Religious Expression in Australia since 1945
Religious Landscape since 1945

• 1945 = monocultural

• 1947 Australia had a population of 7.6m of which 88% stated that they were Christian. (39 Anglican, 20.9 Catholic, 0 Uniting, 28.1 other Christian)

• 2006 population of 20m 64% called themselves Christian (18.7 Anglican, 25.8 Catholics, 5.7 Uniting, 13.7 other Christian)
Compare the two pie charts and account for the changes.

How are they similar and different?

State reasons for
## Major world religions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Buddhism</th>
<th>Hinduism</th>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Other non-Christian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>&lt;0.01</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conclusion

Buddhism and Islam have grown dramatically.
Why?

• Migration - post WW2 immigration from Europe (mainly from the UK, Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Malta, West Germany and Yugoslavia).

• Refugees from conflict:
  • Chile (1973), Vietnam (1975)
  • Wars and social dislocation in Afghanistan, Iran and the Middle East.
Secularism is generally described as any movement or concept which rejects religious belief and adherence.
Non-attendance at Church

- Church process is boring.
- Disagreements with the church’s beliefs.
- No need to go to church (too many other commitments)

Conclusion

These reasons support the concept of individuality rather than following a group or organisation.
Denominational Switching

• There have been some recent trends in religious switching - most evident in the Protestant denominations.

• Eg. Mainline Protestant denominations are losing members more rapidly, while evangelical sections are gaining members.
Rise of New Age Religions.

- Astrology, Tarot Cards, Paganism, Spiritualism, Witchcraft, Scientology, Satanism, etc...

- Numbers of adherents to New Age beliefs are predicted to continue to increase. This is as a result of a disillusionment with traditional religions.
Describe the religious landscape and its changes since

As shown by the census figures, immediately after WW2, Australia counted 88% of its population as Christian. These Christians were united in their beliefs in God with a basic belief in heaven, hell, sin and Jesus. Today 64% call themselves Christians and significantly fewer attend Church regularly. The changing face of Australia means that some Christian denominations have increased. This has been largely due to immigration patterns. More recently, refugees from Vietnam and Southeast Asia who are Buddhist have also helped to change the religious make up. Wars and social dislocation in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East has also seen Muslim people seek refuge in Australia. This has consequently led to an increase in the Buddhist and Islamic faith and Australia has accommodated to accept the religion of the new people. Today we are a multi-faith and multi-cultural nation.
What did the Mabo decision recognise?

(A) Australia was declared *terra nullius*.

(B) Native title overrules pastoral leases.

(C) Indigenous peoples have native title to land.

(D) Aboriginal peoples have the right to negotiate.

How has Christianity changed in Australia since 1945?

(A) Denomination switching has caused Pentecostalism to grow.

(B) Ecumenism has caused Christianity to become a more dominant tradition.

(C) Funding arrangements for religious schools have caused Catholicism to grow.

(D) Immigration has caused sectarianism and secularism to grow in Christian denominations.

Which of the following is an example of secularisation?

(A) Peace march on Palm Sunday

(B) Shops trading seven days a week

(C) Rise in the number of cults in Australia

(D) Multifaith service for the victims of the Victorian bushfires

What is the main function of the National Council of Churches?

(A) To promote ecumenism

(B) To prevent secularisation

(C) To promote reconciliation

(D) To prevent denominational switching
Use your own knowledge and the following table to answer Question 5.

### Changing patterns of religious adherence in Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census year</th>
<th>Anglican</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Presbyterian/Reformed</th>
<th>Methodist/Uniting</th>
<th>Other religions and no religion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
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Acknowledgement: Census of Housing and Population, Canberra, Commonwealth of Australia, 2006, ABS data used with permission from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

5. Immigration was responsible for the greatest percentage growth in which group?

(A) Catholic  
(B) Non-Christian  
(C) Methodist/Uniting  
(D) Presbyterian/Reformed

6. What is the primary function of Aboriginal ceremonial life?

(A) To celebrate the Dreaming  
(B) To worship ancestral beings  
(C) To commemorate past activities  
(D) To merge past, present and future

7. Which of the following best explains the rise of New Age religions?

(A) Post-war immigration  
(B) Abolition of the White Australia Policy  
(C) Wider visions of enlightenment and fulfilment in society  
(D) Changes in the governing structures of traditional, mainstream religions
10 Which three religions have experienced growth in Australia as a result of immigration since 1990?

(A) Hinduism, Islam, Judaism
(B) Buddhism, Islam, Judaism
(C) Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam
(D) Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism
1. What did the Mabo decision recognise?
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   (B) To prevent secularisation
   (C) To promote reconciliation
   (D) To prevent denominational switching

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Ecumenism = The policy of dialogue within Christianity with a view of returning the fractured Church to one group.
Use your own knowledge and the following table to answer Question 5.

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   (A)  Hinduism, Islam, Judaism
   (B)  Buddhism, Islam, Judaism
   (C)  Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam
   (D)  Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism
Inter-faith Dialogue

• [video link](http://video.iactiv8.com/? mediald=289e4a2a-7272-4c2b-9445-9635f4335ac3)
On Australia Day 1972 Aboriginal people set up a Tent Embassy outside Parliament House in Canberra calling for national land rights and an end to discrimination.

Using your own knowledge and with reference to the statement above, explain the importance of the Land Rights movement to Aboriginal people in relation to their Spirituality.

5 marks. Explain = show cause and effect

- Clearly and accurately identifies the importance of the Land Rights movement and shows the relationship between Land Rights and Aboriginal Spirituality.
- Makes reference to the statement.
- Integrates specific and appropriate terminology.