Exploring Beliefs: Life After Death

Learning objective: To understand different religious perspectives regarding life after death.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences.

Across the world, people hold different beliefs about what happens after a person dies. Many religions believe that death is not the end, but a transition to a new stage of existence. For instance, many Christians believe in an afterlife, a place often described as heaven or paradise, where the soul lives on in peace. In this tradition, how a person lived their life on Earth is very important. Similarly, many Muslims believe in Akhirah, an eternal life after death, where individuals are rewarded for their good deeds and faith. In contrast, some Eastern religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, teach the concept of reincarnation. This is the belief that the soul is reborn into a new body after death. They believe that a person's actions, known as karma, influence the life they will lead next. While these traditions differ in their specific details, they all share a common theme: the idea that human existence continues beyond our physical lives. These beliefs provide comfort and guidance to millions of people as they navigate the big questions of life and purpose.

Word bank: afterlife · reincarnation · paradise · soul · belief · tradition

1. What term do Hindus and Buddhists use to describe the process of being reborn into a new body? (1 mark)

2. According to the passage, what is the 'Akhirah' in the Islamic faith? (1 mark)

3. Why might a person who believes in karma be careful about how they treat others during their life? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what is one main similarity between the different religions mentioned? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important for people to have beliefs about what happens after death? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture representing the concept of a journey or a transition, perhaps using a bridge or a path leading toward a sunrise, to illustrate the idea of moving from one stage to another.

Extension challenge: Research one other world religion not mentioned in the text and write two sentences about what their followers believe happens after death.