

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
Evening Course

JANUARY /FEBRUARY TESTS

PLC 2820 RELIGION: PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Monday, January 23, 2006

Answer ONE question from each SECTION

SECTION I

1. It appears as a common trend among people in the western world today to prefer spirituality to religion. While the former is associated with a "lifeforce", the latter is identified with formal doctrine, church-going and morality ("The Tablet", 18/12/99). What do you think about this split? Answer using notions from the course on psychology of religion.
2. One of the difficulties in studying religious behaviour is that this does not come in one form but at least in many dimensions, such as Belief, Practice, Feeling, Effects, etc. Elaborate.
3. Personality and religion have the same roots. Understanding both will help understanding their relationship. In your view, what have psychology and theology to offer to each other?

SECTION II

1. In his study of religion James made a challenge to the personality sciences, which is as valid as ever. He maintained that no psychology can claim to have achieved a whole picture of personality unless it consider religion and those personal phenomena which often play an important role in it (W.A.Sadler, 1970).
Comment.
2. Although Freud and Jung belong to the same psychoanalytic tradition, their views on religion differ considerably. Compare and contrast the two authors
3. "The religious implications of the humanistic theories can be seen in the strong emphasis they place on the ideal of each person working out his own destiny without interference from others" (P.Vitz, 1977). Elaborate.