

Aspirational Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Afterlife	A belief in existence after physical death.
Judgement	The belief that God assesses a person's actions to decide their fate in the afterlife.
Heaven	A state or place of eternal happiness in the presence of God.
Hell	A state or place of eternal suffering and separation from God.
Resurrection	The belief in rising from the dead; in Christianity, Jesus' resurrection is central.
Akhirah	The Islamic concept of life after death.
Barzakh	An intermediate state in Islam between death and the Day of Judgement.
Reincarnation	The belief that the soul is reborn in another body after death.
Pascal's Wager	A philosophical argument suggesting it is safer to believe in God just in case He exists.
Materialism	The view that only physical matter exists and there is no spiritual realm.

Why Do People Believe in Life After Death?

- Beliefs about the afterlife offer comfort, meaning, and hope during times of loss.
- Many religions teach that the soul continues after death and is judged or reborn.
- Personal experiences, visions, and cultural influences also shape these beliefs.

Non-Religious Views on Life After Death

- Atheists often reject life after death, believing that consciousness ends at death.
- Humanists focus on living a meaningful life and being remembered by others.
- Some people believe in an undefined spiritual continuation without a religious framework.

Afterlife and Judgement in Christianity

- Christians believe in an eternal soul that is judged by God after death.
- Heaven is seen as being with God forever; hell as eternal separation from Him.
- Some Christians believe in bodily resurrection at the end of time.

Pascal's Wager

- Pascal argued that it is more reasonable to believe in God than not to.
- If God exists and you believe, you gain everything; if He doesn't, you lose nothing.
- Critics say belief should not be based on a bet or fear of punishment.

Life After Death in Islam

- Muslims believe in Akhirah – life after death, where all are judged by Allah.
- The soul enters Barzakh until the Day of Judgement.
- Believers hope for paradise (Jannah); wrongdoers may be sent to hell (Jahannam).

Different Views on Life After Death

- Hindus and Buddhists believe in reincarnation, with the soul being reborn in new forms.
- Sikhs also believe in rebirth and eventual liberation (moksha).
- Some Christians believe in purgatory – a temporary state before reaching heaven.

Big Questions

- 1) Why do so many people believe in life after death?
- 2) What do Christianity and Islam teach about the afterlife and judgement?
- 3) How do religious and non-religious views differ?
- 4) What comfort or challenge does belief in life after death offer?
- 5) Is Pascal's Wager a convincing reason to believe in God?