

## Lesson objective

- The aim of the lesson is to use real life examples to help us evaluate arguments for and against life after death.

# Lesson outcomes

- ALL will be able to identify and summarise non-religious arguments for life after death. Oh and love this font 😊
- MOST will be able to give a basic explanation of their view on life after death.
- SOME will be able to explain in detail their views on life after death, using evidence from the lesson.

# Starter

Write down what the word  
“Death” means to you.

Could be a sentence or  
random ideas 😊

# What is death?

- ☞ The gateway to everlasting life
- ☞ The final journey through death to eternal life
- ☞ Accepted as part of everyone's life
- ☞ When we go to a better place
- ☞ Only happens once
- ☞ Reincarnation
- ☞ Permanent
- ☞ Temporary: a transition?
- ☞ It happens to everyone

# What happens after death?

- Label the arguments on the sheet “Yes” or “No” – ignore the instructions at the top.
- In your exercise book, explain what your view on life after death is at this point.

## This tells us...


- There are arguments for and against life after death. We are going to explore some of the for arguments in more detail. Today we are going to focus on the non-religious ones - “Near Death Experiences” and “Mediums”



But before that...

➤ How do we define death?

➤ How do we know that someone is dead?



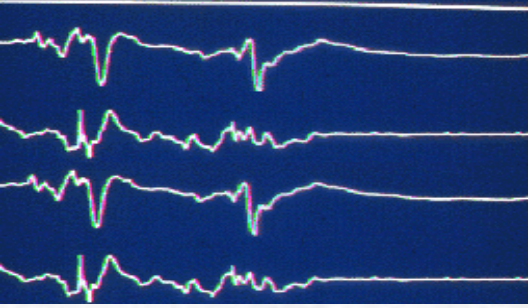
# If you stop breathing, you're dead!

## Actually, no!

- Death was once defined as the end of a heart beat or breathing but through CPR we can reverse death (because, in some cases, breathing and heartbeat can be restarted).
- So – you're not actually dead just because your heart has stopped and you're not breathing!

# Clinically dead

- ☛ Today, we say a person is dead when there is brain death. Absence of brain activity (electrical impulses) is not enough (because people in comas aren't technically dead).
- ☛ It has to be that the brain cannot be brought back to normal.



## Flat Line

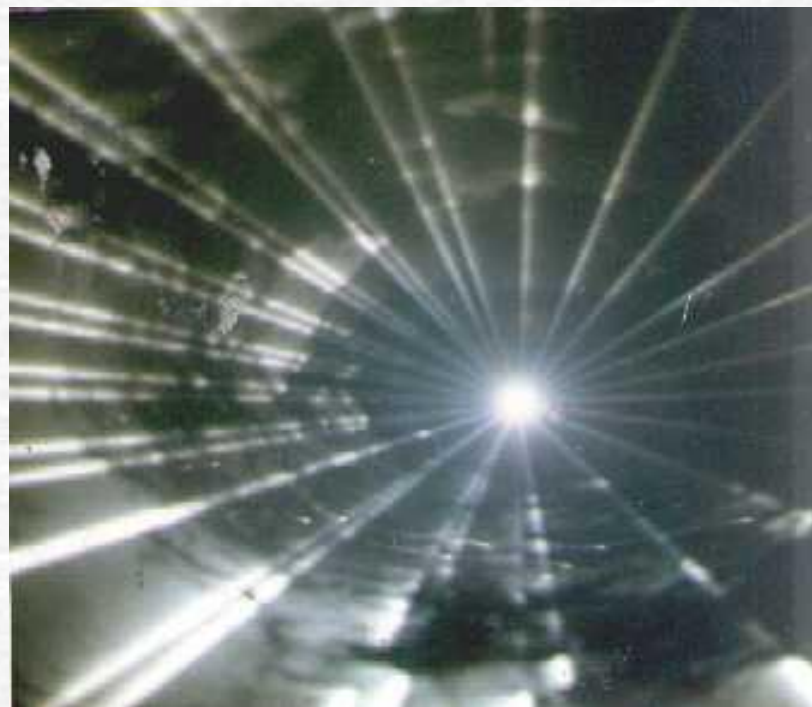
- The flat line can be seen on an ECG up to ten minutes after a patient has been 'brain dead'. This is the point at which we now believe death occurs.
- However – some people have 'flatlined' and been brought back to life. These are called NDEs or near death experiences.



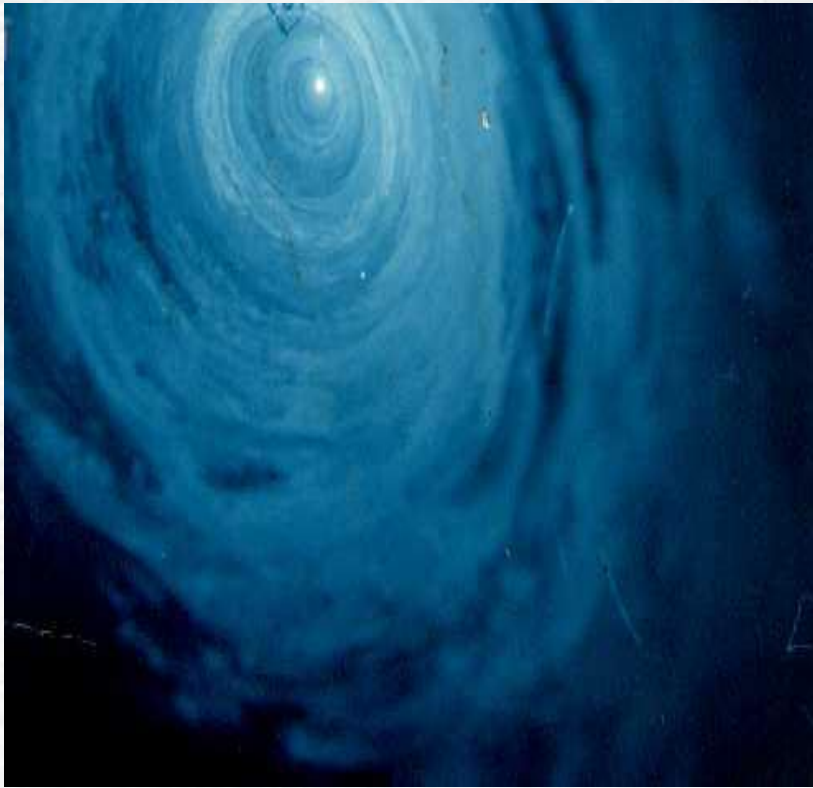
Whilst on the bus, Bob had a "near death" experience.

# Near Death Experience

- NDE is reported by people who nearly died or were pronounced clinically dead before being revived.
- Oddly, people born blind can 'see' during an NDE.



# Similar experiences



- For thousands of years, people have written about NDE in entirely different parts of the world – what's odd is that all these accounts were the same.

# Eye witness account

Watch the following clip. Note down in rough what Julie Larham says happened to her.

[http://www.youtube.com/v/PMICW2aap1A?fs=1&hl=en\\_GB](http://www.youtube.com/v/PMICW2aap1A?fs=1&hl=en_GB)

- The person can hear people's voices and there is a loud buzzing or ringing noise
- People feel that they are floating down on their body and can sometimes clearly see themselves in the room (and accurately describe what was happening when they've been brought back to life).
- A feeling of light or warmth.
- Feeling of suddenly being jolted back into their physical body.





# Medical explanations



- These experiences happen to the dying brain.
- This could be because the blood supply is being cut off to the brain.
- Some fighter pilots who black out report similar effects.

# Hypoxia



- The last sense to go under anaesthetic and the first to come back is hearing. This is in the lower brain area and can function even when there is limited oxygen supply.
- Scientists dismiss reports of people looking down on themselves on the operating table as 'psychological'.

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“At the end of the tunnel, my parents were waiting to greet me. Mom looked nice, but as usual, Dad was walking around in his underwear. I nearly died.”

# Task

Top Five

Write down five facts  
about NDE that could  
go on a revision post it

[www.SignGenerator.org](http://www.SignGenerator.org)

# Mediums

- What is a medium?
- A MEDIUM provides evidence of survival of the human personality beyond the physical state we call death. S/he is the link between the two worlds communicating with people who have died through mind-to-mind contact.

# Mediumship

- Physical Mediumship: By means of raps, audible voices or materialised figures the spirit people convey intimate information about themselves, their recollection of their earthly lives and details of their lives in the spirit world.
- Mental Mediumship: Mental phenomena is demonstrated through the mind of a medium.

# Most haunted....?

• Watch this clip of medium Derek Acorah. Think about what you think is happening to him.

• [http://www.youtube.com/v/AURLC  
BRumIs?fs=1&hl=en\\_GB](http://www.youtube.com/v/AURLC<br/>BRumIs?fs=1&hl=en_GB)

# Task

Top Five

Write down five facts  
about mediums that  
could go on a revision  
post it

[www.SignGenerator.org](http://www.SignGenerator.org)

## To finish

- Go back to your view of life after death that you wrote down earlier.
- Has anything we have looked at today changed your opinion?
- Say Yes or No and give a reason.