



Year 8 life after death key facts Christianity

You are expected to know all of the information in this booklet.
You will be assessed on this knowledge.

Christian Funeral

- The coffin is carried slowly to the front of the Church.
- Prayers of welcome are said for the mourners.
- A Bible reading and hymns that are about life after death is recited.
- A **eulogy** is said of the life of the person who has died.
- The **commendation** - the soul of the deceased is given to God's protection.
- The **committal** - the body is given to God either by burial or through the curtain for cremation.
- Final prayers of blessing is recited for those present to be comforted in the time of loss.
- A gathering or **wake** is organised for mourners to share memories and celebrate the life of the deceased.

Stages of Afterlife

- Death** - at the time of death, the soul separates from the body.
- Personal Judgement (Catholics only)** - straight after death, every individual is judged.
- Purgatory (Catholics only)** - an intermediate state where souls are cleansed in order to enter heaven.
- The Second Coming** - the prophesied return of Christ to Earth for the Last Judgement.
- Resurrection** - the body is resurrected and unites with soul.
- The Final/Last Judgement** - will take place after the resurrection of the dead and the Second Coming. After this judgement, people will either go heaven or hell for eternity.
- Heaven** - believing souls will enter Heaven and all sins will be cleansed.
- Hell** - unbelieving souls will go to Hell.

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” John 11:25

- Christians strongly believe that death is not the end.
- Instead, they believe that after death they will come back to life to live for eternity, just like Jesus.
- Christians believe in the **immortality** of the soul, that the soul lives on after the death of the body.
- Christians believe that after the **crucifixion**, Jesus' body was put in a cave and three days later, on Easter Sunday, he **resurrected**.
- Over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to his disciples and continued to inform them about how they can also be with him after death if they follow his teachings.
- He then **ascended** to the heavens to go and sit on the right hand side of the Father.
- **Not all Christians have exactly the same belief about life after death.**

Resurrection: (difference of opinion)

- Some Christians say the heavenly bodies will possess flesh that is of a different variety than the earthly ones; imperishable and eternal bodies.
- Some Christians believe that it is only the soul that will live on because of what St Paul said, 'Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God'.

Judgement: (difference of opinion)

- Most Christians believe that they will be judged on faith **and** actions as taught in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats.
- Some believe that people will be judged only on faith or only on actions.
- Some say everyone will go heaven because God is Omnibenevolent.

Heaven and Hell: (difference of opinion)

- Some Christians believe that heaven and hell are **physical places**. Heaven is a reward with many beautiful things. Hell is a place of fire, torment and suffering.
- Some Christians believe that heaven and hell are **spiritual states**. Heaven is a place quite literally being WITH God. This is the ultimate 'heaven' and hell is being WITHOUT God, the ultimate 'loss and pain'.



Year 8 life after death key facts Islam

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Muslim Funeral

- **Time of Death** - The Shahadah is recited near death as it summaries the core beliefs of Muslims and a means to enter heaven.
- **Washing & Shrouding** - Bodies are very gently washed and then wrapped in sheets of white unsewn cloth signifying the belief in the equality of all humans, regardless of wealth, gender, race or colour.
- **Funeral** – The Muslim community get together and pray Salat-ul Janazah (funeral prayer) and ask forgiveness to God on their behalf.
- **Burial** - The deceased is buried in a cemetery. Muslims believe everyone was created from earth so therefore must be returned to earth after death. Cremation is forbidden in Islam.
- **Mourning** - Mourning should last no more than 3 days as death is not considered to be the end and so, Muslims place their faith in God and trust in him to take care of the dead.

After Burial

- Soon after the burial, Muslims believe that the soul enters a realm between this world and the **Akhirah** (Hereafter) called the **Barzakh**.
- Barzakh means a veil or barrier.
- The first thing that happens in the life of Barzakh, is that two angels, called **Munkar and Nakir**, approach the soul and ask three questions about Islam. ‘Who is your Lord? What is your religion? Who is the final prophet?’ The heart will answer.
- Thereafter, the soul remains in this realm according to their deeds until the world comes to an end.
- If the person is destined for heaven, then the wait in the grave will be pleasant and beautiful. Otherwise, it will be a place of torment and pain. This will continue till everyone is resurrected.

Stages of Hereafter

1. The Last Hour

- Muslims believe that **everyone** in the world will die one day.
- The Angel of Death takes the soul of every person.
- Muslims believe that this **world** is temporary and will end one day.
- The eternal life is the **Akhirah (Hereafter)** which is life after death.
- The entire universe will perish along with everyone in it by the impact of the sound of the **Soor** (a special trumpet) which will be blown by an angel called, **Israfil**. This is known as ‘**The Last Hour**’.
- None knows when this will happen except Allah.
- However, there are minor and major signs to signal it’s nearness.

2. Resurrection

- After a period where only Allah exists, He will bring back to life angel **Israfil** and order him to blow the **Soor** again, (for the second time) which will bring every living being back to life.
- Everyone’s soul will unite with their bodies.
- Everyone will **resurrect** and proceed towards **Judgement Day**.

3. Judgement Day

- Angels will give everyone their book of deeds in either their right hand, which will be a sign that Allah is pleased with them, or left hand, a sign of Allah’s displeasure.
- Allah will then judge everyone on their faith and actions.
- Allah will be absolutely fair and just during this judgement.
- All deeds of humans will be weighed on a scale called **Al-Mizan**.
- The results from the weighing will give an indication of whether a person will be sent to heaven or hell.
- However, ultimately, the final call is from Allah. He will forgive whoever he wants on this day and those entering heaven will only be because of His absolute **mercy**.

4. Heaven & Hell

- Muslims believe both heaven and hell are physical places.
- Heaven is known as **Jannah** and hell is known as **Jahannam**.
- Jannah is a reward to those who lived their life according to the **Qur’an** and **Sunnah** and Jahannam is for those who did not.



Year 8 life after death key facts

Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and non-religious beliefs

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Most non-religious people do not believe there is any life after death.

- Some say that nothing happens after death. There is no life, or resurrection or reincarnation after one passes away.
- Some might say that the only thing that lives on after death is a person's legacy and remembrance as a memory of others.

Immortality as a legacy

is the belief that there is no actual life after death and that we will only exist in what we leave behind.

Immortality as a memory of others

is the belief that there is no actual life after death and that we will only exist in the memories of family and friends.

Some non-religious people might believe that there is life after death because of the following reasons:

- **Near-death experiences (NDE).** People claim to have near-death experiences when they are classed as clinically dead for a short period then revived or it happens during a medical operation. They often describe feelings of peace; out of body experiences; seeing a bright light; and even meeting deceased relatives.
- **Paranormal activities.** Beliefs in **ghosts** and **Ouija boards** give some people reasons to believe that the spirits, or souls, of the dead live on. Some believe in **Mediums** who claim evidence for life after death by contacting people's dead relatives and telling them things only their relatives could know.

Reincarnation

- Reincarnation is usually associated with **Hinduism, Sikhism** and **Buddhism** but **some non-religious people** have also adopted the idea.
- Reincarnation is the belief that existence is a cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth.
- Rebirth is decided by a person's **karma** and how a person lived and performed actions in their previous life.
- Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists say the actions you do in this life will determine what you come as in your next life in this world.
- Good karma can be accumulated by the following:
 - **Hindus:** Following the **Vedas** and completing your **dharma**.
 - **Sikhs:** Following the teachings of the **gurus** and carrying out the three types of **sewa**.
 - **Buddhists:** Following the **Eightfold Path** and accepting the **Four Noble Truths**.
- If a person's karma is really good, then instead of reincarnation or rebirth, the following will happen:
 - **Hindus:** the soul (**atman**) breaks free from the cycle and attains **Moksha** (*soul absorbs with **Brahman***).
 - **Sikhs:** the soul breaks free from the cycle and attains **Mukti** (*soul connects with **Waheguru***).
 - **Buddhists:** The energy of a person breaks free from the cycle and attains **Nirvana** (enlightenment), an indescribable state of joy, happiness and the end of eternal suffering.
- Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists believe the best method of disposing the deceased is by burning the body in a funeral ceremony known as **cremation**. The ashes is then thrown into a holy river or any sea water. Some Buddhist might bury the ashes with the bones that remain.

