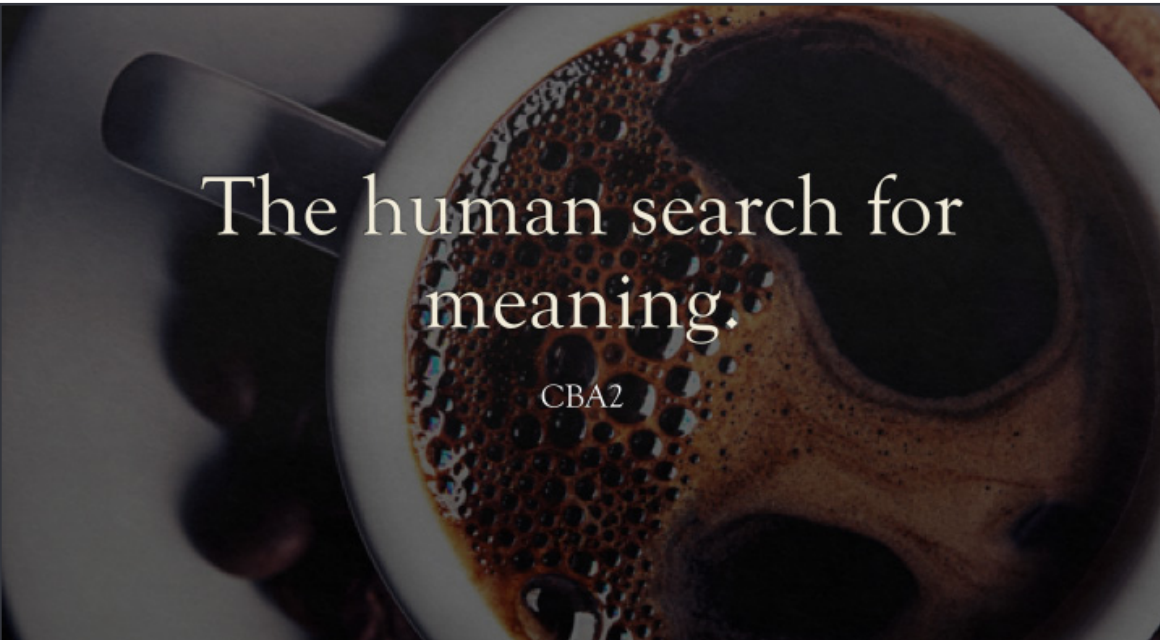




Sample 3



The human search for
meaning.

CBA2

What does Heaven look like?

The pieces of evidence I will be looking at include:

01

DANTE'S PARADISO

02

SONG - HEAVEN'S DOOR
BY GUNS&ROSES



Sample 3

Why did I chose this question?

- ◆ I have chosen this topic as it has always piqued my curiosity. I believe that you don't have to be religious to believe in an afterlife and so I'm looking into a variety of perceptions of 'heaven'.

Dante's Paradiso

- ◆ Paradiso is the Third part of Dante's Divine Comedy also known as La Divina Commedia.
- ◆ The Poem is made up of 14,233 lines in total.
- ◆ The divine comedy is a long narrative poem written in Italian and had been started in 1308 and only finished in 1320 only one year before the writer died.
- ◆ Paradiso shows us the vision of Heaven while Inferno shows us Hell and Purgatorio shows us Purgatory but my evidence is with Dante's Paradiso



Sample 3

Dante's Paradiso

- ◆ Paradiso describes Dante's trip through heaven followed by Beatrice who represents theology.
- ◆ In Paradiso, Heaven is described with the planets but are referred to as 'The spheres of heaven' and each planet represents a cardinal virtue [Prudence, Justice, Temperance & Fortitude] and [Faith, Hope & Charity] as the three theological virtues.

The Spheres of Heaven

- ◆ The First sphere is the Moon and it represents the inconsistent. The moon shows souls who have abandoned their vows and were lacking in the virtue **Fortitude**.
- ◆ The Second sphere is **Mercury** and it represents the ambitious. As it is hard to see Mercury at times, this planet has the souls who did good but did it for desire and fame rather than god. These souls lack the virtue **Justice**.
- ◆ The Third sphere is Venus and it represents the lovers as Venus was the god of love. The souls here were deficient in **Temperance**.
- ◆ The Fourth sphere is the **Sun** and it represents the wise. When on the sun, Dante experiences positive forms of **Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude**.



Sample 3

The Spheres of Heaven

- ◆ The Fifth sphere is **Mars** and it represents the warriors of faith as Mars is also known for the God of War. These souls gave their lives for god and display the virtue **Fortitude**
- ◆ The Sixth sphere is **Jupiter** and it hosts just rulers as Jupiter is known for the King of Gods. This is home for rulers who displayed the virtue **Justice**
- ◆ The Seventh sphere is **Saturn** and it represents the contemplatives who are the embodiment of the virtue **Temperance**.
- ◆ The Eighth sphere are **The fixed stars**. While its hard to see, the sphere of the fixed stars represents **Faith, Hope and Love** as well as the **church triumphant**.

Dante's Paradiso

- ◆ The Ninth sphere is **The Primum Mobile**: The angels. This sphere is the final Sphere of heaven. This is moved by god and causes the other sphere to move with it. The Primum is the **home of angels**
- ◆ The **Empyrean** is beyond physical existence as it is the home of god. There is an enormous rose. All the souls he had met have residence within the rose [even Beatrix whom represents theology]. Angels fly around the petals like bees distributing peace and love.



Sample 3

What did I learn from my research?

- ◆ I learnt that this is one of the forms of heaven, while everyone might have a different view on what it looks like, looking at old poems opens up more ideas. From this writing we can see that Dante believed that the planets were heaven and souls were segregated based on what virtue that had or lacked.

Heavens Door – Guns&Roses

- ◆ Heavens Door [or knockin' on heavens door] was originally written by Bob Dylan in 1973 but many covers of the song came out by popular bands such as Guns&Roses which only came out in 1990. While the song's genre is described as 'Hard Rock' I believe that it gives a clear message about heaven.



Sample 3

Knockin' on heaven's door

- ◆ The idiom itself [Knocking on heaven's door] means that you are close to dying, or are dying.
- ◆ During the song you can hear lyrics such as 'Put my guns to the ground, I can't use them anymore' as this song was originally written for a movie where someone dies due to a bullet wound
- ◆ The lightness of the song shows us that heaven is a good place to end up but also does not let everyone in as the man is 'knocking' on heaven's door meaning that he is asking permission to be let into heaven as he has done wrong.

Knockin' on heavens door summary

- ◆ This evidence shows us that heaven is a place of final judgement but also safety as the singer does not need to use his weapons anymore. Overall what I have learnt from looking at this piece of evidence is that you still need to do good to get into heaven



Sample 3

On Reflection

- ◆ Looking back at the research I have done I can see now the different forms of heaven and how every person has a different view on it. A lot of people tend just to view heaven as this place of safety but they don't go into detail of *how* it is or what it looks like. I found looking at Dante's *Paradiso* helped with my understanding as it has different stages of heaven and each with a form you can see or imagine. *Heaven's door* helps you see how heaven works and the judgement that is put into keeping bad souls out. Both Dante's *Paradiso* and *Knockin' on Heaven's door* are very different in their views on what heaven could be like but both present equally valid perceptions.



Sample 3

TEACHER ANNOTATIONS USING THE FEATURES OF QUALITY

The annotations capture observations by the teacher, using the features of quality, with a view to establishing the level of achievement this work reflects. The annotations and judgments were confirmed by a Quality Assurance group, consisting of practising teachers and representatives of the NCCA, the Inspectorate, the State Exams Commission and the Junior Cycle for Teachers support service.

TEACHER ANNOTATIONS

Feature of Quality 1 The focus of the research is very interesting in taking two examples from the Arts (a poem and a song) and successfully finding evidence to show how both pieces of evidence express different understandings of heaven. However, it lacks any explanation or discussion as to how this question connects to the human search for meaning. It would also have been helpful to cite the resources used for the research.

Feature of Quality 2 The report focuses on one question and shows clearly how the two pieces of evidence relate to this question – What does heaven look like? The second part of the report (which focused on Knocking on heaven’s door) is stronger as it points out features of the song and uses quotes effectively to comment on the image of heaven and draws some conclusions based on these. It would have further enhanced the report if had shown an understanding of how art is often influenced by religious beliefs and if it pointed to where this is evident in the chosen pieces (e.g. references to Christian belief in heaven, hell, purgatory and judgement).

Feature of Quality 3 There is some evidence of personal reflection, albeit limited, and the student comes to the overall conclusion that ‘you need to do good to get to heaven’. Further reflection on how their project influenced their understanding and evidence of the student’s personal engagement with the big questions would have greatly enhanced this report.

OVERALL JUDGEMENT:



In line with expectations