7.7 Religious Experience: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 This question checks key vocabulary used in the study of religious experience.

(a) State what is meant by religious experience. **(1)**

(b) State what is meant by conversion, in the context of religious experience. **(1)**

(c) State what is meant by a mystical experience. **(1)**

(d) State what is meant by the numinous. **(1)**

(e) State what is meant by prayer, as a form of religious experience. **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 Give three types of religious experience.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Explain two features William James identified as common to religious/mystical experiences. Refer to a philosopher of religion in your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 7.7 Religious Experience: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) an event in a person's life which they interpret as involving a direct encounter with, or awareness of, God or the divine, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: An event a person interprets as involving a direct encounter with God or the divine.

(b) an experience or process in which a person adopts a new religious belief, or has an existing faith renewed or deepened, often suddenly, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: An experience in which a person adopts a new faith, or has an existing faith renewed, often suddenly.

(c) an experience in which a person feels a direct, personal sense of union or closeness with God or ultimate reality, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: An experience of feeling directly united with, or close to, God or ultimate reality.

(d) a feeling of awe, wonder and the presence of something greater than oneself, associated with an encounter with the divine, oe **B1**

(d) Answer: A feeling of awe and wonder associated with encountering the divine.

(e) communication with God, e.g. through praise, confession or requests, which some believers experience as involving a real sense of God's presence or response, oe **B1**

(e) Answer: Communication with God which some believers experience as involving a real sense of his presence or response.

Question 2

conversion experience, oe **B1**

mystical experience, oe **B1**

experience of the numinous; accept also near-death experience or corporate/collective worship experience, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: conversion; mystical experience; the numinous; accept also near-death or corporate worship experience.

Question 3

point 1: ineffability - James argued mystical experiences cannot be fully expressed or communicated in words, oe **B1**

development: he held that, like a feeling, their quality must be directly experienced to be understood, and cannot simply be described to someone else, oe **B1**

point 2: noetic quality - James argued mystical states feel like states of knowledge or insight, not just feeling, oe **B1**

development: those who have them often believe they have gained genuine insight into truths beyond the reach of ordinary reasoning, even though this insight cannot easily be justified to others, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. ineffability (cannot be put into words); noetic quality (feels like a state of insight/knowledge).

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