OCR H573 | INDEPENDENT REVISION

A* Model Essay

Pluralism & Society

Christian Thought

Does serious inter-faith dialogue require Christians to abandon the aim of mission?

1,589 response words | Complete annotated PDF | Individual topic edition

What is included

A complete original response, an argument plan, paragraph-level AO1/AO2 annotations and source works for further reading.

A* describes the intended style of this teaching model. This is independently written, not an OCR-marked script or a guaranteed grade.

Use this model to study argument and evaluation, then write your own answer. Do not submit it as your own assessed work.

Individual-use digital edition | 10 November 2026

Argument plan

Does serious inter-faith dialogue require Christians to abandon the aim of mission?

Thesis: Dialogue requires Christians to abandon coercive or manipulative conversion strategies, not the honest expression of Christian conviction. Mission and dialogue can coexist when freedom of conscience, reciprocal listening and practical solidarity govern the encounter, although dialogue loses credibility when it is merely a concealed recruitment technique.

1. Dialogue seeks understanding and cooperation rather than identical beliefs.

Counter-argument: The intention to invite conversion can make listening appear instrumental.

Interim judgement: The tension is real but depends on the manner of mission, not merely the existence of conviction.

2. Catholic and Anglican approaches connect witness with respectful encounter.

Counter-argument: Christian claims to unique truth may seem incompatible with equal participation.

Interim judgement: Equal dignity and equal opportunity to speak do not require every doctrine to be judged equally true.

3. Scriptural reasoning and joint action can sustain productive disagreement.

Counter-argument: Elite meetings, unequal power and superficial consensus may conceal unresolved injustice.

Interim judgement: Dialogue succeeds when it includes difficult differences and accountable social action rather than declaring harmony by definition.