

The Soul

Dawkins

Thinks there is no such thing as a soul. A human is a physical thing and everything they can do can be explained in terms of science.

Plato

believed that the body and soul were two separate things. The body just survives on earth whilst the soul is eternal and released when the body dies.

Russell

Believes that humans created the idea of the soul to help them to cope with the fear of death and the idea that human life is so temporary.

Tasks

1. Pick two of these ideas of soul and draw them.
2. Which of these ideas of soul would you most agree with and why?
3. Which do you most disagree with and why?

Extension task

Imagine that there is a national 'soul' day. Either produce a greetings card for the day or explain how you would celebrate it.

David Hume

Objected to the idea of the soul.

He said there was no evidence for the existence of a separate soul and no evidence that a soul survives after death.

Anthony Flew

Believes that our personality couldn't exist without a body and therefore the soul is just part of the physical person. It can't be separated from it.

Christians

believe that the soul is the non-physical, eternal part of the person. It is the soul that will go to Heaven or Hell when the person dies.

Hindus

Believe that body and soul are separate. When the person dies the soul will move on to another being depending on the kind of life they have lived.