

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 2006 RE-SIT SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

PLC2820/2821 Psychology of Religious Maturity

Fri 15 September 2006

ANSWER ONE QUESTION

1. "As a science, psychology operates on the assumption that behavior, including religious behavior and the things we choose to do of our free will, is the result of the operation of natural cause-effect laws... To explain behavior means to describe it with its functional relationships to other behaviors and environmental circumstances, pulling it together with some organizing framework called a theory. This does not negate nor prove the religious or the supernatural" (R.Paloutzian, Chap.3.). Comment.

2. "Although religion is primarily an adult affair and that the questions dealt with are too deep and complicated for them to understand, nevertheless, children are involved in religion, sometimes in ways that have lifelong implications" (R.Paloutzian, Chap.4). Elaborate.

3. "People who experience religious conversion have a greater sense of meaning in life than people who do not experience conversion" (R.Paloutzian, Chap.7). How much do you agree with this statement? Illustrate by referring also to a case you have known personally.