socialism, left-wing Peronism, or the Montoneros movement.

It is estimated that between 10,000 and 30,000 citizens were killed; many of them were “disappeared”—seized by the authorities and never heard from again.

On March 29, 1976, five days after Argentine Pres. Isabel Perón was deposed, a three-man military junta filled the presidency with Lieut. Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla. The junta closed the National Congress, imposed censorship, banned trade unions, and brought state and municipal government under military control. Meanwhile, Videla initiated a campaign against suspected dissidents. Throughout the country the regime set up hundreds of clandestine detention camps, where thousands of people were jailed and persecuted. Because leftist guerrillas had been widely active in the country beginning in the late 1960s, the Argentine government, which maintained that it was fighting a civil war, initially faced little public opposition, but this began to change in
the late 1970s, with growing evidence of civil rights violations. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, an association of women who had lost children and grandchildren to the Dirty War, began calling international attention to the plight of the desaparecidos (“disappeared persons”) through weekly Thursday afternoon vigils in the Plaza de Mayo, fronting the presidential palace; the vigils continued until 2006. A particularly vocal critic of both left- and right-wing violence was Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, who was arrested and tortured in 1977 and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980. For the most part, however, opposition was choked off by rigorous censorship, strict curfews, and fear of the secret police.

Videla was succeeded in March 1981 by Gen. Roberto Viola, who, with the Dirty War near its end, was quite unable to control his military allies. In December he was shouldered aside by Lieut. Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri. Galtieri faced a slumping economy and increased civil opposition to military rule. After he launched Argentina’s disastrous invasion of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands (see Falkland Islands War), he was removed from office on June 17, 1982, three days after the conflict ended. Gen. Reynaldo Bignone was installed as president on July 1, 1982. Under Bignone political parties were allowed to resume activities, and general elections were announced; meanwhile, elements of the armed forces worked to conceal evidence of crimes committed during the Dirty War.

Democracy was restored to Argentina when Raúl Alfonsín of the Radical Civic Union, a major centre-left political party, won the presidential election of 1983. Shortly after his inauguration, he reversed legislation passed under Bignone by announcing plans to prosecute several members of the defunct military government, including former presidents Videla, Viola, and Galtieri. He also repealed a law granting amnesty to those accused of crimes and human rights violations during the Dirty War, and hundreds of military personnel were prosecuted.

The term "Dirty War" was used by the military junta, which claimed that a war, albeit with different methods (including the large-scale application of torture and rape), was necessary to maintain social order and eradicate political subversives. This explanation has been questioned in court by human rights NGOs, as it suggests that a "civil war" was going on and implies justification for the killings. During the 1985 Trial of the Juntas, public prosecutor Julio Strassera suggested that the term "Dirty War" was a euphemism to try to conceal gang activities as though they were legitimate military activities.

Although the junta said its objective was to eradicate guerrilla activity because of its threat to the state, it conducted wide-scale repression of the general population. It worked against all political opposition and those it considered on the left: trade unionists (half of the victims), students, intellectuals including journalists and writers, rights activists and other civilians and their families. Many others went into exile to survive and many remain in exile today despite the return of democracy in 1983.

The role of the Catholic Church
In the 1960s, the vast majority of Argentines—some 90 percent—were Catholic. Church and state were closely linked, and the Catholic hierarchy enjoyed a privileged position; many members of the military government considered themselves Catholics and counted numerous clergy and Catholic civilians among their supporters. At the same time, hundreds of priests, clergy members, and laypeople became targets of the military regime. Influenced by liberation theology, Vatican II, and the Medellin conference of 1968, these Catholics felt called to transform the world by working for social justice, particularly by ministering to the poor. Their actions were viewed with increasing suspicion by the junta. The Dirty War, then, was a conflict between Catholic victims, Catholic perpetrators, and Catholic witnesses.
Catholics in Argentina during the Dirty War should be categorized in three groups. First are the **antisecular, conservative reactionaries** who “wanted to rebuild a Catholic fortress to be defended against the world,” and who worked within the military dictatorship, or collaborated with it, to purify Argentina by “disappearing” the people they perceived as subversives—including those Catholics who worked with the poor. The second group, **institutional Catholics**, including many within the Catholic hierarchy, sought primarily to preserve the church’s privileged position vis-à-vis the state; as a result, they generally supported the military regime, avoiding public condemnations of human-rights violations—though, as Morello points out, many worked behind the scenes to come to the aid of persecuted citizens. The third group, **committed Catholics**, sought to confront poverty and inequity in society. This group was the one targeted for state repression.

President Jorge Videla and other state leaders, **paranoid about Marxist infiltration** of the church, branded Catholics who worked with the poor as communists—“enemies who misinterpreted Catholic doctrine”—and trumpeted the state’s “divine mission” to purify Argentine Catholicism by ridding the country of “compromised” Catholics. By the mid-1970s, raids, attacks, and assassinations of Catholic clergy had become almost commonplace.

Liberation Theology

Gustavo Gutiérrez, a Peruvian theologian, was the founder of a progressive movement within the Catholic church known as liberation theology, and while he was never censured in the manner that some of his philosophical compatriots were, there were often rumblings that Gutiérrez was being investigated by Pope John Paul II’s doctrinal czar, a German cardinal named Joseph Ratzinger who would later become Pope Benedict.

In its **height in the late 1960s and 1970s**, liberation theology—a distinctly Latin American movement—preached that it was not enough for the church to simply empathise and care for the poor. Instead, believers said, the church needed to be a vehicle to push for fundamental political and structural changes that would **eradicate poverty**, even—some believed—if it meant supporting armed struggle against oppressors.

In Nicaragua, priests inspired by liberation theology took an active part in the 1979 Sandinista revolution against Anastasio Somoza’s rightwing dictatorship. The philosophy also influenced leftist rebels in Mexico and Colombia, where one of the main guerrilla factions was led for nearly 30 years by a defrocked Spanish priest, Manuel Pérez.

**Pope Francis** has never proclaimed himself to be a liberation theologian and was even a critic of aspects of the movement when he was still known as Father Bergoglio in his native Argentina, according to papal biographers. “He was very critical of the liberal Marxist version of liberation theology,” said Austen Ivereigh, who has written a biography of Pope Francis. “At that time, you had leftwing movements in Latin America but in fact these were middle-class movements, which [Bergoglio] believed used the poor as instruments.

But since his election as pontiff in 2013, Pope Francis’s insistence that the church be “for the poor”, and his **pointed criticisms of capitalism and consumerism** have gone a long way to rehabilitate the liberation theology movement and incorporate it within the church.
Scandals within and Criticism against Catholic Church & Attempts of Problem Solving

During its long history, the Catholic Church has been subject to criticism regarding various beliefs and practices. Within the church, this often involves opposition or support for practices associated with traditionalist Catholicism. In the past, different interpretations of scripture and various other critiques contributed to schisms such as the schism with the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Protestant Reformation. The Catholic Church has also been criticized for some of its historical actions, such as the church's promotion of the Crusades, and at various times by nationalist groups who feared the influence of Catholicism in undermining their regime. Furthermore, the Catholic Church has been criticized for not practicing ordination of women to the priesthood, and last but not least, its handling of incidents of sexual abuse, and various inter-faith interactions.

There have been many cases of sexual abuse of children by priests, nuns, and other members of religious life in the Catholic Church. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the cases have involved many allegations, investigations, trials, convictions, acknowledgement and apologies by Church authorities, and revelations about decades of instances of abuse and attempts by Church officials to cover them up. The abused include mostly boys but also girls, some as young as three years old, with the majority between the ages of 11 and 14. Criminal cases for the most part do not cover sexual harassment of adults. The accusations of abuse and cover-ups began to receive public attention during the late 1980s. Many of these cases allege decades of abuse, frequently made by adults or older youths years after the abuse occurred. Cases have also been brought against members of the Catholic hierarchy who covered up sex abuse allegations and moved abusive priests to other parishes, where abuse continued.
**Vocabulary and Expressions**

**religious terms**

**ballot**: a system of voting secretly on an issue

**celibacy**: abstention of sexual intercourse

**congregation**: type of department of the Curia

**communion**: a Christian sacrament in which consecrated bread and wine are consumed as memorials of Christ's death or as symbols for the realization of a spiritual union between Christ and communicant or as the body and blood of Christ

**convent**: group of nuns who live together

(the Roman) **Curia**: group of various Vatican bureaus of the Holy See that assist the pope in the day-to-day exercise of his primatial jurisdiction over the Roman Catholic Church

**doctrine**: a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, political party, or other group

**Holy See**: The government of the Roman Catholic Church, which is led by the pope as the bishop of Rome. The Holy See forms the church’s central government and makes decisions on issues of faith and morality for Catholics throughout the world

**Infallibility**: the fact of never being wrong, failing, or making a mistake

**martyr**: a person who sacrifices something of great value and especially life itself for the sake of principle

**parish**: the ecclesiastical unit of area committed to one pastor

**pontificate**: to perform functions of the pope or other high officials in church

**protodeacon**: a senior cardinal (deacon) who is in order of appointments. In case of participating in a conclave as a cardinal elector, he announces the election and name of a new pope

**sacrament**: a Christian rite, that is believed to have been ordained by Christ and that is held to be a means of divine grace or to be a sign or symbol of a spiritual reality

**seminarian**: a student in a seminary especially of the Roman Catholic Church

**Vicar**: an Anglican priest who is in charge of a church and the area it is in

**Others**

(military) **Junta**: a government led by military leaders. Refers to the Dirty War (1974 – 1983), a period of state terrorism under military dictatorship in Argentina

**to put a cat among the pigeons**: to say or do something that causes trouble or makes a lot of people very angry
Lesson Material

Pre-Watching Tasks

The role of religion
Flashlight: Think about and form one or two sentences about your personal stand on religion in general.

Think/ Pair/ Discuss: Gather the role of religions in our society on the one hand and possible criticism and reasons for leaving a church on the other.

The meaning of shoes¹

1) - Take off your shoes and line them up in front of the class-room.
   - Look at the compilation and think what the different types of shoes might tell you about the owner and why.
   - Share your ideas.

2) In “The Two Popes” shoes play an important role. The play is about a pope who wants to abdicate and talks to his possible successor about his abdication as well as their divergent belief systems. What do their shoes tell us about them and their ways of life?

Left: Pope Benedict VI, right: Pope Francis

3) In “The Two Popes” Cardinal Bergoglio comments on Pope Benedict VI:

“I doubt he will come here [Argentina], to the Villa Miseria, to the little tin palaces of the doomed. His red slippers might get dirty.”

While later on Pope Benedict says to Bergoglio:

“The way you live is criticism. Your shoes are criticism.”

Explain their respective comments in relation to the picture and to your former interpretation of the particular footwear.

Describe the opinion one has about the other.

**Working with the Script**

In “Two Popes” the loss of members and influence plays an important role. Pope Benedict comments to his friend Brigitta on the challenges the Catholic Church faces in our modern world:

*Without God, humanity has no agreed reference point, no axis mundi. Every opinion is as valid as every other. The truth becomes relative. Do away with God and what you actually do away with is any hope of absolute truth. Your truth is yours, mine is mine, locking each person into a prison… the prison of his or her interpretation of good and evil […] That is the great crisis of Western life.*

1) In your own words, what is the great crisis of Western life according to Pope Benedict?

   Name who is responsible for the lack of belief, according to Pope Benedict.

2) Draw a conclusion and name the role of the Catholic Church according to Pope Benedict and his way of facing societal challenges.

3) Discuss his statement. Give reasons for your point of view.

On the other hand, Cardinal Bergoglio also comments on the challenges the church faces, with a different result:

*We have spent the last years disciplining anyone who disagrees with our line on birth-control, divorce and remarriage, being gay. While our planet was being destroyed, while inequality grew like cancer, we worried about whether it was alright to say mass in Latin, whether girls should be allowed to be altar serve[r]s? We built a wall around ourselves and all the time the real danger was inside, inside with us. (…) We knew that there were priests … bishops … great men of the Church who preyed on children. And what did we do?*

1) Sum up Bergoglio’s statement in your own word.

   Name who is responsible for challenges the church faces according to Cardinal Bergoglio.

2) Draw a conclusion and name the role of the Catholic Church according to Cardinal Bergoglio and his way of facing societal challenges.

3) Contrast both points of views pointedly with each other in one sentence.

4) Take a stand. Which point of view do you agree with most and why?

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*As a smaller step before discussing the statements: Other common virtues could be looked for like ethics, political constitutions, human rights…*
While Watching Tasks

Quiz

1) At the beginning of the play, which sign indicates that the new pope has been chosen?
   a) A choir singing
   b) Church Bells Ringing
   c) White smoke
   d) Someone announcing the name of the new pope in front of the Sistine Chapel

2) Which is Pope Benedict’s native language?
   a) German
   b) Latin
   c) Spanish
   d) Italian

3) What do Benedict’s critics accuse him of?
   a) To be unprofessional, emotional and reckless
   b) To be unworldly, cold and retrogressive
   c) To be cruel and arrogant
   d) To be talkative and absent-minded

4) Who is Sister Brigitta?
   a) A nun at Vatican.
   b) Benedict’s imaginary friend.
   c) Benedict’s friend and editor.
   d) Benedict’s secret love affair

5) According to Benedict, what is the great crisis of Western Life?
   a) The loss of real relationships due to Social-Media and mobile phones
   b) The loss of religion as common reference point, resulting in relativity of truth
   c) The loss of identity due to globalization
   d) The loss of faith into the Catholic Church, due to sexual abuse scandals

6) By which means did the Vatican have the church’s “means in order” by the 19th century?
   a) Same-sex marriage was allowed.
   b) All priests had to be castrated.
   c) They reinstated celibacy for priests.
   d) Women were completely banned from Catholic Church premises.

7) Which number of reasons fits Benedict’s motivation to resign best?
   a) His old age leading to him not being strong enough in body or mind
   b) He is longing for a physical relationship at last
   c) He misses his brother and wants to move closer to home.
   d) He starts experiencing early-onset dementia

8) Which element connects the introductory scenes of Pope Benedict and Cardinal Bergoglio?
   a) Benedict hugs a nun at the end of his scene and Bergoglio hugs a nun at the beginning of his.
   b) Both watch “Komissar Rex”
   c) A TV connects both scenes. Benedict watches TV and Bergoglio uses the TV as a metaphor in one of his sermons.
d) Benedict hums something from Mozart at the end of his scene and Bergoglio hums Abba’s “Dancing Queen” at the beginning of his.

9) According to Sister Sophia and Cardinal Bergoglio, what is the main task of the Catholic Church?
   a) Listen to, answer and spread the word of God – making sure, all find their way to Jesus.
   b) Listen to, answer and free the poor – making sure, no one is left behind.
   c) Listen to, answer and obey the word of the pope.
   d) Keep the ban on condoms and the restrictions on women to make sure, enough babies and therefore new church members are born.

10) What are Cardinal Bergoglio’s hobbies?
   a) Reading the Bible and praying
   b) Football and tango
   c) Waltzing and walking
   d) Playing piano

11) Choose the sentence that describes Bergoglio’s and Benedict’s relationship best.
   a) They represent different values and face each other with reserve and sarcasm at first.
   b) They have met before and greet each other as old friends, having a nice chat about the church’s future.
   c) Being representatives of opposite convictions, they face each other with open hostility and loathing.
   d) They have never met before and spend their time with idle chit chat, not really finding something in common.

12) Which conflict describes the theologian’s opposing opinions best?
   a) The Catholic Church needs to missionize more vs the Catholic Church should not allow outsiders to join their belief
   b) Papacy should be abandoned and Protestantism the new rule vs. The Pope should have more political power
   c) Sexually abusive priests should be hanged vs sexual assaults should be hushed up
   d) The church as the unchanging constant against the permissive West vs. Insist less, include more by changing the Church in accordance with changes in society

13) What is Bergoglio’s main concern when he learns about the pope’s plan to resign and for him to take the pope’s place?
   a) That two popes, so different from each other, cannot both be alive and right, and therefore contradict the idea of the pope’s infallibility
   b) That they are both too old to continue and that a younger candidate should be chosen
   c) That he (Bergoglio) has sinned too much in Argentina’s Dirty War to still be a Catholic
   d) That he cannot leave Argentina where he sees his main place of duty.

14) What is Pope Benedict’s greatest sin?
   a) Not to have had more fun in his youth
   b) Having spent too much money while pope
   c) Ignoring facts about child abuse in the Catholic Church
   d) Joining Hitler Youth
Post-Watching

Eleanor Rigby

Trying to find common ground, Pope Benedict and Cardinal Bergoglio talk briefly about music. The worldly Cardinal Bergoglio mentions the famous Beatles’ song *Eleanor Rigby*, which, of course, is completely unknown to Pope Benedict.

1) Listen to the song: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuS5NuXRb5Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuS5NuXRb5Y)
2) Talk about your first impressions of the song.
3) Gather what you understood in terms of content.
4) Listen again, read the lyrics while listening.
Lyrics: Eleanor Rigby by The Beatles

Ah, look at all the lonely people
Ah, look at all the lonely people

Eleanor Rigby
Picks up the rice in the church
Where the wedding has been lives in a dream
Wait's at the window
Wearing the face that she keeps in
A jar by the door who is it for?

All the lonely people
Where do they all come from?
All the lonely people
Where do they all belong?

Father Mackenzie
Writing the words of a sermon
That no one will hear no one comes near
Look at him working
Darning his socks in the night
When there's nobody there what does he care?

All the lonely people
Where do they all come from?
All the lonely people
Where do they all belong?

All the lonely people (All the lonely people)
All the lonely people (All the lonely people)
All the lonely people (All the lonely people)

Eleanor Rigby died in the church and was
Buried along with her name nobody came
Father Mackenzie
Wiping the dirt from his hands as
He walks from the grave no one was saved

All the lonely people all the lonely people

5) Characterize the protagonists and analyze the role of the narrator.
6) Think about and discuss why this is the first song that comes to Bergoglio’s mind when talking about the Beatles.³

³ For advanced students: Take his leaning towards Liberation Theology and his conviction of the church’s role in society into account.
7) Based on Bergoglio’s believes, comment on Father Mackenzie’s theological practice and how it reflects the current crisis of the Catholic Church.
8) Think about possible changes that could be made within the world of the song, so that at the end both are saved instead of no one.
9) Rewrite the lyrics accordingly.
Appendix

While Watching Tasks

Quiz

15) At the beginning of the play, which sign indicates that the new pope has been chosen?
   e) A choir singing
   f) Church Bells Ringing
   g) **White smoke**
   h) Someone announcing the name of the new pope in front of the Sistine Chapel

16) Which is Pope Benedict’s native language?
   e) **German**
   f) Latin
   g) Spanish
   h) Italian

17) What do Benedict’s critics accuse him of?
   e) To be unprofessional, emotional and reckless
   f) **To be unworldly, cold and retrogressive**
   g) To be cruel and arrogant
   h) To be talkative and absent-minded

18) Who is Sister Brigitta?
   e) A nun at Vatican.
   f) Benedict’s imaginary friend.
   g) **Benedict’s friend and editor.**
   h) Benedict’s secret love affair

19) According to Benedict, what is the great crisis of Western Life?
   e) The loss of real relationships due to Social-Media and mobile phones
   f) **The loss of religion as common reference point, resulting in relativity of truth**
   g) The loss of identity due to globalization
   h) The loss of faith into the Catholic Church, due to sexual abuse scandals

20) By which means did the Vatican have the church’s “means in order” by the 19th century?
   e) Same-sex marriage was allowed.
   f) All priests had to be castrated.
   g) **They reinstated celibacy for priests.**
   h) Women were completely banned from Catholic Church premises.

21) Which number of reasons fits Benedict’s motivation to resign best?
   a) **His old age leading to him not being strong enough in body or mind**
   b) He is longing for a physical relationship at last
   c) He misses his brother and wants to move closer to home.
   d) He starts experiencing early-onset dementia

22) Which element connects the introductory scenes of Pope Benedict and Cardinal Bergoglio?
   a) Benedict hugs a nun at the end of his scene and Bergoglio hugs a nun at the beginning of his.
b) Both watch “Komissar Rex”
c) A TV connects both scenes. Benedict watches TV and Bergoglio uses the TV as a metaphor in one of his sermons.
d) Benedict hums something from Mozart at the end of his scene and Bergoglio hums Abba’s “Dancing Queen” at the beginning of his.

23) According to Sister Sophia and Cardinal Bergoglio, what is the main task of the Catholic Church?
   a) Listen to, answer and spread the word of God – making sure, all find their way to Jesus.
   b) Listen to, answer and free the poor – making sure, no one is left behind.
   c) Listen to, answer and obey the word of the pope.
   d) Keep the ban on condoms and the restrictions on women to make sure, enough babies and therefore new church members are born.

24) What are Cardinal Bergoglio’s hobbies?
   a) Reading the Bible and praying
   b) Football and tango
   c) Waltzing and walking
   d) Playing piano

25) Choose the sentence that describes Bergoglio’s and Benedict’s relationship best.
   a) They represent different values and face each other with reserve and sarcasm at first.
   b) They have met before and greet each other as old friends, having a nice chat about the church’s future.
   c) Being representatives of opposite convictions, they face each other with open hostility and loathing.
   d) They have never met before and spend their time with idle chit chat, not really finding something in common.

26) Which conflict describes the theologian’s opposing opinions best?
   e) The Catholic Church needs to missionize more vs the Catholic Church should not allow outsiders to join their belief
   f) Papacy should be abandoned and Protestantism the new rule vs. The Pope should have more political power
   g) Sexually abusive priests should be hanged vs. Sexual assaults should be hushed up
   h) The church as the unchanging constant against the permissive West vs. Insist less, include more by changing the Church in accordance with changes in society

27) What is Bergoglio’s main concern when he learns about the pope’s plan to resign and for him to take the pope’s place?
   e) That two popes, so different from each other, cannot both be alive and right, and therefore contradict the idea of the pope’s infallibility
   f) That they are both too old to continue and that a younger candidate should be chosen
   g) That he (Bergoglio) has sinned too much in Argentina’s Dirty War to still be a Catholic
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a)</th>
<th>10-14 correct answers</th>
<th>4-9 correct answers</th>
<th>0-3 correct answers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☺☺</td>
<td>Congratulations! You understood a lot!</td>
<td>☺</td>
<td>Quite good already! Talk to your classmates again about the play, you might tap into new levels of understanding!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☻</td>
<td></td>
<td>☻</td>
<td>Don’t give up! Talk to your classmates about the parts of the play that are still a bit fuzzy to you.</td>
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