Honors World Studies II

Unit 1 – Renaissance and Reformation

The Catholic Reformation Sources: The Inquisition

*Examine these documents about the Catholic Reformation to identify those items that can be crossed off the “TO DO” list, noting in the “REMEDY” section the change that was made in response to the issue.*

**Document 4A: The Inquisition**

The Inquisition (also called the Roman Inquisition to distinguish it from the Spanish Inquisition) was established by Pope Paul III in 1544 to suppress Protestantism and it was much less severe than the Spanish version. In addition, popular culture had created attitudes toward faith that the Church found objectionable; like the Spanish Inquisition, the Roman Inquisition sought to remold popular culture in accordance with current religious ideals.

In its first years, the Roman Inquisition concentrated on Protestantism. Toward the end of the 1500s, it saw more cases of witchcraft and magic. Though this Inquisition did occasionally use torture, there were restrictions on when and how much it could be employed, and confessions given under torture were not considered valid until the had been confirmed 24 hours later outside the torture chamber. Those accused of crimes had legal counsel and judges were generally quite responsible in their decisions, declining to convict anyone not conclusively proven guilty. Once the Church stopped seeing Protestantism as a threat to religious unity, the Roman Inquisition’s role changed to simply maintaining order and purity of faith among Catholics.

*Adapted from: “Inquisition.” World History: The Modern Era. ABC-CLIO, 2012. Web. 16 Ma 2012.*

**Document 4B: The Inquisition, Primary Source**

Source: Every aspect of life under the Spanish Inquisition:

“The said Inquisitors should order that [heretics and apostates] cannot hold public offices, nor benefices, that they cannot be attorneys, not landlords, nor druggists, nor spice merchants, nor doctors, nor surgeons, nor bloodletters, nor brokers. And they cannot wear gold or silver or coral or pearls or any such thing, nor precious stones, nor wear any sort of silk or camlet… and that they cannot ride horses or bear arms for the whole of their lives on penalty of being guilty of relapsing [into their heresy].”

*Source: Instructions issued for the operation of the Inquisition by the first Inquisitor-General Tomas de Torquemada, Seville, 1484*

**Document 4C: The Inquisition, Primary Source**

*Source: On the use of judicial torture by the Spanish Inquisition:*

“God give me strength to burst rather than tell a lie. And with this he ordered was ordered to enter the torture chamber and he went in with the torture who was ordered to strip him. And standing naked in the flesh… he was again urged to take steps so that the torture did not proceed. And he said: That he had told the truth and that God would not desire him to bear witness against anyone. At this his arms were tied loosely and he was urged to tell the truth. And he replied: seeing that he was in this state, he wanted to tell the truth… And urged to tell the truth, he said: that he had nothing more to say. And with that he was ordered back into the potro [rack] and entered with the torturer, and was urged to tell the truth. He was given one turn of the rope and he said: ‘Ay!, forgive me Lord, let this be a payment for my abominations.’ Urged to say the truth he was given another turn of the rope, and he gave a huge shout: Ay! Ay! Ay! And he said: that it was true that his little sister Anica kept the law that God gave to Moses, and that he had told the truth, and that the Inquisitors should not revenge themselves on him. And he said all this crying, and was urged to tell the truth, and was given a third turn of the rope, and he shouted again: God, Lord of Israel I am being forced to lie, Lord the One God take pity on me! Woe is me! How said to have to lie. And then he said that he had already told the truth and he filled the air with his complaints”

*Source: From the records of the Inquisitorial Trial of Luis de Carvajal, Mexico City, 1596*