

Candidate 2 evidence

3.	"William James offers the best understanding of religious experiences" I agree with this statement to a certain extent. Religious experience is an experience of something supernatural ^{sa} or power that is beyond themselves. Religious experiences are hard to verify as they can't be proven true or false as they are hard to describe. William		
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James attempts to explain religious experience and Rudolph Otto attempts to describe it also. Where as Freud doesn't believe in it as he's a psychologist he attempts to define it.

William James first started to explain religious experience in his book "Variety of religious experience". In this James discusses what he thinks causes religious experiences and types of religious experiences.

James links religious experience to anhedonia, anhedonia is what James called the 'sick soul' this ~~was~~ is the feeling of being lonely, anxiety, sad. Many people currently link it to today's depression. James said that people who suffer from anhedonia may be more prone to having a religious experience. James then goes on to use the example of a man aged 50 who suffered from anhedonia and then soon started having a 'craving for God' whilst he was in his darkest time "In the core of all evil, help, help." James

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	<p>example and quote both show that religious experience can be used in a more beneficial way as it helps people remove themselves from the sadness and highlights exactly what is needed to move on. It also shows that God is a big part of the recovery process and once they find God from a religious experience they begin to feel better.</p> <p>James then speaks about the two main types of religious experiences these are conversion and mysticism. Conversion experience is when once the person has had a religious experience they then are converted to either faith or religion, however this can either doesn't happen so suddenly or straight away gradually as it depends however sometimes it isn't obvious that the person has converted or even the results from</p>

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<p>the conversion experiences aren't permanent so they may fade away. This also shows they are hard to tell if false or not as the effects can fade away or take a long time to see the effects from the conversion. James does give a good understanding of what conversion experience is as it's simple to follow when explained.</p>	
<p>The second type of experience is a mysticism, this is a mystical experience from the consciousness. James identifies four ways in which mysticism qualities are noetic, transient, ineffable and passive. James describes that noetic is when it is of quality the experience is noetic quality. James also describes passive as being where once you have had one religious experience they keep happening without the person's will. Overall William James provides a good understanding of religious experience and what it is as he makes it simple and easy to follow.</p>	

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<p>Paragraph otto also attempts to describe what religious experience is. Otto has similar views to James but they still change differentiate Otto describes religious experiences as being mysterium et fascinans this means that Otto thinks they are mysterious and but both awesome and fascinating. This highlights that Otto believed that religious experiences are intriguing and are truly words. Otto then goes onto describe that religious experiences are numinous this means that it is impossible to describe one experience to anyone as they ordinary language does not compare. This shows also we can't assess the validity of religious experiences if they can not be described to anyone as they are personal experiences and that words none words can't describe it. Otto then believes that these experiences can be summoned by doing art or listening to music. This shows if they can be induced are they really that special.'</p>	

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	<p>Otto then speaks about the types of experiences firstly ones that evoke fear, awe and terror are mysterium tremendum and ones that are fascinating and amazing are mysterium fascinans. This highlights how experiences can feel and what they are linked with and how different experiences can really be. Otto also highlights that experiences can remind us of times we would like to forget more personal types but they can also be a collective types where experiences are general and other people can have them.</p> <p>Otto speaks that they can be a benefit as a patient over 35 years who was low 'in their last resort religion' this highlights that Otto believes that religious experience and religion are such a beneficial factor to helping people and making them better, like James Otto also believes in the concept of ^{2nd of 1941} anhedonia [*] overall Otto's explanation of religious experiences are</p>

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	<p>useful as they state how valid information that James does not ^{11:05} and gives us a detailed understanding of religious experience.</p>
	<p>However on the otherhand psychologist Sigmund Freud attempts to give us an understanding of religious experience whilst also attempting to disprove religious experience in general. Freud believes that religious experience is nothing more except neurotic behaviours and delusions, this states that religious experiences aren't magical there are simple explanations to them. Freud highlights that mystical experiences give off an oceanic feeling and they help us get away from the trauma we are feeling, it is like a regression back to childhood safety and security. This shows that mystical experiences are nothing more than us trying to find security away from trauma it also shows that it is more of a behavior to run away from bad things not an experience. Freud also states that they aren't</p>

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	<p>beneficial and they now show signs of mental illnesses, that were undiagnosed. This highlights that the experiences can be explained. However, Freud is an atheist so he is less likely to base his views around supporting religious experience as he is biased therefore doesn't make it a valid argument. However Freud is a psychologist so he knows what he is doing. Overall I think Freud describes religious experience well and also explains reasoning behind them.</p>
	<p>In conclusion I agree with the claim that "William James offers the</p> <p>* "holy, holy, holy the earths full of glory" Otto uses the word of hosias to state the feeling given off by religious experience"</p>
	<p>In conclusion, I agree to the claim that "William James offers the best understanding for religious experience" as William James</p>

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	goes out into full detail on exactly what religious experience is causes, effects and types
	it has William James gives significant reasoning behind each claim he makes. However Otto
	provides information that James hadn't mentioned but he also states he agrees with some of James
	concepts and Freud tries to disprove religious experience but gives an accurate reason to why they
	occur and what they are. However in conclusion I still agree with the claim as I believe James
	offers the best understanding of James' argument isn't as flawed as Otto or Freud.