



HUMAN LIFE & REINCARNATION (SIS): ANSWER KEY



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1. How many different life forms are in the cycle of births and deaths? (1)

There are 8.4 million life forms in the cycle of births and deaths.

2. What is one thing everybody in the world has in common? (1)

One thing that everybody in the world has in common is death.

3. Why is the human life considered the best? (1)

In the human life, the soul has an opportunity to escape the cycle of births and deaths.

4. How can the soul be purified? (1)

The soul is purified through seva and simran so that we can become one with God.

5. Why is the human life considered a gift? (2)

The gift of human life is so precious because it is the only chance that our soul has in order to merge with God. This is the only life out of the 8.4 million that has the opportunity to perform seva and do simran and escape the cycle.

6. How are humans and animals different? (2)

The soul evolves through all of the different forms of life until it receives the gift of the human form. In this form, it is blessed with communication, reasoning, and some free will, which allows it to make an effort to merge with God and escape the cycle of births and deaths. No other life form has this opportunity.

7. Explain the Sikh belief of reincarnation. (3)

The soul is everlasting; it has existed from the time of creation, and will continue to exist until it is reabsorbed into God. Until it merges with God again, it remains separate and changes forms. When a person dies, the soul is reincarnated and

transferred to a new body. Whether or not one attains union with God depends on that one person's actions in this life.

8. How can the human life be wasted? (3)

The human life can be wasted if we do not follow God's advice of doing simran and seva, but follow our mind's desires instead. The soul becomes weaker while the five thieves and the mind become stronger. By the end of the human life, we are no closer to God and are doomed to repeat the cycle of births and deaths until we reach this opportunity again.

9. Why didn't the blind man try to open the unlocked door? (4)

The blind man had been opening so many doors and he experienced no success. By this point, he had doubts that any of the doors were even open. When he came to the open door, he believed that he already knew it was locked. So, he passed it without even checking. He missed his one opportunity to escape the room.

10. List three things you will do to ensure your human life is not wasted. (4)

Answers may vary.

- *Do seva of the Guru*
- *Become absorbed in simran*
- *Help those who are less fortunate*