

Perspectives on Life After Death: A Philosophical Exploration

Learning objective: To explore and compare diverse religious and non-religious beliefs regarding life after death, using evidence-based reasoning to understand human perspectives on the afterlife.

Read the questions carefully. Use your knowledge of world religions and philosophical viewpoints to provide thoughtful, balanced answers. Ensure you use appropriate vocabulary to explain complex concepts.

Different cultures and religions have developed unique interpretations of what happens after physical life ends. Some traditions, such as Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism, often focus on the soul's journey to an afterlife or a state of divine peace. Conversely, traditions originating in the Indian subcontinent, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, frequently teach the concept of reincarnation—a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth shaped by one's actions. Others approach the topic through a secular lens, focusing on the lasting impact of one's deeds and the memories left behind as a form of continued existence.

Word bank: Reincarnation · Afterlife · Resurrection · Legacy · Spirituality · Transmigration · Heaven · Moksha · Nirvana · Finite

1. Explain the difference between the concepts of 'Resurrection' and 'Reincarnation'. Why might a believer find comfort in one over the other? (3 marks)

2. Max the monkey believes that life is like a maths equation that must be balanced. How might he use the concept of 'Karma' to explain the idea of life after death? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a religious view of the afterlife with a non-religious (secular) view. What does each perspective value most about life on Earth? (4 marks)

4. Justify why many cultures perform specific rituals or ceremonies when a person passes away. What is the purpose of these actions for the living? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a society held no belief in an afterlife? Explain the potential impact on how people choose to live their daily lives. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of how different people perceive the 'cycle of life'. Use patterns and symbols to illustrate how a legacy might continue, even after a physical life has ended.



Extension challenge: Research a specific culture's tradition regarding remembrance (such as the Festival of Ancestors or All Souls' Day). Write a short, reflective poem in the style of Leo the Lion that explores the importance of memory and the 'footprints' we leave behind for future generations.