

HT1 Y6: What are angels for?

1. Key terms		Definition
1	angel (n)	Spiritual beings that some people believe are God's servants in heaven
2	archangel (n)	An angel of the highest rank in some faiths
3	Gabriel (n)	One of the Christian and Jewish archangels, the messenger of good news.
4	guardian angel (n)	A spiritual being presumed to guard and protect a person or place.
5	interpretation (n)	The act of looking for meaning in something.
6	Jibril (n)	The Arabic spelling of Gabriel- a respected archangel known as the Angel of Revelation in Islam.
7	transcendental (n)	Things beyond what ordinary people see and hear.

7. Quick Facts	
a	Judaism, Christianity and Islam are known as the Abrahamic faiths.
b	The Abrahamic faiths sometimes interpret the same angel in different ways , such as Gabriel/Jibril.
c	Most religious texts refer to angels as male.



6. In popular culture	
a	Often depicted with wings and a halo.
b	The "guardian angel" is often used in literature and music.
c	Some people who do not have a religion do believe in angels of some kind.

5. In Islam	
a	Many Muslims consider angels to be something abstract and unseen. They exist, but will only be revealed to some.
b	The archangel Jibril revealed the Holy Q'uran to the Prophet Muhammad.
c	There are no fallen angels – all angels are good.

2. Religious Studies at KSA

a. Secularism
KSA is a secular school. This means that the school does not promote one religion above any other or teach from a religious perspective.

b. Tentative language.
We always use tentative. We avoid saying "all Christians believe..." as this may not be true and could offend somebody.

c. Others' interpretations.
Different people have grown up hearing different interpretations about angels. We listen to what they have to say and are respectful when we disagree.

3. In Judaism

- a Supernatural beings which appear throughout **the Tanakh.**
- b They act mostly as **messengers** or **general agents of God.**
- c The **oldest tradition** of angels.

4. In Christianity

- a **Many different definitions and interpretations** in the Bible and tradition.
- b **Some believe** they are **winged, physical creatures** which appear at random.
- c **Others believe** they are **invisible creatures** who protect good people and **only reveal themselves to believers.**
- d Some think **Lucifer** and other **demons are fallen angels.**