

Key Concepts			
Resurrection	The raising of the body to life following death. Catholics believe Jesus rose from the dead.	Soul	The spiritual part of a human that can never die. The part created by God that lives on after the death of the body.
Heaven	Eternal existence in God's presence	Hell	The lack of God for all eternity
Magisterium	The teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church that comes from the Pope and Bishops.	Judgement	Judging someone on their actions. Catholics believe God will judge people on how they have lived their lives.
Eternal Life	Spiritual existence in heaven after the death of the body.	Death	The end of physical life. Catholics see death as a change rather than an ending.

<p><u>Catholic beliefs about life after death</u></p> <p>Catholic beliefs about life after death are summed up in the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed is a statement of Catholic beliefs that was formulated in 325AD at the Council of Nicaea. It teaches that Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. Three days later Jesus was resurrected from the dead and later he ascended into heaven where he will judge the living and the dead. Catholics believe they will be resurrected, judged and either go to heaven or hell. There are other religious and non-religious views about life after death.</p>
<p><u>Sources of Authority</u></p> <p>“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” St Paul</p> <p>“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day... he appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve” St Paul</p> <p>“The dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. The mortal will become immortal.” St Paul</p> <p>“On the third day he rose again” The Nicene Creed</p>

Catholic beliefs about resurrection of the body	St. Paul wrote a number of letters outlining beliefs about Jesus and life after death, in particular the belief in the resurrection of the body . St. Paul teaches that Jesus rose from the dead and what happened to Jesus will also happen to his followers. Resurrection is the belief that after death people will have a bodily existence. Paul teaches that people will have a resurrection like Jesus , and will have a spiritual resurrection body given to them by God. When Jesus rose his body was familiar but at times his disciples did not recognise him. This will also happen to believers.
Christian belief about the immortality of the soul	Christianity believes in the existence of a soul . The soul is the spiritual part of a human that can never die. It is non-physical and lives on after death. Most Christians believe in the immortality of the soul . They believe that when the body dies, the soul leaves the body to live with God. The soul is the essence of a person and at death it leaves the body. It is eternal and continues to live on to everlasting life in heaven. Some Christians and Reform Jews reject the idea of a bodily resurrection and argue in favour of only the soul going on to be with God.
Contrasting views about life after death	<p>Most humanists and atheists are materialists. Materialists argue nothing else exists apart from matter or material. The famous atheist, Richard Dawkins takes a materialist approach and rejects the existence of the soul and that our life or our bodies can continue after death. Humans are just a physical body. This means there is no soul, we are just made of matter. There is no spiritual aspect to life. This is the only life we have and therefore should make the most of it. There is no life after death. These views are based on the lack of evidence for life after death such as no one can return from death, no place has been found where it takes place and the accounts are Jesus’ resurrection may be too difficult to believe for some people.</p> <p>Some other religious and non-religious people believe in reincarnation. Sikhs and Hindus believe that at death the soul passes to a new body. How you are reborn depends on good or bad actions in this life. People are reborn countless times in many different ways. For many this is seen as a more likely way in which life after death will happen as opposed to the Catholic belief in resurrection of the body.</p>

<p><u>Exam Practice</u></p> <p>b) Describe Catholic beliefs about the resurrection of the body (5)</p> <p>d) ‘There is no life after death’ (15)</p>
