

**RE: How far does it make a difference if you believe in life after death?**  
**Knowledge Organizer**

**1. Key People**

<b>Christians</b>	Followers of God who believe that Jesus of Nazareth's death means their souls can exist with God after they die.
<b>Muslims</b>	Followers of God who believe that by following instructions passed on by Muhammad of Mecca their souls can exist with God after they die. Their religion is called <b>Islam</b> .
<b>Humanists</b>	People who don't believe in any god or afterlife, and say people should act so that everyone can enjoy the one life they have.
<b>Sikhs</b>	Followers of God who believe that living according to the Gurus' teachings will result in joining with God.
<b>Hindus</b>	Followers of God/ Brahman/ The Ultimate Reality who try to connect with it by focusing on a minor god or goddess.
<b>Buddhists</b>	Followers of teachings given by The Buddha that they say can lead to the end of suffering.



**2. You need to know...**

- There are **different reasons** why many people believe in life after death. These reasons include believing in religious teachings, having religious and near-death experiences and wanting justice to offset an unjust world
- In the **New Testament** (the second part of the Christian Bible) Saint Paul says that believing in **Jesus' resurrection** is what makes someone a **Christian**
- **Christianity and Islam** share a belief in a **Day of Judgement**, when God will decide which people can be resurrected and be with God for **ever**
- For many **Muslims**, belief, actions and **intentions** in this life are important for the outcome of the Day of Judgement
- Sikhism teaches that people should move from being **self-centred** (manmukh) to being **God-centred** (gurmukh)
- **Hinduism and Sikhism** teach that through **reincarnation**, humans need many chances to learn how to get close to God
- Buddhism **doesn't** have a teaching about a god. It also teaches that we **don't** have a permanent soul.
- Many Buddhists feel that acting with the **right intentions** helps people **let go** of self-centredness, which causes suffering
- Humanists say that there is **no evidence** for life after death
- Humanists think the lack of an afterlife is a reason to **make the most** of this life

**3. Key vocabulary**

<b>afterlife</b>	Having a life after death.
<b>resurrection</b>	A body and a soul coming back to life together.
<b>reincarnation</b>	A soul entering a new body, to physically live again.
<b>judgement</b>	A decision made by a god about whether a soul can go to Heaven or not.
<b>rebirth</b>	<b>Either</b> when a soul is reincarnated <b>or</b> when some parts of a being's consciousness and their karmic energy become part of a new life.
<b>akhirah</b>	Arabic for "the hereafter".

**4. Concepts**

<b>Living a Good Life</b>	self/spirit/consciousness 
<b>Ultimate Questions</b>	afterlife 

**5. Contexts**

The Tanakh (the Jewish Bible or Christian Old Testament) has **little to say** about an afterlife. However, there's a lot about it in the New Testament and the **Koran**. Even though Jesus was Jewish, he had a lot to say about Heaven and Hell and is even said to have been **tempted** by the Devil before he started preaching his message.

Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism share some important ideas- karma, rebirth, samsara and freedom from samsara