Exploring Beliefs: Life After Death

Learning objective: To understand and explain different religious and non-religious perspectives on what happens after life.

Use this writing frame to help you structure a balanced essay. Think about the beliefs held by different groups, such as Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, and Humanists. Use the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

Throughout history, human beings have asked the big question: what happens to us when our lives come to an end?

Word bank: Furthermore · In contrast · Alternatively · From the perspective of · Many people believe · On the other hand · This suggests that · Similarly

1. Introduction: Start by explaining why this is a 'big question' that has interested people for centuries. Consider how different people might find comfort in their answers... (2 marks)

2. Religious Perspectives: Describe the belief in an afterlife, such as the Christian idea of Heaven or the concept of reincarnation in Hinduism and Buddhism. How do these beliefs affect how people live their lives today? (3 marks)

3. Non-Religious Perspectives: Explain the Humanist viewpoint regarding life after death. What do they focus on instead of an afterlife, and why is this meaningful to them? (3 marks)

4. Comparing Views: How do these different views differ, and are there any similarities between them? Think about how they might all encourage people to be kind or live well. (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise your thoughts. Why do you think it is important for people to respect the different beliefs that others hold about life and death? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Ask Pip the bookworm for a library book about world religions. Research one specific ritual or symbol used by a religion to represent their belief in the afterlife and explain its meaning to a partner.