

Topic	Knowledge
Life After Death	<p>* There are lots of different beliefs about life after death. Theists believe in life after death because it involves an afterlife which links to faith in God. Some agnostics might be persuaded by arguments for life after death (for example paranormal). Atheists reject an afterlife completely.</p> <p>* Dawkins is a world famous evolutionary biologist and atheist. Some have called him an anti-theist – he rejects all religions and ideas of God, he has spent his life writing books and attempting to prove religions wrong. Dawkins does not believe in a life after death, for Dawkins life after death is something humans believe in, despite a lack of evidence that gives us comfort and meaning to our lives – nothing more, it is just mistaken belief that helps us to survive. Dawkins argues that our need for an afterlife is in our DNA not our souls.</p> <p>He argues that life exists for one reason: to pass along its genetic material to the next generation. Embedded in DNA is the genetic material of our ancestors. Our own genetic material will be added to the DNA of our children. In this way, we will live forever, though not in a personal way.</p> <p>* Justin Welby is the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury and the most senior bishop in the Church of England. He has been involved with the Church since 1992 and is a devout Christian. Welby does believe in life after death, for him belief in life after death would not have been possible without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ which Welby believes to be a factual historical event. For Welby belief in life after death and love of Jesus gives people hope and comfort in their time of need, Welby suggests that religion is a positive force in our lives and communities which help support and guide people in times of need and grief.</p>
Paranormal Activity	<p>Paranormal events are used as evidence for life after death by some people. Examples of paranormal events in this case might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ghosts – the soul or spirit of a dead person believed to be sensed by the living. - Mediums – People who claim to be able to communicate to the dead. - Near death experiences – When someone who was close to death wakes up and claims to have had a temporary experience of the afterlife. <p>* Scientists reject paranormal activity as confirmation of life after death and claim that there is no evidence-based proof. They claim that all experiences of the paranormal can be explained scientifically by infrasound (sound waves effecting our brains), waking dreams (psychological issues) or grief (wanting to believe as a comfort).</p>
Humanist Views & Science	<p>* Humanists are non-religious people and so do not believe in a God, however they do believe in humanity and place great importance on human life. They:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Believe in scientific methods when it comes to understanding how the universe works - Make their ethical decisions based on reason, empathy, and a concern for human beings - Believe human beings should seek happiness in this life and helping others to do the same. <p>* They reject ideas of life after death as they do not believe in a God / afterlife, they suggest that instead we should find meaning in our own lives and live it to the full, when we die our bodies will decompose but we will still be remembered by our family and loved ones.</p> <p>* During the 1980's Michael Persinger a neuro scientist created the 'God Helmet' which claimed to show that religious experiences can be created artificially by stimulating parts of the brain with electromagnetism. Persinger reports over 900 people who took part in his experiments claimed to experience "mystical experiences and altered states". Persinger reports that "at least" 80 percent of his participants experience a presence beside them in the room and about one percent report an experience of "God" and others report less evocative experiences of "another consciousness or sentient being". He used these experiments to claim that God was just a contraction of the human mind.</p>
Buddhism & Reincarnation	<p>* Buddhists believe that when someone dies their energy passes into another form. Buddhists believe this is a continuous loop(samsara) and the goal is to ESCAPE! * Buddhists DO NOT believe in a permanent self or soul. A person is not reborn but the energy of that person gets reborn.</p> <p>* Buddhists believe that all life is suffering and therefore the goal for all Buddhists is to escape samsara. By following the teachings of the Buddha and living ethically Buddhists can reach enlightenment (The realisation of the truth about life) and achieve nirvana (indescribable state outside of samsara).</p> <p>* Rebirth is decided by karma. Good actions/ karma = good rebirth. When Buddhist follow the Eightfold Path and gain good karma they will have a better rebirth. They can be reborn as humans, animals, demigods and gods BUT being reborn as a human gives them the best opportunity to escape samsara.</p>

Year 8 RPE

Topic 2: Life After Death

Knowledge Organiser

Christian Views	<p>* Christians believe that there is life after death. They think that the soul leaves the body after death and enters a new place. This place depends on how a person has lived their life. Most Christians believe that all persons are judged as to whether they lived a good or bad life. Depending on this they will be sent to either:</p> <p>* Heaven is a place of perfection (often described as paradise) and is where believers go if have lived a morally good life and who have accepted God and Jesus into their hearts. Jesus' resurrection inspires this.</p> <p>* Hell is a place of torture and eternal suffering. This is where non-believers go or anyone who has done wrong and not asked for forgiveness (or been forgiven).</p> <p>* Catholic Christians also believe that after judgement people enter purgatory and this is an opportunity for believers to ask for forgiveness and pay for their sins. This is often described as process rather than a place.</p>
Muslim Views	<p>* Muslims believe in life after death. This is called Akhirah. Muslims believe that when a person dies they go to a place called Barzakh to await judgement. Once the Day of Judgement comes, all bodies will be resurrected to await judgment (which is why Muslims have quick burials). After judgement, Muslims believe those who have passed the test will God to Al-Jannah and those who fail will go to Jahannam.</p> <p>* Al-Jannah – this is also called paradise and is described in the Qur'an (Muslim holy book) as a wonderful garden. Believers go here if they are a real Muslim who has pleased Allah during their life.</p> <p>* Jahannam – this is a place of hell and is described as being fire, black smoke and boiling water. It is a place of punishment where those who deserve it face endless pain and torture, mainly, for turning away from Allah.</p>

Key Word	Meaning
Life after Death	The belief that when you die there is another life which a person can transfer to.
Paranormal	Events beyond scientific explanation, thought to have a spiritual cause.
Near Death Experience	A paranormal event which makes a person experience the afterlife without dying.
Mediums	A person who claims to be able to speak to the dead.
Humanism	People who do not believe in God but place great importance on human life
The God Helmet	A device created by Persinger to replicate religious experiences scientifically
Samsara	The cycle of death and rebirth
Enlightenment	The realisation of the truth about life
Nirvana	Indescribable state outside of samsara
Karma	Actions and the consequences of actions
Eightfold Path	The eight practises a Buddhist strives to live by
The Soul	The non-physical part of a person, believed to be a gift from God
Heaven	A place with God.
Hell	A place without God.
Purgatory	Believed by Catholics, where our souls go to be 'purified' before entering heaven
Akhirah	Life after death in Arabic (the Islamic view of life after death)
Bazarkh	The waiting place between death and judgement for Muslims.
Jannah	The Arabic word for Paradise – a heaven where you go when you die
Jahannam	The Muslim word for hell – a place of punishment
Izra'il	The angel that takes our soul from our bodies when we die

Quotes
<p><i>'A delusion is something that people believe in spite of a total lack of evidence'</i> Richard Dawkins</p>
<p><i>The horizon is not dominated by the past – but by what God can do. And God can raise the dead'</i> Justin Welby</p>
<p><i>'Feeling something beyond yourself, bigger in space and time, can be stimulated'</i> Michael Persinger</p>
<p><i>'Set your heart on doing good. Do it over and over again, And you will be filled with joy'</i> Buddha</p>
<p><i>'The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it'</i> The Bible</p>
<p><i>'Who will bring us back? The one who created you the first time'</i> The Qur'an</p>
<p><i>'Life is uncertain; death is certain'</i> Buddha</p>