Religion and Belief Systems in Australia Post - 1945

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Kingsgrove
Two Strands

What does religion look like in Australia?
And how did it get to be that way?

Aboriginal Spirituality
Dreaming
Dispossession
Land Rights
What are you asked to DO?

10 Multiple Choice

5 mark Short answer
Scanned for on screen marking
Restrictions with area
What does the syllabus ask explicitly?

Outcomes

Learn TO statements
Outcomes

H1 explains aspects of religion and belief systems

H2 describes and analyses the influence of religion and belief systems on individuals and society

H3 examines the influence and expression of religion and belief systems in Australia

H4 describes and analyses how aspects of religious traditions are expressed by their adherents

H5 evaluates the influence of religious traditions in the life of adherents

H6 organises, analyses and synthesises relevant information about religion from a variety of sources, considering usefulness, validity and bias

H8 applies appropriate terminology and concepts related to religion and belief systems

H9 coherently and effectively communicates complex information, ideas and issues using appropriate written, oral and graphic forms.
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

discuss how Aboriginal spirituality is determined by the Dreaming
kinship
ceremonial life
obligations to the land and people

discuss the continuing effect of dispossession on Aboriginal Spiritualities in relation to:
separation from the land
separation from kinship groups
the Stolen Generations

outline the importance of the following for the Land Rights movement:
Native Title
Mabo
Wik

analyse the importance of the Dreaming for the Land Rights movement
Learn to statements.....

**outline** changing patterns of religious adherence from 1945 to the present using census data

**account for** the present religious landscape in Australia in relation to:
- Christianity as the major religious tradition
- immigration
- denominational switching
- rise of New Age religions
- secularism

**describe** the impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia
- The National Council of Churches
- NSW Ecumenical Council

**evaluate** the importance of interfaith dialogue in multifaith Australia

**examine** the relationship between Aboriginal spiritualties and religious traditions in the process of Reconciliation
Skills expected of you

- explains
- describes
- analyses
- examines
- evaluates
- organises, analyses and synthesises
- applies
- coherently and effectively
- communicates

Content familiarity IS important but it is what you DO with it that matters

- discuss
- outline
- analyse
- account for
- describe
- evaluate
- examine
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Clear understanding of the Dreaming from Prelim
• Means subtly different things to different indigenous Australians
• Metatemporal: transcends time. Equally of the past the present and the future
• Comes from the land
• Refers to the way that ancestor spirits came from, shaped and formed and returned to the land.
• Informs and is informed by KINSHIP, CEREMONIAL LIFE OBLIGATION TO LAND AND PEOPLES
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

What do we need to DO with this definition or understanding?
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Discuss HOW Aboriginal spirituality is determined by the Dreaming

Kinship
Spirituality for Indigenous Australians is about the totality of life. It is not a separate component of life. Therefore kinship, defined ways of relationship within and between family groupings, which is determined by the dreaming IS going to be connected to Spirituality.

Some important kinship concepts: totem, moiety
Discuss HOW Aboriginal spirituality is determined by the Dreaming

Ceremonial life
Ceremonial life, which is the ritual and artistic expression of the Dreaming, is going to be connected to Spirituality because it is an expression of that Spirituality.

Some important ceremonial life concepts:
Art, music, story, gender
Discuss HOW Aboriginal spirituality is determined by the Dreaming

Obligations to the land and people
Land is of crucial importance to the Dreaming... the inextricable connection...

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have such an inseparable and timeless connection with land and that they often regard the Land as mother.
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Discuss HOW Aboriginal spirituality is determined by the Dreaming

Because of the LAND being so crucial the obligations to the land and people are also crucial they can:
• Only be truly understood by those “elders” with full knowledge of the Dreaming
• Vary according to place
• Vary according to gender and place in the community
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Therefore *country* is the geographical and spiritual place where kinship connections are established and ceremonial life is enacted by different individuals and groups according to their obligations.

Consider:
Due respect is shown in use care and management of the land. Sustainable practices.

Formal protocols of entry and crossing land exist. **Welcome to country.** Fulfils obligation to the land and the peoples by addressing the original custodians and the ancestors past and present.
2012 HSC Question One
What is the basis of the Dreaming?
(A) Ceremonial life
(B) Kinship
(C) Totem
(D) Land
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Applying Your Understanding

2012 HSC Question Five
The traditional role of initiation ceremonies in Aboriginal spirituality has been to prepare young people
(A) for the effects of dispossession.
(B) for their struggle for Land Rights.
(C) to undertake adult responsibilities.
(D) to develop a relationship with the religious traditions.
2012 HSC Question Nine
Burial in one’s ‘country’ is important in Aboriginal spirituality because
(A) relatives can access the burial site.
(B) the deceased’s spirit can be comforted.
(C) relatives can complete the burial rituals.
(D) the deceased’s spirit can return to its ancestors
2012 HSC Question Ten

Statement 1: Kinship within traditional Aboriginal society regulates social relationships, including marriage.

Statement 2: Totemism expresses a system of kinship within the natural world.

Which of the following is correct?
(A) Both statements are true.
(B) Both statements are false.
(C) Statement 1 is false and statement 2 is true.
(D) Statement 1 is true and statement 2 is false.
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Applying Your Understanding

How might THESE questions have become a short answer style question?
WHAT IS DISPOSSESSION?
Literally ... it means to have your possessions removed from you

When applied to Indigenous Australians it is the **forced removal from land**. This removal is as a direct result of a series of government policies... Protectionism, Segregation, Assimilation, Integration.
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Continuing effects of dispossession

BE CAREFUL?
While these government policies are Crucial to understand in the effects of dispossession they are NOT what the syllabus is asking of themselves because:

• Time period...this topic is 1945 to the present
• The syllabus asks for continuing effects of dispossession NOT a lengthy recount of causes.
## Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

### Continuing effects of dispossession

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<td>Estimated Pop</td>
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| Life Expectancy | Males 67 (Aust av. 77)  
                 | Females 72 (Aust av. 86) |
| Incarcerated    | 20% of prison population |
| Unemployment    | 20% |
| Mental health   | 5x national average in drug-induced mental disorders  
                 | 2x national average in schizophrenia,  
                 | 2x3 national average in suicide |
| Homeless        | 9% |
To assist you to understand the CONTINUING effects of Dispossession on Spirituality, consider watching *Kanyini*. This is a documentary about the effects of dispossession on an Aboriginal community told thru the eyes of elder Bob Randall.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAOcfcGDKA
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities
Land Rights Movement
Contemporary Aboriginal Spiritualities

Outline the importance of the following for the Land Rights movement:
- Native Title
- Mabo
- Wik

Analyse the importance of the Dreaming for the Land Rights movement
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Religious expression in Australia
1945 to the present

Outline changing patterns of religious adherence from 1945 to the present using census data

Account for the present religious landscape in Australia in relation to:
  Christianity as the major religious tradition
  immigration
  denominational switching
  rise of New Age religions
  secularism
Religious expression in Australia - 1945 to the present

When preparing your study notes consider...

- Timeframe
- Know your numbers
- Different ways of looking at the numbers
- Different representations for the numbers
- Language of comparison
Census 2011

This graph is very straightforward. It represents Religious Traditions in Australia 2011.
Census 2011

This graph is more confusing. It takes ALL of Christianity as 100% and then divides the whole according to percentage of adherents. You MUST know your stats.
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<td>0.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh-day Adventist</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Protestant</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latter-day Saints</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

# Changes: Relative and Absolute

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>12685.8</td>
<td>13150.6</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>5126.90</td>
<td>5439.20</td>
<td>6.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglican</td>
<td>3718.20</td>
<td>3680.00</td>
<td>-1.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniting</td>
<td>1135.40</td>
<td>1065.80</td>
<td>-6.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>596.70</td>
<td>599.50</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Orthodox</td>
<td>544.20</td>
<td>563.10</td>
<td>3.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>316.70</td>
<td>352.50</td>
<td>11.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>251.10</td>
<td>251.90</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>219.70</td>
<td>238.00</td>
<td>8.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Christian Denominations</td>
<td>776.90</td>
<td>960.70</td>
<td>23.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Christian</td>
<td>1105.10</td>
<td>5.57</td>
<td>1546.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>418.80</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>529.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>340.40</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>476.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>148.10</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>275.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>88.80</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>97.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Non-Christian</td>
<td>109.00</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>168.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequately described</td>
<td>133.80</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No religion</td>
<td>3706.60</td>
<td>18.67</td>
<td>4796.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>2224.00</td>
<td>11.20</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19855.30</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>21507.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What to DO with all this information?
You MUST be able to DESCRIBE AND ACCOUNT for the pattern of religious affiliation in Australia

DESCRIBE
Figures
Trend language
Traditions
Denominations

ACCOUNT FOR
Some of the key factors are:
Immigration
Increased Secularism
Growth of New Age Philosophies
Denominational Switching
Abolition of the White Australia Policy
Formation of the Uniting Church

Specific evidence /reasons needed for each.
Role of Immigration

http://www.theideal.com.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Trend</th>
<th>Causes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945 - 1960’s</td>
<td>•Increase in Catholicism</td>
<td>•Post WWII migration from southern European countries eg Italy, Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>•Middle eastern Conflict sees increase in Lebanese Catholic migrants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•Rise of Orthodoxy</td>
<td>•Post war migration from Orthodox countries especially Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970’s</td>
<td>•Islam becomes 0.3% of Population</td>
<td>•Abolition of the White Australia Policy 1972 allows more Middle Eastern Immigrants escaping war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>•Continued increase in Catholicism</td>
<td>•White Australia Policy abolition also allows refugees from war torn Vietnam and other area of SE Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>Causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1980’s | • Significant decline in Anglicanism. Catholicism becomes the majority Christian religion | • Less immigration from Great Britain  
• More Catholic migration from war torn Balkans and Philippines.  
• Decline in church attendance impacted on Anglican church in this period. |
<p>|        | • Continued growth of Islam                | • Migration from SE Asia, Balkans and Middle East                      |
|        | • Growth of Buddhism                       | • Growth in SE Asian migration especially Indonesia, Malaysia.         |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Trend</th>
<th>Causes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>• Increase in Islam, small increase in Christianity</td>
<td>• Invasion of Iraq and subsequent conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990’s</td>
<td>• Increased Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>• Migration from Armenia and Eastern Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>• Continued increase in Islam</td>
<td>• Migration and refugees from Africa esp Somalia, Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Growth of Buddhism and diversity of Christianity</td>
<td>• Chinese migration from Hong Kong and Mainland China and Korea has brought diversity in protestant Christianity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Growth of Sikhism, Hinduism</td>
<td>• Immigration from the Indian subcontinent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other factors.

Make sure you are clear on the meaning of the following and the way that they have impacted on Australia’s Religious Landscape:

- Secularism
- New Age Philosophies
- Denominational Switching
- And the two that are not explicitly on the syllabus but often get a run!
- Abolition of the White Australia Policy
- Formation of the Uniting Church
Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue

What does the syllabus say?

**describe** the impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia
   The National Council of Churches
   NSW Ecumenical Council

**evaluate** the importance of interfaith dialogue in multifaith Australia
Ecumenism

What is Ecumenism?
Ecumenism refers to the movement towards religious unity amongst Christian denominations.

It is about:
• acknowledgement that unity in Christ outweighs the diversity in practice and beliefs in Christianity.
• developing opportunities to work, worship and dialogue together.

IT is NOT about:
combining all denominations into one.
Religious traditions other than Christianity.
Ecumenism
Ecumenism

describe the impact of Christian ecumenical movements in Australia

The National Council of Churches
NSW Ecumenical Council

Impact... what happens as a result of...
The NSW Ecumenical Council now called Churches Together NSW ACT is a fellowship of 14 Protestant and Orthodox churches in the state of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Its ecumenical endeavour is about churches working together in mission. This mission has three foundations:

- maintaining “the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace” [Ephesians 4: 3],
- being committed to the Gospel and to
- proclaiming it together, and living out the implications of the Gospel for service in the world.
The IMPACT..... What do they DO and what has happened as a result?

- **Taize Pilgrimage**
  hosted visits from a Brother from the Taize Community in France, as part of our churches’ common commitment to a spirituality of peace and reconciliation.

- **Peace and Justice Commission**
  Works to enhance outcomes from asylum seekers
  Peacemaking: Prayer for International Day of Peace 21 September
Ecumenism-NCCA

The National Council of Churches of Australia

- formed in 1994
- grew from the previous Australian Council of Churches
- comprised of 19 member churches representing the Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant expressions of Christianity.
- works in partnership with state ecumenical councils and it operates through various commissions each which deals with a specific sphere of influence.
The NCCA is an associate council of the World Council of Churches, and a member council of the Christian Conference of Asia.
Ecumenism-NCCA

The IMPACT..... What do they DO and what has happened as a result?
• **Faith and unity:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity May 2013
• **Social Justice Network:** Annual Social Justice Statements on pressing issues such as environment, peace, prisons etc.
• **NATSIEC:** National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission of NCCA. Advocacy for indigenous Australians ... recently letter writing campaign in response to Government intervention program in the NT.
Interfaith Dialogue

What is Interfaith Dialogue?

Interfaith dialogue is formal discussion aimed towards developing greater mutual understanding between different religious traditions.

It is about:
• allowing different religions to come to a better appreciation of the uniqueness of each other.
• Education to dispel fear and bigotry
• seeking opportunities to work together on key issues such as Asylum seekers.

It is NOT about:
• making all religions the same
• an attempt to unify different religious traditions, but while respecting the diversity of beliefs it
Interfaith Dialogue

Interfaith Dialogues in Australia

Uniting Church in Australia Interfaith Dialogues

UCA National Assembly Christian Jewish Dialogue Working Group
Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews
Australian Council of Christians and Jews
Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations
Women’s Interfaith Network
Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue

Interfaith Dialogue

Evaluate the importance of Interfaith Dialogue

Notice it is NOT the success that you are asked to measure but rather the importance.

Interfaith dialogue is important because it

• Does allow religions to come to a better understanding of each other which increases tolerance. eg education programs run by the ACCJ and State Bodies, Interfaith Iftar 2012 organised by Affinity Intercultural
• Promotes religion as having an important role, even in our increasingly secular Australian society. (Hall 2005)
• Promotes shared prayer and spirituality in times of crisis such as after the Port Arthur Massacre or the Bali Bombings
Interfaith Dialogue

Interfaith dialogue is important because it
• creates respect and appreciation for religious diversity which is essential for harmony and peace.
• has worked to break down the stereotypes and prejudice towards Muslims which have been overtly prevalent in Australia since Sept 11 and the Cronulla riots.
• Can build relationships between different religions so they can more often and more effectively speak out on common issues and uphold shared values such as the dignity of the person, the sanctity of human life, care for those in need, justice and peace.
Reconciliation

*examine* the relationship between Aboriginal spiritualties and religious *traditions* in the process of Reconciliation.

Note: This is NOT necessarily about INTERFAITH DIALOGUE ... you MUST know information about MORE THAN ONE Religious Tradition and HOW the work of that religious tradition for reconciliation relates to indigenous spirituality.
Reconciliation

If you are going to use the SORRY DAY Harbour Bridge walk you MUST be able to give evidence of a religious tradition that was involved.

Reconciliation

For thousands of years, you, the Aboriginal people, have lived in this land with a culture that endures to this day, with an endurance that your ancient ceremonies have taught you. You are like a tree in a bush fire, leaves scorched, bark burned, but inside, sap still flows and roots are strong.

Always the spirit of God has been with you. Your dreaming is your own way of touching the mystery of God’s spirit in you and in creation, with its animals, birds, fishes, waterholes, rivers and hills.

You have still the power to be born. The time for re-birth is now.

Pope John Paul II, Alice Springs, 1986

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is an issue of the utmost importance

We believe that reconciliation between Australia's indigenous population and other Australians is an issue of the utmost importance for Australia and for humanity. In the context of Jewish moral and religious teachings, we commit ourselves to the principles of reconciliation in all aspects of our lives.

http://www.nswjbd.org/Statement-on-Reconciliation--reconfirmed-May--08/default.aspx
Thank you for listening