

Exploring Perspectives on Life After Death

Learning objective: To understand and compare diverse religious and philosophical beliefs regarding the afterlife.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions using full sentences. For the evaluative question, ensure you provide a reason for your opinion.

Across the globe, human cultures have long pondered the mystery of what happens after we die. Ellie, our wise elephant friend, enjoys studying these diverse traditions. Many religions, such as Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism, believe in an afterlife where a person's soul continues to exist in a spiritual realm. These faiths often teach that one's actions during their earthly life influence their journey beyond. In contrast, many traditions within Hinduism and Buddhism believe in reincarnation, the cycle of being born again into a new form based on previous deeds. Meanwhile, some people hold a secular perspective, focusing on the idea that life is a unique, singular experience. They argue that our 'life after death' exists through the legacy we leave behind: the memories shared with loved ones, the kindness we show others, and the work we contribute to the world. Whether one believes in a spiritual journey or a lasting human impact, contemplating these ideas helps us appreciate the value of our time here today. By exploring these varied viewpoints, we learn to respect the deep, personal convictions held by people in our communities.

Word bank: reincarnation · afterlife · perspective · philosophy · consciousness · legacy · tradition

1. Name two religions mentioned in the text that believe in an afterlife in a spiritual realm. (2 marks) (2 marks)

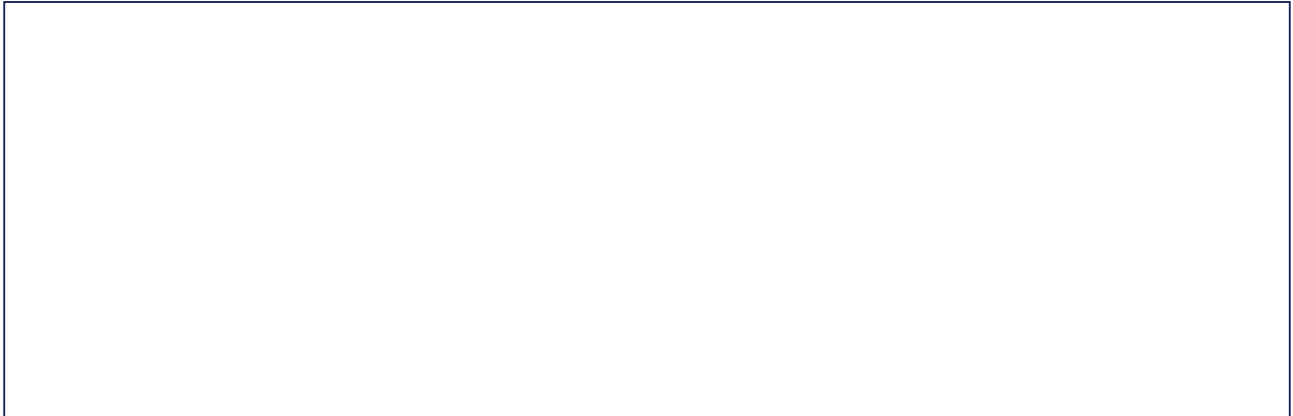
2. According to the text, what is the core belief of reincarnation? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why might someone who does not believe in a spiritual afterlife still feel that their life has meaning? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the idea of a 'singular life' with the idea of 'reincarnation'. How do they differ in their view of the soul's journey? (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for people to discuss their beliefs about life after death? Justify your answer using evidence or logical reasoning. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of a 'legacy'. Think about how a person's kindness or achievements might continue to grow like a tree or ripple like water after they are gone.



Extension challenge: Research a belief system not mentioned in the passage (such as Ancient Egyptian views on the afterlife or Humanist perspectives). Write a short paragraph explaining how their views on death change the way they live their daily lives. What might happen if a society completely stopped considering what happens after death?