

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 has been notable in Australia in terms of their work with areas that affect all Christian denominations. An example of an ecumenical group in Australia is the Uniting Church, a group which has done extensive community work with the common Christian ethics of its denominations at its core. It has helped to establish Nursing Homes, Day care centres, etc. and aims to reach out to all members of the community as different denominations under the one group. As well as this, ecumenical movements play a key role in interfaith dialogue, as a group of Christian churches is able to communicate effectively with other religious groups. However, ecumenism is not always possible, as the above statement reflects, due to differences in beliefs, practices and interpretation. Overall though, the ecumenical movements in Australia have had a significant impact on many aspects of religious and community life in Australia.