

Strange But True Knowledge Organiser

Key Term	Definition
Believer	Someone who does believe/agree with something
Evidence	Information that suggests something is true
Ghost	Believed to be the soul or spirit of a dead person or animal that can appear to the living
Humanist	A non- religious person who looks to science, reason and evidence to form views
Medium	A person claiming to be able to communicate with the dead
Near death experience (NDE)	An unusual experience taking place when people are near death, some claim to experience the afterlife
Paranormal	An even which defies the normal laws of science
Proof	When there is enough evidence to call something a fact
Reincarnation	A belief that a soul passes on to a new body when someone dies
Sceptic	Someone who does not believe something or are doubtful
Inference	A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning

1. Paranormal – refers to things beyond our normal experiences

Examples of the paranormal – Visions/NDE/Ghosts/Telepathy/

Telepathy – the ability to hear the thoughts of others

Evidence – people claim they can give details of other people’s thoughts. The zener test was created to test people’s telepathic abilities. Participants must correctly identify the shape someone has chosen.

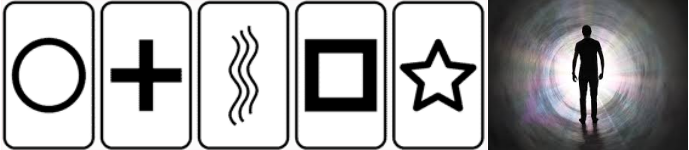
Alternative explanations – Human minds are susceptible to outside influences that can lead their thinking.

2. Near death experiences

Religious experience – Many people who experience death report the same vision. They see a light, speak with family members or communicate with God or a higher power.

Conversion – As a result of their NDEs many atheists (people who don’t believe in God) have converted to a religion, often Christianity.

Scientific explanations – Scientists believe that NDEs are caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain which causes people to hallucinate (see things that are not there).



4. Reincarnation - is primarily a Hindu and Buddhist belief. They believe that a person is continually reborn into a new body until they escape rebirth to a place of no suffering.

Evidence – Hindu and Buddhists holy texts both discuss rebirth in great detail. People can be reborn into either a human or an animal based on their karma from previous lives. For example, if a persons life is full of bad or evil actions they will build up bad karma and may be reborn as slug!

Some people claim they can remember their past lives. In some cases people even seem to give specific details of their past life such as their name and where they lived. Some of these facts have also been verified in Church records or a census.

Scientific explanations – often the people who remember their past lives are children who can’t always tell the difference between fiction and reality. For example, they may watch a tv show and mix up the scenes with their own experiences or memories.

5. Ghosts

Evidence – Many people believe they have seen or felt a ghost. People even make whole careers or tv shows about of “ghost hunting”. The most convincing evidence for the existence of ghosts comes from photographs. Lots of people claim to have captured ghostly figures who couldn’t been seen with the naked eye at the time the photo was taken.

Scientific explanations – Some studies have suggested that many hauntings are actually due to the side effects of gas leaks and lots of photographs have been found to be edited.

Christian beliefs

- One God
- Heaven and hell are a reward or punishment in the afterlife
- Use the Bible and science to understand the world around them

6. Mediums

Evidence – Mediums claim to be able to give specific details of the dead people they communicate with. **However**, mediums have also been accused of taking advantage of those who are grieving loved ones, falsely promising that they can receive or give messages from the deceased in order to make money.

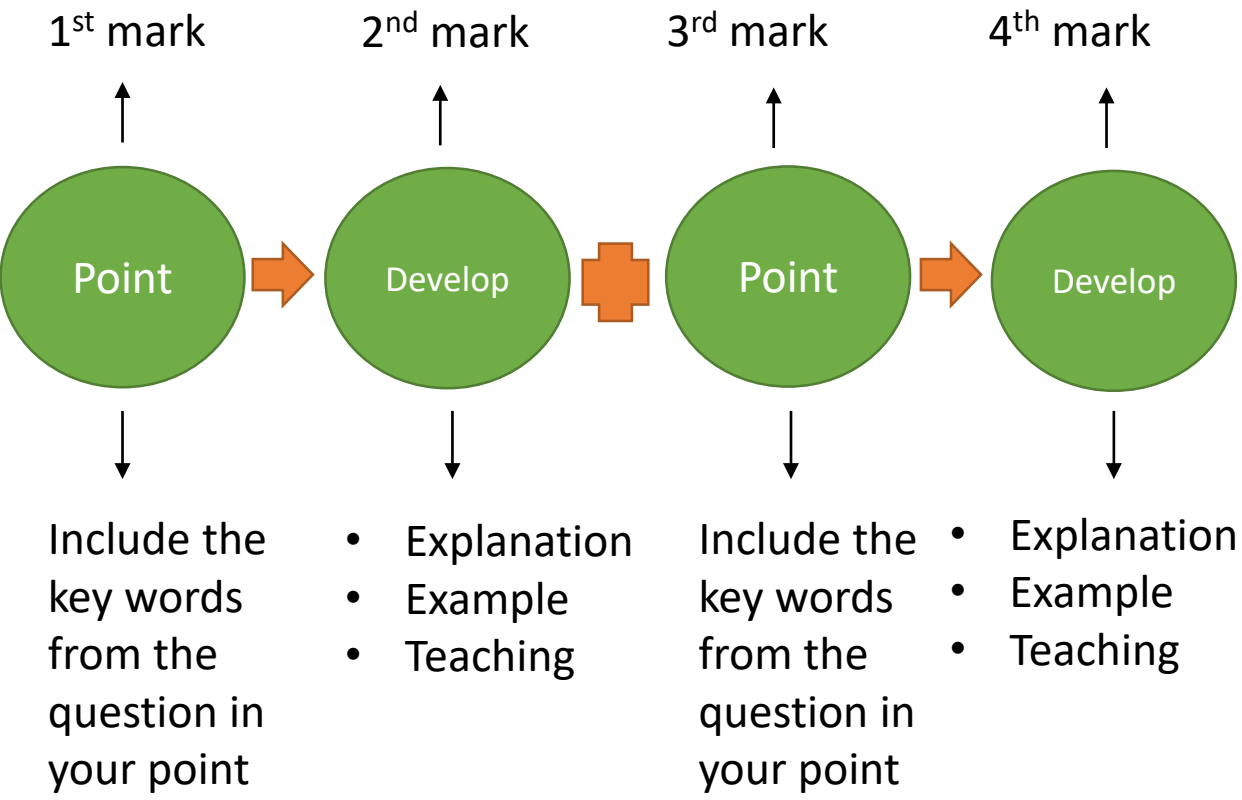
Hindu beliefs

- One God and many deities
- Humans are reincarnated Use religious teachings and science to understand the world around them

Humanist beliefs

- No God
- No afterlife
- Use science to understand the world around them

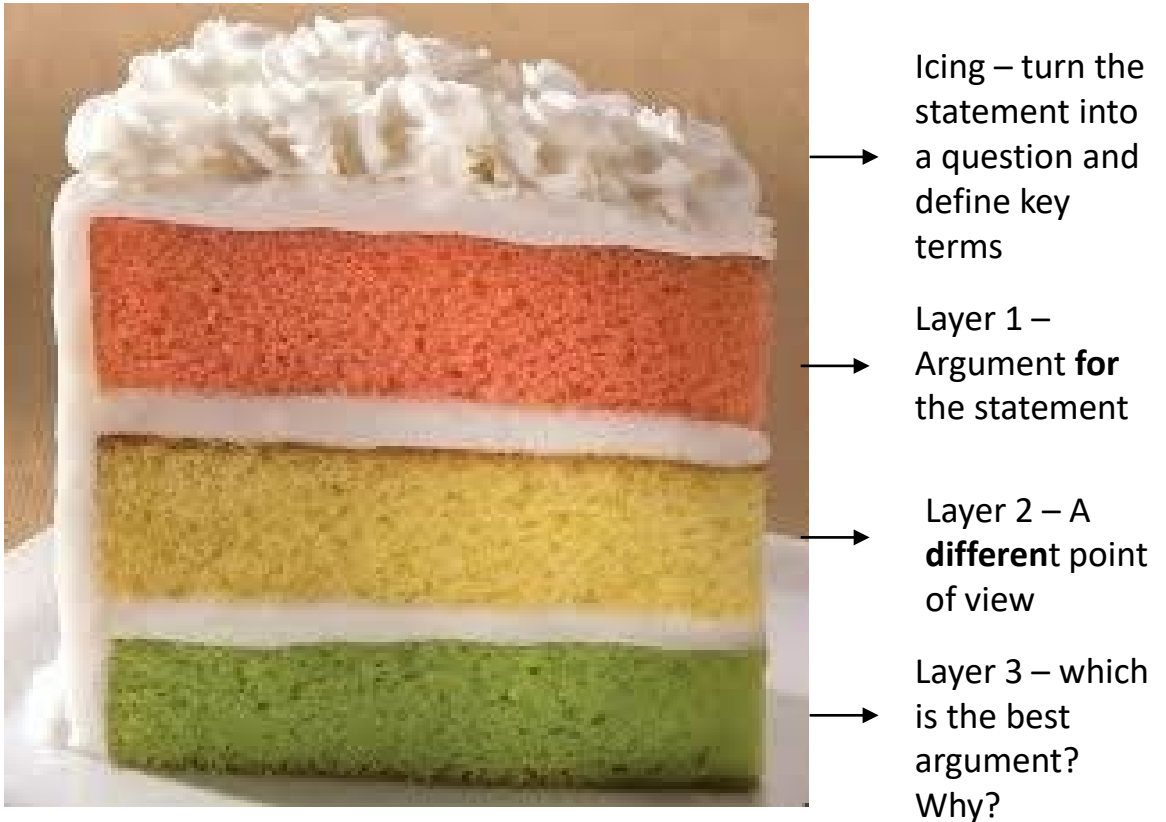
How to write in Religious Studies – 4 Mark questions



Point: One Christian belief is
Develop: This shows/this means/for example

Point: Another belief is ...
Develop: This shows/this means/for example

How to write in Religious Studies – 12 Mark questions



Layer 1: Many Christians would agree with the statement because ... In the Bible it says ... This shows ...
Layer 2: However, someone might disagree because... For example ... This means ...
Layer 3: I think the strongest argument is because