

Studies of Religion

Section I (continued)

Attempt Question 11

Answer the question in the space provided.

Question 11 (5 marks)

'The churches should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately.'

Conference on Faith and Order, 1952

Using the above statement and your own knowledge, describe the impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia.

The impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia has been to bring different sects of Christianity together. The above statement is evidence of this. The ecumenical movement aims for differences to be viewed as enriching and something to be celebrated, not condemned, while at the same time working together and standing united rather than opposed.

The "deep differences of conviction" referred to above are not meant to set different sects against each other, but rather encourage them to "agree to disagree" on some matters, and act together on others. The impact of the Christian ecumenical movement has been widespread and has resulted in animosity between different sects being overcome. An example of the work of this movement is combined Catholic and Anglican services.