

Wrap

Welcome to the final session of One Life. I hoped you've enjoyed the course so far and will take something away from it. In this final session we will be looking back at the topics we have previously covered and seeing what answers we drew from them. So it's a good session for both people who have been to the whole course and people who haven't been at all!

Meaning of Life

The first topic we looked at, back all the way to the start was a big one – the meaning of life itself. After all, it's a big question and so demands some serious thought. Some of the questions we asked were...

- What do you think the meaning of life is?
- How else can we express such a question?
- Is the meaning of life objective or subjective?
- Can there be such a thing as an objective meaning of life?
- If you could define your own meaning of life, what would you choose?
- How does the “meaning of life” affect the way you live your life?

Some of the answers we probably reached were that there is no objective meaning of life, there can only be a subjective one. Does this mean then that we define our own?

Unweaving the Rainbow

Taken from the title of the book by Professor Richard Dawkins the second topic we looked at concerned itself with truth and beauty. Some of the questions asked were...

- Do you consider the “natural” world beautiful?
- What do you think beauty is?
- Does the revelation of a painting being a fake reduce its beauty?
- Can science be used to judge art and beauty?
- Can science be beautiful?
- Do we under appreciate the natural world?

- Do man made qualities reduce the beauty of something?
- Does the truth behind something affect its beauty?

Ethics

The third topic we looked at ethics and morality. These could easily be considered the same thing but then again they could be very different. This was one of the questions raised in the session. Others included...

- What are ethics?
- What are good and evil?
- Are right and wrong objective or subjective?
- What does ethics mean to you?

Applied Ethics

The fourth topic we looked at continued on from the previous topic but made it a little more personal. How do ethics affect the way we live our lives? Some of the questions asked in this session were...

- What is your primary concern when considering the moral course of action to take?
- What is morality?
- Can you always apply your own morality to a situation?
- Is it worthwhile discussing morality if it is ultimately subjective?

Science & Critical Thinking

The fifth topic we looked at was really two closely related topics linked together – science, what is it and how do we use it and critical thinking, what is it and why it is important. Some of the questions raised were...

- What do you consider science to be?
- Can we rationally say science reveals absolute truth?
- Does the scientific method make rational sense?
- What do you consider critical thinking to be?
- Is anyone really a free thinker?
- Is questioning everything important?
- Do we actually question everything? Is it even possible to?

Freedom of expression

The sixth topic we looked at brought things a little closer to home in terms of current affairs – freedom of expression is a hot topic at the moment and an important one to consider. Some of the questions raised in the session were...

- What do you consider freedom of expression to be?
- To what extent does freedom of expression exist?
- To what extent does the US and UK have freedom of expression?
- What are the advantages to freedom of expression?
- What limits should be placed on freedom of expression?
- How has the internet affected freedom of expression?
- What is the future of freedom of expression?

Humanism

The last topic we looked at was Humanism, the various variants of it and what it is really all about. Some of the questions raised were...

- What is Humanism?
- What is a sensible belief set for Humanism?
- How does Humanism affect your life?