

### Key Concepts

<b>Death</b>	The end of physical life. When the physical body ceases completely to function	<b>Hell</b>	The total lack of God for all eternity. The end of physical life
<b>Eternal Life</b>	The term used to refer to life in heaven after death	<b>Soul</b>	The eternal part of a human being, given at conception and which lives on after death
<b>Heaven</b>	An eternal existence in God's presence in the next life	<b>Resurrection</b>	The raising of the physical body to life again after death

### Life after Death

Catholic teaching on purgatory, heaven and hell

Contrasting views about life after death

### Key Sources of Authority

"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith... for as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive... if there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15

"The fire will test the quality of each person's work." 1 Corinthians 3: 13  
 Parables of judgement. Matthew 18:21-35 (The Sheep & goats) Luke 16:19-31 (Rich Man and Lazarus)

### Key Beliefs

#### Catholic teaching about life after death

The resurrection is proof for Catholics that there is life after death. The Creed, Bible and Catechism also convince them that there is eternal life and a belief in eternal life gives life meaning and purpose. Catholics believe that the soul goes to heaven (if they die with no unforgiven sins), purgatory (if they die with unforgiven small sins and/or do not know God), hell (if they die with unforgiven big sins and/or refuse to believe in God). In the future Jesus will return (Parousia) and judge everyone. Souls will be reunited with their new spiritual bodies (resurrection of the body).

#### Other Christian teaching about life after death

Some Christians believe that the body stays in the grave until judgement day when all are raised. Others believe that all souls go to heaven immediately because on the cross Jesus said to the criminal 'today you will be with me in paradise'.

#### Other beliefs about life after death

Some non-religious people believe in life after death due to their belief in ghosts, psychics, near death experiences, reincarnation accounts etc. Some atheists (humanists) believe that the dead live but only in photographs, memories and the soil (if buried). Others reject a belief in life after death and propose arguments such as: there is no evidence; death means the end of life so life after death doesn't make sense; Jesus' body may have been stolen from the tomb etc.

#### Jewish beliefs about life after death

The afterlife is often called *olam ha ba* (the world to come). As there are no direct references to the nature of an afterlife in the Torah there are different beliefs and interpretations. Some Jews believe there is a life after death and other Jews believe that what lives on is how you remember the person for the good deeds they have done in their life. For most Jews their concern is not what happens after death but what good they do while alive.

### Exam Practice

Describe some of Jesus' teachings on heaven and hell. (5)

Describe Catholic beliefs about the resurrection of the body. (5)

"There is no life after death" or  
 "There is no such thing as purgatory"

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view (you must refer to religion and belief in your answer). (15)

### Key Connections

How do beliefs about life after death affect how people live their lives?

Compare Catholic and other Christian beliefs about life after death

Compare Christian, Jewish and non-religious beliefs about life after death