

## Candidate 3 evidence

- William James, psychologist, is someone who has attempted to account for religious experience. To understand religious experience, he created two sections. One section is an existential judgement, the other a value judgement. An existential judgement focuses on understanding the first cause of an experience, whilst a value judgement focuses on understanding the effects of a religious experience.

- James also noted four different effects a religious experience can have on an individual. One of these is 'Passivity'. Passivity refers to the idea that during a religious experience, the individual is completely out of control and is reliant on the religious experience, rather than their own mind or body.

- Another effect noted by James is 'Ineffability.' Ineffability refers to the idea that during or after a religious experience, the individual is unable to describe or understand what is happening or has happened to them.

- The third effect noted by James is 'Noetic Quality.' Noetic quality refers to the idea that an individual may have a religious experience and gain new knowledge from it about themselves, or maybe the world around them.

- The fourth and final effect noted by James is 'Transiency.' Transiency refers to the idea that during a religious experience, the recipient is unable to know how long it has been happening for, or how long it is going to happen for. Religious experiences can happen for as long as two hours, in which the recipient will be unaware of their surroundings and time as a whole.

b.

- The source states "Religious experiences are real" This clearly implies that mystical experiences are not just a figment of people's imagination, and that experiences as such can affect and impact people in many ways.

- The source also states "like any other feelings we have." This clearly implies that just as emotions and thoughts are real and impactful, James believes religious experiences to hold these qualities too.

- The source also states "We can study them" This implies that religious experiences are something that is able to be understood and analysed in many ways by many people.

- The source states "It's kind of like looking at what goes on in our minds" This implies that religious experiences are extremely impactful to one's brain, and that they can implement huge psychological changes into someone.

- Finally, the source states "like when we dream." This implies that religious experiences are personal, and very similar to having a dream when sleeping. This shows that religious experiences are very varied, and can make use of an individual's senses in many different ways.

c.

- I think that making the claim that religious experiences are real is important, and a relevant thing to say. This is because it ensures that people are aware that people can experience something unique to them, and it will be something extremely significant to their life, so there is no need to shame someone or dismiss their personal experiences.

- I agree with the idea that religious experiences are similar to our other feelings. I think that accepting people's feelings are important, so it should be accepted to claim that you have experienced something like a religious experience.

- I also agree with the idea that religious experiences can be, and need to be, studied. This is because there is so much that we do not understand about things such as religious experiences, that it seems necessary to develop a deeper understanding of such a complex topic.

- Fourthly, I think that saying that studying religious experiences is like looking at our minds and understanding what goes on inside them makes sense. I think that defining religious experiences as a psychological event rather than anything else is valid and is a reasonable way to define them as a whole.

- Finally, I think that claiming that religious experiences are individual and personal is very effective. This is because something as supernatural or mystical as a religious experience should be defined as something private, and it shouldn't be forced upon anyone to share their experience.