

Baptism

a significant Christian practice

NEALS



Christianity - HSC

The focus of this study is the contribution of **significant people, ideas, practices and ethical teachings** to an understanding of **Christianity as a living religious tradition**.

The study of Christianity is to be of the **WHOLE** tradition where applicable.

Religious traditions depth studies

The purpose of this section is to develop a **comprehensive view of religious traditions as living religious systems that link directly with the life of adherents.**

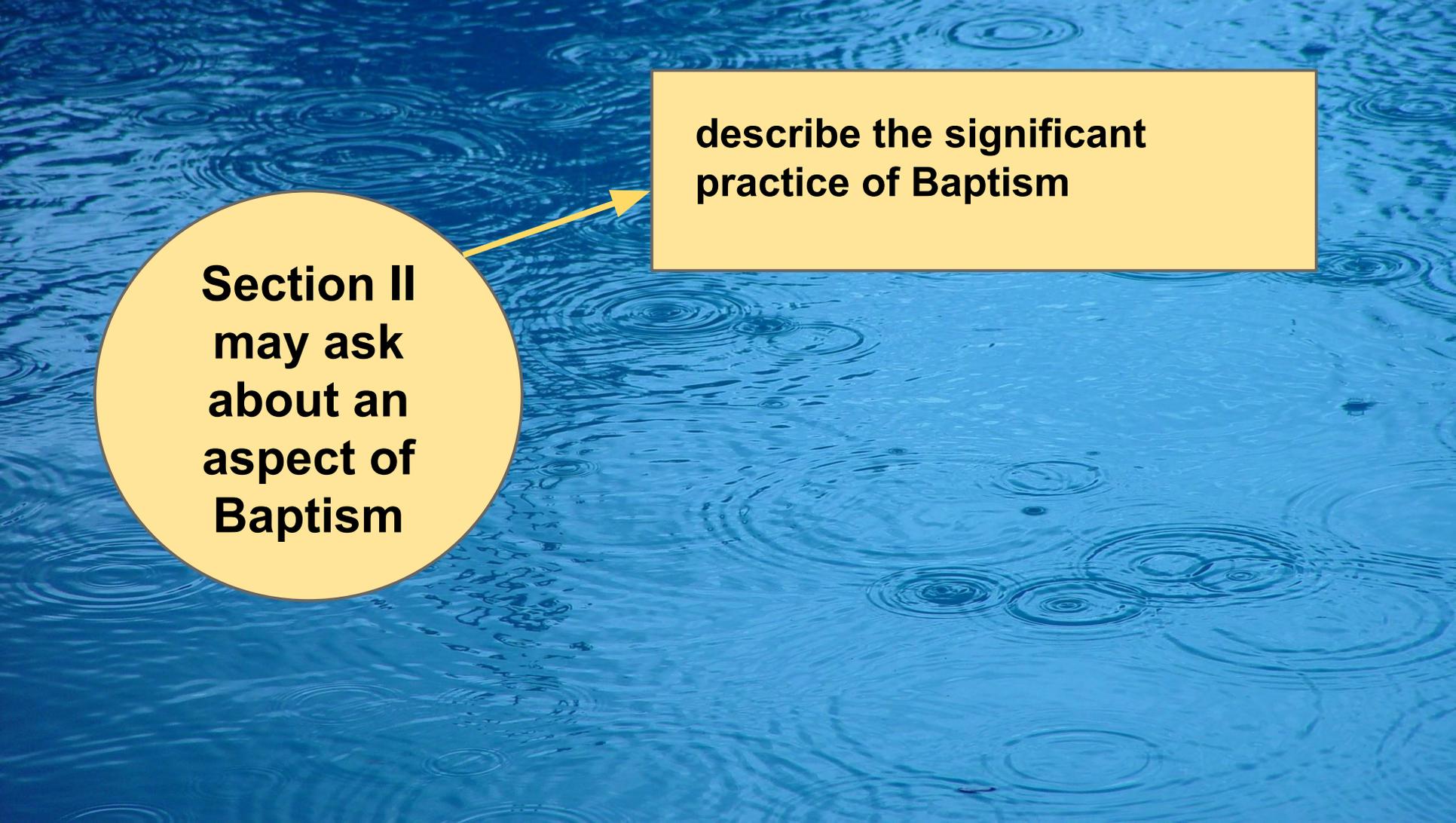
The particular focus is on the ways in which a religious tradition, as an integrated belief system, provides **a distinctive answer to the enduring questions of human existence.**

Religious traditions depth studies

The study of a particular religious tradition enables students to demonstrate an appreciation of the **diversity of expression within, and the underlying unity of, the whole religious tradition.**

Religious traditions depth studies

- **How does Baptism contribute to an understanding of Christianity as a living religious system?**
- **How does Baptism link directly with the life of the adherent?**
- **How does Baptism provide a distinctive answer to the enduring questions of human existence?**



**Section II
may ask
about an
aspect of
Baptism**



**describe the significant
practice of Baptism**

The Nature of Baptism

- **Recognised by most Christian Churches, baptism is a sacrament of initiation into the Christian community.**
- **While there are many similarities among Christian variants there are differences:**
 - **in the way adherents are baptised into their community**
 - **in when adherents are baptised into their communities**
 - **in the specific beliefs about baptism**
 - **with some variants not practicing baptism**

Australian Churches Covenanting Together

- **In 2010 eleven Christian variants agree to recognise the sacrament of baptism.**
- **Shared understanding in use of water, baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
- **For these Christians baptism is a requirement for salvation and a provides forgiveness of sins.**
- **Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox and Uniting and Lutheran variants are among those who share this common understanding.**

The Ritual of Infant and Adult Baptism

Infant baptism is characterised by ritual and symbolism

1. The welcome
2. Bible readings and prayers
3. Baptismal promises
4. Baptism by affusion, aspiration or immersion
5. Anointing with chrism
6. Final blessing



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The believer's baptism is often informal

- 1. The welcome**
- 2. Candidates make a public testimony**
- 3. Baptism full immersion in body of water (usually a public place)**
- 4. Candidate introduced as a member of congregation**

Infant Baptism

- Infant and adult baptism usually emphasises the forgiveness of sins
- It is often the means to salvation.
- In this way it has a transformational effect.



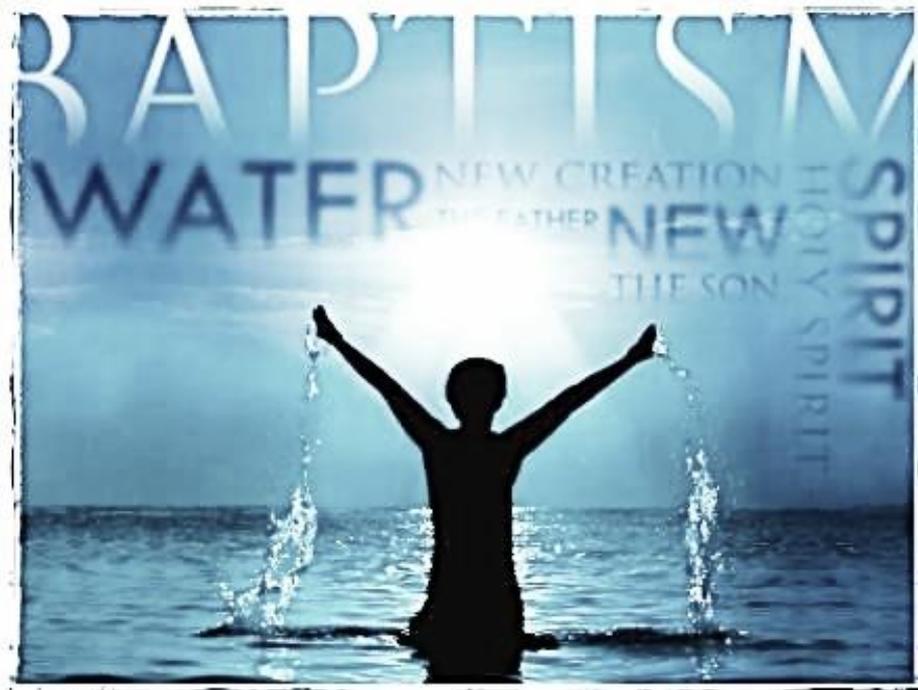
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Believer's Baptism

- The evangelical believer's baptism emphasises the public profession of faith and the act of baptising is symbolic in nature.
- The saving grace that comes from God is a result of faith

Water as a sign of life



Water as a sign of cleansing



**Section II
may require
an aspect of
Baptism**

The diagram features a central yellow circle on the left containing the text 'Section II may require an aspect of Baptism'. Two yellow arrows point from the right side of this circle to two yellow rectangular boxes on the right. The top box contains the text 'describe the significant practice of Baptism' and the bottom box contains 'demonstrate how the chosen practice expresses the beliefs of Christianity'. The background is a blue water surface with ripples.

**describe the significant
practice of Baptism**

**demonstrate how the chosen
practice expresses the beliefs
of Christianity**

Beliefs

- **Are grounded in the sacred texts**
- **The foundation of the religious practice**
- **Can be expressed/celebrated through the ritual**

When linking beliefs to baptism:

- **Include a feature of the ritual**
- **An appropriate quote from scripture**

Baptism reflects the belief in the Trinity

Baptism reinforces the belief in the Holy Trinity and the role played by the Holy Spirit. Baptism allows the adherent to receive the Holy Spirit.



Baptism reflects the belief in the Trinity

- Baptism in its entirety evokes a connection to all persons of the Trinity
- The sign of the cross acknowledges the Trinity
- Water is poured three times with the words 'I baptise you in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.'

Baptism reflects the belief in the Trinity

.. when **Jesus** also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the **Holy Spirit** descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "**You are my Son**, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased. **Luke 3:21-22**

(also Mark 1:10-11; Matt 3:16-17; John 1:32)

Baptism reflects the belief in the Trinity

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them *in the name of **the Father** and of **the Son** and of **the Holy Spirit**...* **Matthew 28:19**

Baptism reflects the belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins

- Pouring or immersing in water symbolises new life
- Images of drowning of the old self and rebirth draws parallels to sharing the experience of Jesus' resurrection

**Baptism reflects
the belief in the
death and
resurrection of
Jesus for the
forgiveness of sins**

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

**Baptism reflects
the belief in the
death and
resurrection of
Jesus for salvation**

*Unless one is born of
the water and the
Spirit, he cannot
enter the kingdom of
God.' John 3:5*

Baptism incorporates the adherent into the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God who raised him from death. (Colossians 2:12)

Baptism, as a sacrament, brings the adherent closer to God and allows them to experience the gift of grace

- this is a call to action of the congregation who renew their baptismal promises
- a call to action for the baptised who will go forth and live out the beliefs that have been drawn out in this ritual

Baptism, as a sacrament, brings the adherent closer to God and allows them to experience the gift of grace

- 'giving them the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit' (CCC1266)

Baptism reflects the belief in the church as the body of Christ

Baptism is a rite of initiation into the Christian Church and an understanding that the church is the Body of Christ.

expresses the understanding of the early Christian community that the baptized person also shares in the life and ministry of Christ.

Baptism reflects the belief in the church as the body of Christ

- As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ *Galatians 3:27*
- The baptised now lives a life modelled on Christ
-

**Section II
may require
an aspect of
Baptism**

**describe the significant
practice of Baptism**

**demonstrate how the chosen
practice expresses the beliefs
of Christianity**

**analyse the significance of this
practice for both the individual
and the Christian community**

The practice of baptism is significant as it is a

- **call to action**
- **calling the baptised**
- **calling the community of believers**

to live out the gospel message.

Pope Francis

'Baptism gives us new birth in Christ, makes us sharers in the mystery of his death and resurrection, grants the forgiveness of sin and brings us new freedom as God's children and members of his church'



Pope Francis

“Our baptism has changed us, given us a new and glorious hope, and empowered us to bring God’s redeeming love to all, particularly the poor, in whom we see the face of Christ. Our baptism has also given us a share in the Church’s mission of evangelization; as disciples, we are also missionaries”

- Baptism is the the beginning of the faith journey
- one that begins in community with and supported by the church community
- God's grace is needed and provided through Baptism to evangelise and do good works

The significance for the individual

- Having been initiated into a Christian Church implies a commitment to the teachings, practices and life of the community.
- Baptism initiates an individual into Christian life.
- Introduces the individual to life guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Provides access for the individual to participate in other rites or sacraments offered by their particular church.

the significance for the community

The community that initiates individuals also takes on a significant responsibility. Having welcomed the individual, the community

- Welcomes and witness the baptism
- Through sponsors and godparents, assist the candidate in Christian life
- Nurture and support the individual by its example.

**Section II
may require
a broader
view of
Baptism**

**demonstrate how the chosen
practice expresses the beliefs
of Christianity (quote)**

**analyse the significance of this
practice for both the individual
and the Christian community**

2014 HSC Section 2

Question 2 — Christianity (15 marks)

(b) *'Religious practices in Christianity help followers to gain a deeper understanding of their beliefs.'*

8

How does this statement help to demonstrate the significance of ONE of the following practices for the Christian community?

- Baptism
- Marriage ceremony
- Saturday/Sunday worship

Notes from the 2014 Marking centre

Candidates showed strength in these areas:

- demonstrating an understanding of Christianity
- linking the stimulus to the significant practice and Christian beliefs (part b)
- making a judgement about the beliefs of Christianity in relation to the community and practice (part b)
- supporting responses with clear examples (part b)

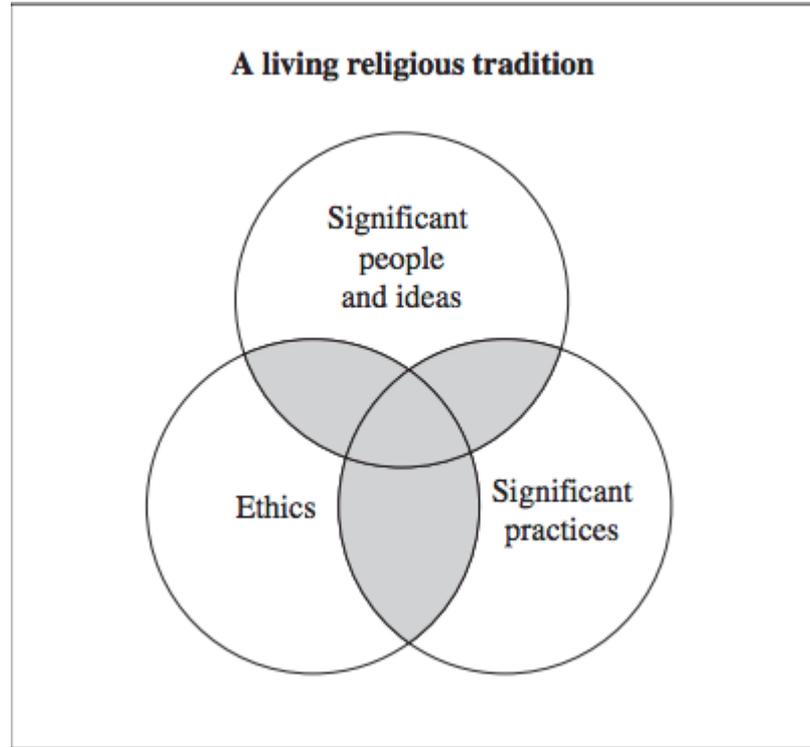
Notes from the 2014 Marking centre

Candidates need to improve in these areas:

- avoiding overly descriptive (part b) and biographical (parts ai and aii) responses

2013 HSC Section 3

In your study of religious traditions you have focused on three different, interrelated aspects, as shown in the diagram.



Christianity is a living religious tradition based on the **sacred texts** and the **beliefs** that are derived from them requiring a **response or call to action**

It is the message of Jesus Christ revealed in the scriptures, interpreted by theologians & leaders (significant people) experienced in significant practices (Baptism) lived out through ethical teachings (environmental or bioethics)

The sacred texts form a common thread between the significant practice, significant person and ethical teaching.

How? The sacred texts are the source of the beliefs, from which stem the teachings, the rituals and guide the adherent in ways to live.

The beliefs, drawn from the sacred texts form an additional connection between the significant practice, significant person and ethical teaching.

How? The beliefs are foundations of the tradition, and the belief in God who works to create a relationship with humanity institutes the ritual/sacrament of baptism and calls significant individuals to reflect on the enduring questions of human existence.

The call to action, being the human response to God's invitation enables the beliefs and teachings to be realised.

How? Baptism is a clear call to live out the Christian message, as the ethical teachings similarly guide the adherents into the right relationship with humanity and God.

2013 hsc Question 2

Candidates showed strength in these areas:

- demonstrating understanding of content relating to the three defined areas of the HSC syllabus
- relating content to a common point of connection as required by the stimulus (Venn diagram)
 - Christianity, for example the central belief of salvation
 - discussing the relationship between at least two and possibly three of the syllabus aspects and/or [Religious Tradition] as a living religious tradition

2013 hsc Question 2

Candidates showed strength in these areas:

- providing evidence from sacred texts and/or other examples and/or organisations
- providing evidence of the way the aspects contribute to the religious tradition.

2013 hsc Question 2

Candidates need to improve in these areas:

- responding to the specific nature of the question as opposed to describing aspects of [Religious Tradition]
- linking [Religious Tradition] to the concept of living religious tradition through the use of contemporary examples
- ensuring that the information presented on persons/ethics/practices is accurate
- ensuring that examples and comments are relevant to the [Religious Tradition] rather than simply reflections on political issues.

The background of the image is a close-up of blue water with numerous concentric ripples from raindrops. The ripples are of varying sizes and are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, dynamic appearance. The color is a consistent medium blue.

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