

Perspectives on the Journey Beyond: A Philosophical Exploration

Learning objective: To compare and contrast different religious and non-religious beliefs regarding life after death and the concept of the soul.

Below is a list of beliefs held by different groups. Your task is to sort these into 'Beliefs in an Afterlife' and 'Alternative Philosophical Perspectives'. Then, use the questions provided to analyse these viewpoints critically. Think about how these ideas influence how people choose to live their lives today.

Word bank: Reincarnation · Resurrection · Legacy · Nirvana · Soul · Heaven · Continuity · Transmigration

1. Compare and contrast the concept of 'Resurrection' with the concept of 'Reincarnation'. What are the fundamental differences in how the soul is viewed in these two beliefs? (3 marks)

2. Explain why many people who do not believe in an afterlife might still choose to live a 'good' or ethical life. What role does 'Legacy' play in their decision-making? (3 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Does believing in an afterlife make a person more or less likely to care for the Earth? Consider the idea of stewardship. (4 marks)

4. What might happen if all human beings suddenly agreed on exactly what happens after death? How would this change human behaviour? (4 marks)

5. Nova the owl is curious about the 'soul'. If you had to describe what a soul is without using religious terminology, how would you define it? (2 marks)

6. Create a 'Belief Map'. Categorise the following concepts into the correct columns: Nirvana, Heaven, Leaving a legacy through art, The cycle of rebirth, Being remembered by family. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of 'Legacy'—something that shows how a person's impact remains in the world even after they are gone. Think about symbols like trees, ripples in water, or a book being passed down.



Extension challenge: Write a reflective poem or a short persuasive speech from the perspective of Leo the lion, explaining why it is important to respect someone else's belief about the afterlife, even if it is completely different from your own.