

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

PLC 2821 Psychology of Religious Maturity

June 1, 2005

Answer ONE Question:

1. "Like all sciences, the science of religious behavior begins and ends in the world of facts (events and our perception of them). But it cycles through the idea world of theory as a way of maintaining a common coherent framework in which to understand the facts" (Paloutzian, p.58). Elaborate.
2. The cognitive capacity and the social environment both expand markedly over the course of development, and these changes in some ways stimulate and in some ways retard the religious commitment of the child. How far could children be considered as religious?
3. "Conversion *is* a frequently observed step in religious development. Often it is a most crucial step. Almost never does it in itself produce a fully integrated religious individual. In short, it is neither necessary nor sufficient for a mature faith". (Meadow & Kaher, 1984,) Discuss.