

# Psychology of Religion

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**UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN**  
**DIRECTORATE OF AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS**  
**BIGARD MEMORIAL SEMINARY, ENUGU**

05 FEB 2024

BM3/IB/2959 Candidate's Number (write very clearly)  
 300 Level of Study  
 ART Faculty/College  
 PHILOSOPHY Department/Course

PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION Title of Paper  
 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 Date

Examination (insert official title)  
 of the Examination for which you  
 have entered, as it appears at  
 the head of the question paper

**DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Write on both sides of the pages (except in Mathematics)
2. Begin each answer on a fresh page.
3. Write the number of each question at the top of each page.
4. All rough work must be crossed through, and enclosed within this cover.
5. If supplementary books are used, they must be fastened at together at the end of this book and inside the cover. Answers must not be written on the supplementary books unless all the leaves in this book have already been used.
5. In your own interest you should enter in the space provided below, the numbers of the questions which you have attempted (with sub-sections where necessary).
7. In no circumstances must answer books used or unused, be removed from the Examination Room by a Candidate.
8. Candidates are warned that importance is attached by the examination to accuracy and clearness of expression.
9. Please note that there is severe penalty for cheating at any examination.

**NUMBERS OF THE ANSWERS**

in the order in which they have been written.

2, 4, 5

All students of the University of Ibadan are expected to show academic integrity at all times. Understanding this, I solemnly declare that I shall not be involved in any malpractice including soliciting, giving, receiving or using unauthorised aid in this examination.

Signature of student

For Examiner's  
 Use Only

Question No.	Mark
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	18
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Total...



Question ②

Prejudice came from two Latin words etymological "Pro" meaning before and "judicium" meaning judgement. Hence it is a prejudgement of something without actual encounter or experience with such thing. It is a sagrant opinion without visible means of support. It is a negative prejudgement towards an individual or a group of people. It connotes antipathy based on faulty and inflexible generalization. It is a bias prejudgement towards a group of individual based on group involvement.

As an attitude it is a feeling, inclination to act, belief either negative or positive towards an individual or a group of people based on prior social experience or through hear say. This is usually seen among religious groups where the ingroups sees the outgroup as ignorant or dangerous. Prejudice enhances discrimination or segregation among the ingroup and outgroup.

In my own personal experience, I have a bias prejudice towards the Hausas who live beside my residence. I see them as bad and dangerous people who are to be avoided in any means. This is as a result of people's attitude towards them but I have begun to clear those prejudices in my head.



Religious Prejudice is the process by which a group of individual have a negative attitude (or tends) to discriminate another individual or group based on their different beliefs. It is a negative evaluation from a group of individual (ingroup) towards another group (outgroup) due to preconceived ideas or group involvement of that group.

Religious prejudice is based on little or no actual reason. It is just a defence mechanism employed by a group towards a system of belief that seems foreign to them. They do not want to shed their beliefs or ignore it due to another belief they do not know of. Religious prejudices is not a contemporary issue it existed even in the older days. In the bible, book of the acts of the apostles, we saw how Christians were slaughtered due to a different belief system of the Romans. It is also applicable in this our modern times, crisis between Christians and muslim.

There are factors that contribute to Religious prejudices. It includes

- Biological process
- Motivation
- Socialization experience
- Group identity
- Cultural learning style



The negative effects of prejudices can be controlled by the following processes.

- ① Increasing contact between the target and holder
- ② Making positive values and norms against prejudice more conspicuous
- ③ Providing information on objects and areas of prejudice
- ④ Reducing stereotype vulnerability
- ⑤ Explain the aspect of belief that may seem devastating to the subgroup
- ⑥ Education and Re-education on the issues of it
- ⑦ Mass media intervention and clarification of the misunderstanding
- ⑧ Promoting inclusive and pluralistic ideology
- ⑨ Emphasizing positive common ingroup identities
- ⑩ Opposing prejudice support group.



Question ④

Belief system is a means of understanding people's way of life, what they believed in, how they practice their belief, objects of the environment that influences them, relationship with the Supreme being and in turn how the relationship with Supreme being influences their relationship with environment and the individual or group of people living within and outside the environment.

Belief system are also those ideas and principles that influences our decision making, how we commune with the environment and the Supreme being. It can be political, social and philosophical. Example, our religious belief system influences how we judge something in terms of good and bad and also our social belief system influences how we see justice in the society.

The development of belief system can be seen in the content of cultural environment where individual or group of individual exists. The ideology they tend to represent and how those ideologies are held and spread. Belief system can also be developed by what is revealed to an individual about his existence and how it interplays with the Supreme being and still seeks to express it.



to what is known to occur in the environment. This happens when an individual begins to ask and answer questions about his existence and the happenstances that occur around him.

Religious Belief System also develops when an individual begins to find solution to some challenges of life and tends to find a soothing answer for it by delving into the unknown to do some researches.

### Predictors of faith evolution

Predictors of faith evolution are those changes that may occur in the development of belief system which may bring about the evolution of a new faith and they include:

- ① Resentment / Dissatisfaction in the already existing belief system
- ② Rigidity in a belief system
- ③ Revolutionary values and doctrinal changes
- ④ Personal interest / selfishness
- ⑤ Psychological manipulation and emotional vulnerability
- ⑥ Cultural bias
- ⑦ Corruption and pride
- ⑧ Monotheism
- ⑨ Ignorance
- ⑩ Faint Adherence
- ⑪ Education
- ⑫ Economic reasons

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## Question ⑤

- ① Religious symbols helps in identification of individual or group in a belief system
- ② It gives meaning in "object" manner in a belief system, that is, the visible/physical representation of what we tend to believe
- ③ It is importantly used for reference and transfer of faith in a belief system, hence, they are artifacts and article in a belief system
- ④ It is a means of expression of faith in a belief system
- ⑤ It serves as an expression of human understanding of what supreme beings mean to an individual or a group of individuals in a belief system
- ⑥ Religious symbols inspire hope in the believers with a belief system
- ⑦ It serves a means of communication between the believers and the supreme being in a religion