

a(i)

Question Part

Environmental ethics are of great significance in Christianity, providing a framework by which adherents can best consider and judge their management of the earth. The central environmental ethic to Christianity is that mankind are stewards of the earth as appointed by God. This means they have the responsibility to ensure wellbeing and survival of the earth in order to achieve ~~the~~ salvation (central to Christianity) through adherence to God's will. This is reflected in Genesis 2:15; "The Lord God took Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it", demonstrating God's direct instruction for mankind's stewardship of earth.

(c) (ii)

Question Part

This stewardship is extended to mean that adherents must conserve resources in order to achieve intergenerational equity, reflected in Leviticus 20:28 "Do not slaughter a cow or a sheep and its young on the same day", which demonstrates this preservation and commitment to this stewardship. The Christian denominations have responded to these ethics, recognising treatment of the earth as fundamental to achieving salvation. The formation of Catholic Earthcare Australia in 2002 alongside Pope John Paul II's statement in 1992 "humanity should be orientated to the protection of the earth that God has given us" demonstrates this commitment to stewardship. Similarly, the Orthodox response to Global Warming also shows determination here, shown in Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I's statement "To protect the oceans is to do God's work... to harm it, is to diminish His divine creation". Hence Christians have explicitly rejected their abiding by environmental ethics set by God in order to eventually achieve ultimate salvation in the afterlife.

(b)

### Question Part

Baptism is the Christian initiation rite of passage that marks a person's entry to the Christian faith. This is an essential component of all denominations (except for Salvation Army and the Quakers) as a purification and rebirthing process. The ceremonial application of water (through aspersion, affusion or immersion) represents the cleansing of original sin before God, and is performed either in infancy (Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox) or during adulthood; 'believer's baptism' (Baptist, Pentecostals). Baptism is deemed a necessary component for salvation; "No one can see the kingdom of God unless he has been born again" and in the Catholic perspective is the "necessary foundation and basic requirements for every Christian life" (Catholic Catechism 1212). Baptism holds great significance for both the individual and the community. On an individual level, the person becomes 'saved' through purification and is able to enter faith in a cleansed state. This rebirth allows them to be supported in their spiritual Christian journey, having the community present to support and encourage their initiation. The individual also forges a deeper connection to God, through performance of the same ritual that Jesus underwent (originating from a rite of John the Baptist in the river Jordan), promoting links from past to present. For the community, Baptism allows them to reflect on their vocation as Christians, and is a time for them to unite

in their common beliefs. It is also an opportunity for the community to renew their Christian beliefs, and become enriched by a new member of the Christian faith; "repent and be baptised... you are all sons of God". This promotes a sense of belonging to faith and a community and encourages the continuance of faith. Thus Baptism has large spiritual implications for both the individual and the community.