

Candidate 4 evidence

Advanced Higher

Source 1 – Religious Experience

8 (a)

Psychologists believe that religious experiences are illusions and people are using these experiences to cope with previous struggles and need something to rely on. Psychologists such as Freud believe that religious experiences are caused by unresolved sexual frustrations. Psychologists also believe that these religious experiences help people suppress feelings and natural urges they have been experiencing prior to the religious experiences. Psychologists believe that you are more likely to experience religious experiences if you are feeling sad, suicidal or in a worse state of mind as you begin to get a craving for something in your life which could be God. Psychologists also believe that conversions are rituals performed to create illusions of happiness in their lives and in attempt to make it so their life is not as miserable as it was before.

8 (b)

The source states "As to what the further cause" this means that the cause of religious experiences may very well be a true religious encounter however it is more likely that it is something caused mentally in attempt to help the person cope with their struggles or as hallucinations during a bad state of mind. The source also states "cause of such experience might be" this means that the cause of religious experiences could be a wide range of possibilities from actually encountering a religious experience or to needing an escape from reality mentally there is many reasons why a person could go through religious experiences. "the answer to this" this means that there is no one answer to why people go through religious experiences and it could be to do with so many different reasonings going on in some people's mind. The source states "the answer to this lies beyond the range of human knowledge" this means that there is no possible way of telling what causes people to have these religious experiences and we may just have to take their word for it as we have no possible way of testing whether something is the cause of the experience or if it is something we cannot see. Finally, the source states that "the range of human knowledge" this means that the human knowledge cannot fully understand religious experiences and no matter how much studying we do in people's minds etc we cannot ever find a sole cause of these experiences.

8 (c)

"As to what the further cause" I agree with this psychological source as I believe that it is very difficult if not impossible to figure out what causes religious experiences because they are so different to what we are used to it is impossible to conclude that the cause is one thing when it could be a wide range of possibilities. "Cause of such experience might be" I agree with this psychological source as I believe that there are many possibilities to what the causes of religious experiences could be as it could very well be something made up in their head or it could be a very real experience. "the answer to this" I agree with the source as I believe that we will never be able to find the 'true' answer of what causes religious experiences because there isn't a one sole reason to why they exist. "The answer to this lies beyond the range of human knowledge" I agree with the source as I believe that it is impossible to find one reason to why religious experiences exist and to be able to apply it to every single experience because there are so many different experiences all caused by different things. "Beyond human knowledge" I agree with this source because I believe that human knowledge is currently lacking with religious experiences because we do not have enough sufficient evidence to conclude anything to do with them we can merely state our opinions but unless we can actually find a reason to why they exist and why so many people have undergone a religious experience then we can never be able to conclude why religious experiences are caused.