

**Religious Experience – Mega Quiz**

1. Give a one sentence definition of ‘religious experience’. An experience different to everyday experiences that involves the divine or realisation of an ‘ultimate truth’.
2. What ‘appeared’ to the disciples at the festival of Pentecost after Jesus’ ascension? The Holy Spirit
3. Why was this experience important? It guided the disciples to spread Jesus’ message – started the Church – Peter converted 3,000
4. What is a propositional religious experience? Knowledge revealed directly from God fitting in with the teachings of the Church.
5. Give an example of a propositional religious experience. Bernadette (Lourdes)
6. What is a mediated religious experience? Experiences gained through rituals, nature, objects etc.
7. Give an example of a mediated religious experience. Buddha’s enlightenment, communicating with God through prayer.
8. What is an immediate religious experience? Experiencing God directly with no intervention.
9. Give an example of an immediate religious experience. Virgin Mary visited by Angel Gabriel, Saul.
10. What is a mystical experience? A sense of union with the divine.
11. Give an example of a mystical experience. St Teresa of Avila.
12. Who did Saul have a vision of? Jesus
13. After having his sight restored by Ananias what did Saul declare? ‘Jesus is the Son of God’.
14. What did **Saul** do next? Got baptised, became a Christian and changed his name to Paul.
15. What did **Paul** then do? Went on four journeys spread Jesus’ message and setting up churches.
16. What did Jonathon Edwards suggest was the best evidence for the existence of God? Religious experience and the products of that experience.
17. What is an existential judgement? Questions about ‘what & how’ – e.g. origins/reality and function.
18. What is a ‘value judgement’? Spiritual judgements – the ‘why’ questions concerning meaning and significance.
19. What is the title of William James’ most famous work – a collection of his lectures? The Varieties of religious experience.
20. Give an example of how a ‘medical materialist would suggest Saul’s experience was not real. Hallucinating, mentally ill, dehydration, blindness could be through looking at the sun.
21. What does the acronym PINT stand for? Passivity; Ineffable; Noetic; Transient.
22. What does Rudolph Otto’s term ‘numinous’ mean? A strong religious or spiritual feeling/quality; indicating or suggesting the presence of the divine.
23. Define Otto’s idea of ‘the Wholly Other’. That which transcends our rational understanding .
24. In a sentence explain Otto’s phrase ‘mysterium tremendum fascinans’ in regard to religious experience. An experience that is awe inspiring and overpowering, outside of our normal experience.
25. Briefly explain Swinburne’s Principle of Testimony. It makes sense to believe what people say as people mostly tell the truth.
26. Briefly explain Swinburne’s Principle of Credulity. If a person is trustworthy and there is no good reason to disbelieve a person they should be believed.
27. What is the name of the scientist that designed the ‘God Helmet’? Michael Persinger.
28. Dawkins said that religious experiences are mistaken by people for what? Optical and aural illusions.
29. What did Freud say an urge for a religious was for people? Psychological obsession.
30. What did Karl Marx describe religion as? The opium of the people.