

## Candidate 3 evidence

I am going to be looking into different religious and non religious views on life after death (LAD) and to see whether it is reasonable to believe in or not. Religions I looked at were Christianity and Sikhism and a non religious view I ~~was~~ researched was humanism. My question is significant today because people are curious about what happens after we die. Humans want to know what is beyond death as what we do in our present life can maybe effect where we go next. For example people may live their life doing everything they think is right in order to benefit what happens after death.

One reason that believing in an afterlife is reasonable is that it helps people deal with death and grief. Believing in LAD means that whoever dies is in another life and eventually you will be reunited. For example losing your parent(s) but knowing they aren't alone can be very comforting, therefore it will help with the grieving process. Christians would say that we either go to heaven or hell after we die. Heaven usually symbolises a beautiful and good place, whereas hell symbolises pain and suffering. The bible states "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" Matthew 25:46. Whether one goes to heaven or hell will be decided on judgement day by God. The website BBC bite-size states "This is when you are judged on the deeds you have done during this lifetime and the deeds you failed to do". This makes <sup>believing</sup> in an after-life reasonable because it makes sense that we get judged on the actions we ~~stare~~ choose to act on because it's our own conscious decisions. Personally, I think it is possible that life after death exists because there are so many people with so many theories which makes it reasonable because the more people who believe in something the more convincing it is that it's real. However I am

uncertain if God exists for there to be a heaven and hell and if God was real, he would send everyone to heaven immediately as God would want to prevent suffering because of his nature being omnibenevolent (All loving)

However, humanists would say that we only live once and we should make the most of this life. Instead of worrying about death we should experience this life in the moment. For example spending time with your siblings and family while they are still here rather than worrying about when they won't be. For me, I agree with humanists because it is understandable that we should live our life like it's our last because no one actually knows what is beyond death, therefore is it worth wasting the life we have got trying to understand something that might not be real? This shows that humanists would say believing in life after death is unreasonable as it's important to appreciate this life and not wish it away by being preoccupied on what happens next.

One reason that believing in life after death is unreasonable is that there is no scientific evidence. Without any legitimate evidence ~~of or that~~ it's hard to believe that there is something beyond death. Scientists have come to the conclusion that an afterlife doesn't exist. For example Sean Carroll who is a physics professor stated 'if there was an afterlife, consciousness would need to be separate from the body, which it's not. This shows that believing in an afterlife is unreasonable because he proved that it would be extremely difficult, most likely impossible for our mind to ~~possibly~~ singely go to an afterlife.

~~Humanists~~ Humanists would agree with this argument as they say medical science has shown how when we die, the brain completely stops, medical advances ~~proves~~

have let humans understand the body and the mind with no evidence of a Soul that can go to ~~the~~ an afterlife. A website called understanding humanism quoted 'Evidence is important to humanists when deciding what to believe and they see no good evidence that we live on after we die'. Humanists also use the example that unicorns don't exist so we don't believe in them, therefore what is the difference with LAD. This makes believing in an afterlife unreasonable because medical science is developing constantly and scientists are becoming more accurate, yet life after death still lacks proof and evidence.

However, Sikhs say that after they die they are reincarnated because unlike humanists Sikhs do believe that we have a soul (atma) which travels through many different life forms after death until achieving the ultimate goal of jivan mukhti. Sikhs will either be reincarnated into a lower species or a higher species depending on what they deserve. If a Sikh does good and follows the GGS teachings after death they will go to a higher species. However if a Sikh does wrong the opposite will occur leaving the cycle of re-birth to continue. For example if one was ~~so~~ to start as a dog and they gained good karmic energy they are more likely to be a human in the next life which makes them closer to reunion with God (jivan mukhti). But, if one was to gain ~~bad~~ bad karmic energy they will most likely go from a dog to ~~sp~~ rabbit which results in them being further away from the ultimate goal. For Sikhs, believing in LAD would be reasonable as it is important for them to transmigrate and work their way up to becoming jivan mukhti because that is a big part in their religion.

In conclusion, I believe it is reasonable to believe in life after death. Mainly because it is a good coping mechanism for death and can really help people

get ~~through~~ through the loss of a loved one. I also think because of religions such as Sikhism who dedicate their lives and feel so strongly that this is what happens to them it's enough for me to believe that it's real.

However, I do agree that we should make the most of this life and appreciate it because there is still no scientific evidence that backs up LAD. That saying, just because there is no evidence now does not mean that there won't be in the future.

Christianity "God So loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

= "those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done to the resurrection of judgement" John 5:28-29

Bible "Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even when he dies."

"And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" Matthew 25:46.

"The path of life leads upwards for the present to keep them from going down to the realm of the dead"

- Final judgement on youtube by Colin Michael = Short film = 2017
- BBC biteSize 'This is when you are 'judged on the deeds you have done during this lifetime and the deeds you failed to do'

### Humanism

"Evidence is important to humanists when deciding what to believe and they see no good evidence that we live on after we die" = Understand Humanism.

'if there was an afterlife, consciousness would need to be separate from the body' - Sean Carroll.

'leaving no room for a soul' - Understanding Humanism.