

Key Terms: Top Tip: Using key terms in work shows more understanding and shows higher level learning

Atheist – Someone that does not believe in a God

Theist – Someone that does believe in a God

Agnostic – Someone who is unsure of whether they believe in a God

Materialist – Someone who lives their life trying to earn as much money as possible to buy the best things in life

Philosophical Question – A question that cannot be answered or can be answered in many different ways

Journalist Question – A question that has a definite answer

Soul – The spiritual or immaterial part of a person that makes you who you are.

Reincarnation – when the body dies and their soul is reborn

Mediums – People who can contact the dead

Near death experience – When someone about to die has an out of body experience and can feel like they have witnessed the after life.

Humanist- humans like to help other humans

The mind cannot exist without the body. The two things live and die together. Those who have had a near death experience are just hallucinating

Different religions = Different beliefs about the after life. If the after life was true then they would all believe in the same thing.

Evidence of afterlife is found in holy books. How is an atheist supposed to know which one to follow?

Why do some people not believe in the afterlife?

Parents may not believe in life after death and this upbringing has influenced you.

Christian beliefs about life after death vary, but many believe that:

- Their soul will be **resurrected** and receive **eternal life** after they die.
- They will be **judged by God** and either **rewarded with heaven** or **punished with hell**.
- This judgement will happen either very soon after death or on the **Day of Judgement**. This is a time in the future when the **world will end** and **Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead**.

Buddhists believe in a cycle of death and rebirth called samsara. Through karma and eventual enlightenment, they hope to escape samsara and achieve nirvana, an end to suffering.



Philosophical Questions – year 7



Reasons why people believe in the afterlife:

1. God has created it.
2. It tells us in the holy books that heaven and hell is real
3. There is evidence of people who have been reincarnated.
4. Some people believe they can contact the dead or have seen ghosts.
5. Some believe that they have had a near death experience and have a recollection of what heaven is like.

No God = therefore nothing can create it!

There is nowhere for life and death to take place. We have been in space = no heaven.

The meaning of life:

Humanist - Life is all about looking after one another, supporting each other in your community.

Materialist - To earn lots of money, spend it and buy the finest things in life.

Theist - To dedicate life trying to love God and abiding by the holy book

Atheist - Trying to be happy in life because this is the only life we're given, so make the most of it.

CREATIONISM

This is the belief that all of creation has been created by God and described in the book of Genesis.

The Creation Story:

Day 1 – God created light and separated the light from the darkness, calling light “day” and darkness “night”.

Day 2 - God created a wide area to separate the waters and called it "sky".

Day 3 - God created the dry ground and gathered the waters, calling the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters "seas." On day three, God also created vegetation (plants and trees).

Day 4 - God created the sun, moon, and the stars to give light to the earth and to govern and separate the day and the night. These would also serve as signs to mark seasons, days, and years.

Day 5 - God created every living creature of the seas and every winged bird, blessing them to multiply and fill the waters and the sky with life.

Day 6 - God created the animals to fill the earth. On day six, God also created man and woman (Adam and Eve) in his own image. He blessed them and gave them every creature and the whole earth to rule over, care for, and support.

Day 7 - God had finished his work of creation and so he rested on the seventh day, blessing it and making it ho

Some Christians believe that the Bible is Gods truth, an accurate historical record and should be taken **literally**. They believe the universe began 6000 years ago and that there are six days of creation. They **reject** any scientific theory such as that of evolution and some strands of creationists believe that fossils and dinosaurs are a **hoax** or **conspiracy**.

Other Christians believe that God caused and created the universe but do believe that science can explain how old the universe and the world is. They believe that the 6 days of creation can be **interpreted** to mean 6 period of times meaning that creation didn't happen in 6 days, but over many millions of years.

There are some Christians who believe the ‘Creation story’ is a myth but it is the message behind it which is important.

The message of the creation story is:

God is the sole and omnipotent creator.

God is the source of everything in the universe and sustains it.

God created a universe that was ordered and not chaotic.

Every aspect of God's creation was good: that is, it fulfilled His purpose for it.

Human beings were given authority over the rest of the created world.

The theory of evolution by Charles Darwin.

Darwin was a scientist and a believer in God.

He was one of many who were in a race to publish their discoveries after studying how species have evolved or changed to adapt to differences in life and in order to survive.

Darwin went to the Galapagos Islands in Equador and studied the weird and wonder life.

He noticed that any undesirable qualities that were found in species, were gradually dying out. There was a natural selection of more desirable qualities which allowed survival.

Atheists believe in scientific theories such as The Big Bang theory and Evolution because:

The account of creation in the Bible is around 3,000 years old it cannot possible be reliable.

There is more evidence for evolution such as fossil records and genetics.

When the Bible was written, no one knew about science so the writers just made up the easiest explanation.

The earth and everything in it could not have been made in 6 days. The earth is billions of years old and humans have only existed for a fraction of that time.

The idea of God creating the world does not make logical sense because there is no evidence.

Reasons why people believe God did create the world

Reasons why people do not believe God created the world

It tells us in the Bible how God created the world in 7 days. The Bible is the word of God so must be true



Everything has to have a cause, therefore the world must have a cause

The world could not have happened by chance. It is too complicated/int intricate not to have a creator.

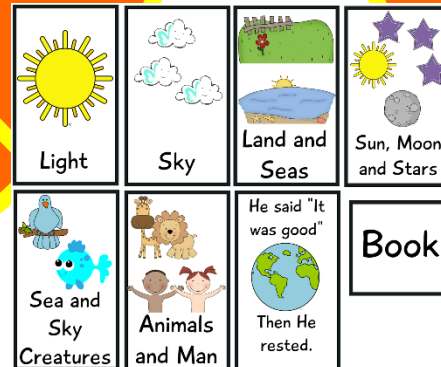
The world was created through the Big Bang that has been scientifically proven

If God is perfect and all loving why did he create a world that can be dangerous eg, volcanoes, earthquakes etc

Only God had the power to be able to create such a wonderful world.

Why did God have to create the world? Why could it not occurred naturally? It doesn't have to have a cause

It is impossible for God to create the world in 7 days!



Many believers describe God as being:

- Omnibenevolent – God is all loving
- Omniscient – God is all knowing
- Omnipotent – God is all powerful

An atheist response to suffering

An atheist cannot believe that a God exists because if God is omnipotent then He would be powerful enough to stop suffering. Also, if God is omniscient then He should know about suffering and end it. Finally, if God is omnibenevolent then He would love us enough to end it.

6) Evil and suffering unites them with Christs suffering on the cross – there is hope of a new life in heaven

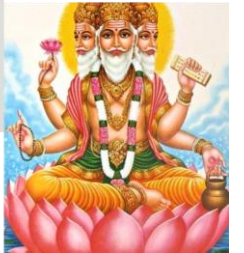
5) Maybe it is a punishment for people being sinful.

4) Good always comes from evil – maybe it is to teach people a lesson

Why do Christians believe that we suffer?

2) Suffering is a test of faith to see whether people still remain devout to God. If they do they will be rewarded in heaven

3) Moral evil is the consequence of abusing freewill. Humans are causing evil not God.



Suffering In Hinduism

The law of karma says that every action has consequences.

Bad karma brings pain and suffering into the world. This pain is not God's fault but has been brought on by peoples karma.

The suffering does now always come in this life. They might come in a future rebirth and transfer into the next life when someone is reincarnated– e.g, a bad person might be reborn into a very poor family as a punishment for their bad deeds in a previous life.