

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

MAY/JUNE 2009 SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

PLC2820/PLC2821 – Religion Psychological Aspects/Psychology of
Religious Maturity

Wednesday 27th May 2009

Time: 10.30 – 12.30pm

SECTION A

Answer ONE Question:

1. Since Galileo's time, the debate between science and religion has been fraught by harsh turf battles; each side trying to belittle the other, claiming unique competence in explaining reality and events. Psychology has also been caught in this conflict. If the dialogue between psychology and religion is possible, on what grounds should it be conducted?
2. Despite Freud's bias against religion, and Jung's great estimation of it, the former's position seems to be philosophically and methodologically more useful in understanding the psychology of religion than the latter's. Elaborate.
3. By now you have encountered various definitions of religion in your studies. Which are those you found most relevant and formulate your own.

SECTION B

Answer ONE Question:

1. How far can we hold that also children can be religious? Outline the basic characteristics of children's religiosity.
2. Despite the claim that adolescents tend to reject the religion of their childhood, studies have shown that there is quite a strong religious quest related to this age. Discuss, taking into consideration issues in psychology of religion.
3. Though not necessarily spectacular, religious conversions seem to be more common than one estimates. What are the common predisposing and precipitating factors at work in those cases where people turn to cults and sects?