

Exploring Perspectives: Life After Death

Learning objective: To articulate and compare different religious and non-religious views on life after death with maturity and respect.

Use this scaffold to structure your reflection. Ensure you use the vocabulary provided and provide reasoned explanations for the viewpoints discussed.

Throughout history, humans have pondered the mystery of what happens to our consciousness once our physical life comes to an end.

Word bank: reincarnation · afterlife · perspective · legacy · philosophical · metaphorical · existence · belief · paradise · cycle · consequently · furthermore · on the other hand

1. Introduction: Define the concept of 'life after death'. How would you describe the significance of this question to people of faith and non-religious people? Start by saying: 'The mystery of what follows life is a question that has shaped...', (2 marks)

2. Religious Perspectives: Explain the concept of an afterlife in at least one religion. How does this belief influence the way a person lives their life today? Start by saying: 'Many religious traditions suggest that...', (3 marks)

3. Alternative Views: Compare and contrast the idea of an afterlife with a non-religious perspective, such as the concept of living on through one's legacy or memories. Start by saying: 'In contrast to those who believe in a spiritual afterlife, others argue that...', (3 marks)

4. Personal Reflection: Justify why it is important for society to respect different views on death and what might follow it. Start by saying: 'It is essential to respect diverse opinions because...', (2 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: What might happen if everyone in the world shared the exact same belief about life after death? Explain why this might change how we treat our planet and each other. Start by saying: 'If humanity held a singular belief about the afterlife, I think...', (4 marks)

6. Synthesis: Conclude by summarising the common thread that connects these different beliefs. Start by saying: 'Ultimately, whether through spiritual hope or human legacy, the desire to find meaning in life is...', (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are interviewing Ellie the elephant, who has lived for many years and observed many different human traditions. Write a dialogue between yourself and Ellie where she explains why she thinks humans are the only species that spends so much time contemplating the 'afterlife'. Justify your answer using philosophical reasoning.