

## Psychoanalysis

Q 1

Freud interpreted religion as a set of beliefs and ideas about reality, which are organized in teachings. Additionally, religion is a system of observances, cultural relations and institutions. Religion has three main purposes. They are psychological, moral and social. Psychologically, religion fills our lives with meaning and diminishes human sufferings. Morally, it maintains an ethical order among the masses. Socially, religion unites members of society by means of identical beliefs and ideas.

Q 2

Religious knowledge differs from scientific knowledge because it has lots of falsifications and contradictions in its nature. Besides, the most important claims of religious knowledge can never be verified, unlike those of scientific claims. Additionally, there can be no questions concerning religion due to human fears and belonging to well-established traditions.

Q 3

According to Freud, illusion is ignorance, which is based on fear or a powerful wish. The ignorance leads to unconscious and deliberate denial of reality. This definition characterizes religion as well. However, religion is not always an error in terms of the nature of reality whereas a delusion is born out of human wishes.

Q 4

Freud considered fantasy to be psychologically necessary because much of reality is psychologically unacceptable. Only people, who are perfectly happy, have no fantasies. They have all they need and there is nothing left for them to dream about. At the same time, fantasies are expressions of conscious concerns and they orient a person toward future fulfillment of some wish.

Q 5

It should be mentioned that reading an artwork psychoanalytically always involves dealing with the artist's conscious and unconscious motivations for creating the work. In other words, Freud concentrated on the psychic motives of the artist or the characters of the work. Moreover, literature, art, cinema and music offer some psychic satisfaction to the audience. This kind of contentment

comprises of emotional satisfactions and unconscious motivation (intentions). Watching a film can place a person in the position of the screen character to fulfill some unconscious fantasies.