

Revision Summaries for GCSE AQA Religious Studies Short Course

Section B: Theme B Peace and Conflict

Update v1.1, October 2025

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Teacher's Introduction

The revision summaries in this series are designed to support your students as they study the GCSE AQA Religious Studies A specification, and have been designed to cover the major themes and concepts of each topic point accordingly.

All students, whether they are academically strong, average or weak, can benefit from a concise and clearly explained set of notes to revise from, both as they work through the AQA course and when preparing for their

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

end-of-course exams. It is recommended, therefore, that students be given each relevant summary after learning a topic so that they can clearly understand the summaries and refer back to them when needed. However, the summaries can also function well as a pack given to students in the run-up to their exams.

Each topic follows a set structure detailed below:

- ✓ **Keywords:** A clear list of important terminology students need to know when studying the topic.
- ✓ **Overview:** A look at the major themes of the topic, with a brief introduction to the major points of discussion and disagreement.
- ✓ **Key Points:** The main body of the summaries for each topic, they are a clear and concise set of notes that help students support their own knowledge and understanding of the topic.
- ✓ **Student Checklist:** A helpful guide to what students need to know by the end of the revision summary and a way to check their understanding and progress through a particular topic.
- ✓ **Practice Questions:** A full set of practice questions (with extra multiple-choice questions), complete with mark schemes listing indicative content. These are useful for students wishing to improve their knowledge on a particular topic and to practice skills as they approach their end-of-year exams.

This clearly ensures students not only have a grasp on the key themes of each topic, but also a way to understand their place within the specification as a whole. Students who may have missed lessons or not made detailed notes may benefit greatly from these revision summaries in helping their recollection of key topics closer to their end-of-course exams, especially when looking over topics covered earlier in their studies.

March 2019

Update v1.1, October 2025

As per the exam board assessment updates, changes have been made to the practice questions:

- "contrasting" replaced with "different" in the 4 mark question
- 5-mark question replaced with a 6-mark question
- 2-mark question reduced to a 1-mark question

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Religion, Violence, War and Telescope, Justice, Forgivenes Reconciliation



Keywords

- **Conflict**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Justice** 0
- **Peace**
- **Peacemakers**
- Recon

letting go of past harm y a ving forwards to work to the achievement of firmess within a society or a situation a state of the cay within society and between societies are actively involved in achieving the aim of the bringing together of two or more conflicting sides w the Mount a section of teaching within the Bible where Jesus prom

a clash or struggle between individuals or groups, e.g. v



Overview

- The topic of violence and conflict is an important one to address in the mod non-religious people have views regarding the issues of peace and conflict, le position of the pursuance of peace and the avoidance of violence.
- Nevertheless, violence remains a reality with which our society must grapple and terrorism being just a few examples of modern issues of violence.
- Some of the most important themes when discussing ideas of violence include reconciliation. There are many biblical teachings on these ideas which are us guide to help you see where these views come from.
- Peace is generally considered to be the ideal; it is the absence of conflict and a society. Forgiveness is the letting go of hurt and negative emotions as a rebelieve to be necessary in order to move forward.
- Reconciliation is the resolution of the conflict between conflicting parties an conflict and move forward.



Key Points

Peace

- Peace is the status of society living in harmony, with +1 absence
- Many Christians lay great emphasis on in ortance of peace. Indeed, there are many biblic in a in go in the New Testament which put a high impath active achievement and mainter 😭 o 🛴 📤 Mithin society.
- Many Ins believe that Jesus taught emphatically that peace is some which he brings them. In the Sermon on the Mount, an important teaching within Matthew, Jesus taught specifically that the p
- However, some Christians feel that violence is justifiable in some instances
- Some Christians take teachings such as Matthew 10:9 to lead to the idea that violence in some instances, might be considered to be okay.



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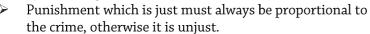
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Theoretically, if peace is highly valued by most social groups, e.g. religious groups, then there would be less conflict within the world. However, some religious groups might use violence as means to the end of achieving peace, e.g. intervening in a conflict in order to stop injustices from happening, and restoring peace to a society.



Justice

- Justice is the achievement of fairness within society and within situations.
- The Bible specifically teaches that Christians should 'act justly' (Micah 6:8).
- Justice is an important part of many religious teaching. Within Islam, the justice is an important part of many religious teaching. Within Islam, the justice entral beliefs regarding what God is like in him at a within both Sunni and strong sense of justice and the establish in justice within Islam those should be punished in accord with the scope of their crime, and by doing so restored to society. The scope of their crime, and by doing so when Marians him they will be rewarded for their good deeds during their some within justice can be achieved through
- Some that justice can be achieved through violence. If an individual or a group has committed a crime or an act considered to be unjust, then it could be considered to be justice to punish that individual group. In the case of some, this might involve violence. In this way, some might argue that justice within society can be achieved by punishment. An example of this might be some Christians who believe in the idea of 'an eye for an eye' as being a just method of punishment.



- Some Christians believe that justice is something which Christians should specifically pursue due to biblical teaching.
- However, some Christians argue that while justice is important, mercy is equally a hugely important teaching of Jesus and, therefore, should be considered to be as important.

Justice and so that you that the

'Go and led mercy, no call not t

Forgiveness

- Forgiveness is the emotional act of relinquishing vengeful or negative emotions towards a group or individual who have committed a wrong act which has had negative effects.
- Forgiveness is one of the benchmarks of the Christian faith and, therefore is important. Beyond Christian index on forgiveness being the distribution of the throughout them throughout the specific forgiveness to others. It is considered to be a requirement of Christian belief and practice, as the Bible teaches that if you don't forgive others, God will not forgive you.
- According to biblical teaching, there is an emphasis laid on the importance of forgiving continually. Matthew 18:21–22 is an example of this.
- Those with a focus on forgiveness will often get involved in reconciliation we

Then Peter came to him member of the church sins
I forgive? As many as seven times, but I to

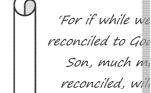
For if you forgive others in Father will also forgive of others, neither will your in

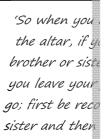
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Reconciliation

- Forgiveness commonly leads to reconciliation, or vice versa.
- Reconciliation is the process by which two groups who have been in opposition come to move past their differences and work together to create a better, more positive relationship following a conflict in order to facilitate the end of the conflict and establish peace. It is an important part of the ending of conflict as it attempts to establish a way for the conflicting parties to move past their differences, hopefully avoiding continued or future conflicts between the groups.
- The Gospels and the New Testament of the reconciliation of human being and the conciliation, therefore and the considered that the Bible does state the conse who have been reconciled to God should make an effort to reconcile themselves with the people with whom they have conflict on earth.
- By forgiving or working towards forgiveness, reconciliation can be achieved.
- Christians believe that God wants them to foster good relationships with each





Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea	Nearly
I understand the concept of peace		
I understand Christian attitudes towards peace		
I understand the concept of justice	- 404	
I understand Christian attitudes towards justice		
I understand the concept of forg		
I understand Chris 1 uues towards forgivene:		
I understand the concept of reconciliation		
I understand Christian attitudes towards reconciliation		

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Peace, Justice, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam there will only be one of

- **1.** which of the following is a Bible verse instructing believers to pursue justice?
 - **A** Deuteronomy 1:1
 - **B** John 3:16
 - **C** Deuteronomy 16:20
 - **D** Genesis 1:27
- 2. Which of the following verses is used to justifed right in positions that peace
 - **A** Mark 10:9
 - **B** Luke 10:9
 - **C** John 10:9
 - **D** M
- **V25**
- **3.** How many times does the Bible teach Christians they should forgive?
 - A seven times
 - **B** seven times seventy-seven
 - **C** seventy-seven
 - **D** seven hundred
- **4.** Which of the following is a definition of forgiveness?
 - **A** Moving forward but harbouring resentment
 - **B** Continuing conflict
 - **C** Letting go of negative emotions and moving forwards
 - **D** Refusing to reconcile
- **5.** Give **one** biblical teaching regarding peace.
- **6.** Explain **two** contrasting religious attitudes towards justice.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** different Christian approaches to forgiveness and justice.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of
- **8.** 'The achievement of justice is the ultimate aim according to religious beliefs. Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - o give reasoned arguments in support of this
 - o give reasoned arguments against this id a
 - refer to religious viewpoint
 - o refer to non-religion wy i..ts
 - o reach a justicia consion



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Violence



Keywords

o **Conflict** a struggle or discord between groups of people

o **Death** the cessation of life

o **Evil** something which is morally wrong and causes suffering

o **Jihad** the lesser form of this means Holy War within Islam

o **Protest** to verbally oppose an idea or action, such as a war

o **Sin** breaking the law of God within a religious elief

o one breaking the law of God within a re-ign.

o **Suffering** the experience of pain

o **Terrorism** acts of violence com and in order to provoke terror

• **Violence** the use of raysical torce to inflict suffering

• **War** all oscillonflict between two groups such as countries



Overview

Violence is a physical struggle or action in which physical force is used to can

- Violence can manifest in different ways for example, someone throwing a is violence, but large-scale wars are also violence. There are scales of violence
- Causes of violence vary hugely depending on the situation, but largely it is be between those involved within the violence.
- Human beings have, throughout history, used violence as a way of fighting
- Within the modern day there are many different forms of violence, from the to-human physical violence, to more modern types of violence through weap nuclear weapons, which will be touched upon later in the course.



Key Points

Christian Views

- Many Christians are opposed to the practice of violence.
- Within the Bible, Jesus taught an emphasis on peace. Christians believe that God wants peace among those who live on earth and, therefore, practising violence would go against the desires of God.



- Jesus specifically taught Christians not to harm '. i an mies, but instead to Therefore, some Christians argue that this track, gextends to teach against enemies, advocating instead love at daily areas the way to solve disputes.
- Jesus never taught that it is not vould ever be justified and for this reason violence cannot is used item. Jesus offered no staggering of violence allowand wrong is in items is no less sinful than violence against women
- Some Quakers are an example of a branch of the Church that believes this.
- Many Christians believe in the sanctity of life. Because violence often results many Christians might oppose it for that reason. Murder is considered to be the Ten Commandments, so the taking of a human life within the context of
- Some Christians might argue that violence could be seen as justified in order committing what they consider to be evil acts and sins against God. For examinate taken violent action against those who work within abortion clinics as to be evil acts.

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- They might see this as standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. they would view as being murdered via abortion. Therefore, in this view, the as justified.
- Some Christians might also see some forms of violence, such as war in response justified as they are trying to stop violence from taking place. In this way, th violence could be argued to be an end which justified the means of violence Christian thought. There are many instances within the Old Testament which side of those at war, which some Christians might use to argue that God is as it is justified.
- Some Christians argue that violence can be permissible when it is used as rec been committed. For example, some Christians might support the death per there is justification for this in the Bible.

Muslim Viewpoint

- There is a variety of teachings within 's with apply to violence.
- Islam has a tradition of peace of a "Islam" has linguistic ties to the wor
- There is allowance via a for the practice of violence in certain situation
- the character form of the ideas of 'jihad'. Jihad mean the first, the greater form of the ideas of 'jihad'. lacksquare – the first, the greater form of jihad, is considered to be the lacksquareforms struggle follow the path of God. The second, and lower, form of jihad inve as this is the struggle to defend the faith, or the physical struggle.
- Sometimes the lower form of jihad can be interpreted as **Holy War**.
- There are set criteria under which violence can be permitted within jihad. For how and why violence can be committed, e.g. no harm must come to civilian crops can be burned.
- In modern times, the idea of jihad has been taken on by some extreme Musli such as terrorism. Largely, this interpretation of jihad does not take into account of the control of the contr lesser jihad and the criteria laid out for the allowance of this.
- Many Muslims are unhappy with the way in which this is happening and are in an attempt to counteract these acts of violence.
- Ideas of violence within Islam are not just limited to discussions of terrorism
- Within the Qur'an, violence is permitted in the instance of self-defence.
- One criterion for jihad states that violence may be permissible if the faith of
- Some Muslims might argue that violent punishments (such as the death pen permissible for certain crimes, as ideas regulating corporal punishment are These are known as the Hudud punishments.

Non-religious Viewpoints

- There is a wide variety of beliefs regarding the morality of violence within the
- Humanists believe that every individual should be treated fairly and ethical argue that, for this reason, violence can never be justified. They believe that therefore, the ending of war is a human issue and task. Therefore, many hur achieving peace within situations.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea	N
I understand what violence is		
I understand at least two Christian approaches to violence		
I understand the Muslim approach to violence		
I understand a non-religious approach to violence		





Violence

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following is not a reason Christians might oppose violence?
 - A Life should have a high quality
 - **B** Life is sacred
 - **C** Jesus emphasised peace
 - **D** Murder is a sin
- **2.** What is the term for the context in which vicen enght be permitted within
 - **A** Zina
 - **B** Jihad
 - C Hudud
 - D



3. Which of the following is a Bible verse used to oppose the use of violence?

ISPECTIO

- A Mark 5:44
- **B** Matthew 5:44
- **C** Luke 4:45
- **D** John 3:54
- **4.** What is the term for the secular group which might oppose the use of violence
 - **A** Humanism
 - **B** Darwinism
 - **C** Secularism
 - **D** Atheism
- **5.** Give **one** biblical teaching on violence.
- **6.** Explain **two** contrasting religious beliefs about violence.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** religious beliefs about the justification of violence.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of
- **8.** 'Violence is always wrong within religious belief.'

Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:

- o give reasoned arguments in support of this in
- o give reasoned arguments against this id a
- o refer to religious viewpoint
- o refer to non-religious wy ints
- reach a justifier a ficturion



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The Reasons for War, Just and Holy War



Keywords

0	Civil war	a war between the civilians within a country due to differen
		run
0	Gain	aquisition of resources; this can sometimes be a motivation
0	Greed	the drive for personal gain above a solution
0	Holy war	a war which is believed to se for at in God's name
0	Human rights	the inherent rigins to individual by virtue of being human
0	Just war	a war of ich ought for just causes
0	Pacifism	h of position to any form of war for any cause
0	Religação ca v e	a war which is fought due to religious beliefs or differences
0	Retai	the act of war in revenge for an attack or breach of agreemen
		necessarily in defence of oneself
0	Self-defence	the act of waging war in reaction to an attack, in order to pro
0	Territory	a war which is waged over debate regarding ownership or rig



Overview

- There are various reasons why an individual or a country might choose to fig general secular societies these reasons might include greed, self-defence, per perception of violation of human rights, a violation of a treaty, etc.
- The reason for which people wage war can be as morally important as how the general, people will view a war which is fought for the cause of defending a defence) as being morally justifiable, whereas a war which is fought in order of another (greed) will be viewed as being morally unjustifiable.
- Pacifism is the belief that no war can ever be justified within religious belief example, the Christian denomination Quakers (otherwise known as the Sociathat violence can ever be justified in any instance ever.
- Some people believe that religion can cause war, and certainly religion can be conflicts; however, these conflicts do tend to also involve other factors in who This will be addressed further in the Religion as a Cause of War section of the
- There is a variety of religious beliefs which discuss within their teachings and might, or might not, be justifiable. For the sake of this course, the main three be focused on are greed, retaliation and self-defence, as a last last factors such as



Key Points

Greed

- The war a war based on greed is usually surrounding the possession of example obtain land from another power or to obtain resources such as o
- For example, many Christians opposed the Iraq War as it was thought to have rather than being a war which was intended to help people or liberate them
- In general, greed comes from selfish desire for more wealth or money, which
- Many religions have teachings regarding the need for a just cause of war becauthose fighting, and as many regions see life as being sacred, there must be a suprice of lives. Selfish reasons, such as greed, for waging war are not considered lives.
- Therefore, within the majority religious thought, this reason for waging war

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Self-defence

- Some wars are fought on the basis of self-defence. This means that another f

 has launched an attack and, therefore, the collective might feel the need to counterattack.
- These types of wars might be seen to be more morally justifiable it is reason attack in order to preserve the life of one's civilians and one's way of life. Som necessary in order to preserve their freedom of religion, for example.
- Within religions such as Islam, self-defence is listed within the teachings (the which it is permissible to wage war.
- Emphatically, self-defence must be proportionate in order to be moral. If one another country by continuous bombing of an area, this might be seen as a ditherefore, not moral.

Retaliation

- The acceptance of retalicing as a season for war will vary hugely depending of and the governing in the facountry.
- Retalia litterent from self-defence as it indicates that there is not an in oneself. In act of revenge rather than a necessity in order to protect one
- Much like self-defence, it is generally thought that retaliation should be properly
- Regarding large-scale retaliation, such as what led to the First World War, mo that it is important to attempt to come to a peaceful agreement before any ki

Holy War

- A holy war is a war waged by those who are fighting believing that they are fig the causes of, God.
- Within the history of Christianity there are examples of wars which were convexamples within the Bible where God is described as being on the side of thos
- For example, the Crusades were considered to be a holy war which was fought Christians to recapture the Holy Land for God. They believed that they were is why this can be viewed as being a holy war.
- Furthermore, within the book of Joshua (specifically, 6:1–27) the account of Joe example of a conflict which could be considered to be a holy war, or at least an showed favour to one side. In this account, it is stated in the Bible that God was
- Within Islam, this is referred to as lesser jihad, meaning struggle. While great faith struggle, lesser jihad is the outward struggle to defend the faith or spreat permitted as long as they fit certain criteria for example, the war must be st fought for God's glory (not that of man), it must not attack or harm civilians, extremely important within the launching of a lesser jihad, as without meeting not considered to be just. The guidance regarding what makes a war just is for

Just War

- A just war is a conflict which is provided a group of people to be morally just war and the individual as an important part in deciding what a just war
- Within Islam, a ball is considered to be a just war.
- Within the large, there are criteria regarding what makes a war just. While discours the to Jesus' teaching regarding the laying down of the sword, in case that fighting is the better option for example, if greater evil will occur sthen in this instance fighting is justified. An example of a Christian turning to justified reason is the Confessing Church founding member Dietrich Bonhoef assassination plot against Adolf Hitler.
- Pope John Paul XXIII stated that 'It is impossible to conceive of a just war in the case of the use of nuclear weapons, the Catholic Church's position is that

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- St Thomas Aquinas posited a variety of rules regarding what makes a war jus as follows:
 - 1) It should be started by and led by a governmental authority.
 - 2) It should have a just or moral reason or cause, and must not be waged just
 - 3) It should have the end goal of defeating evil and establishing goodness
 - 4) It should be the final straw in each case all efforts to negotiate peace where been made beforehand.
 - 5) There should be a good chance of winning the conflict as it is immoral to bettering a situation, thus wasting life, which is sacred.
 - 6) It should be undertaken within fair conduct. Where possible civilian case
 - 7) It should have the eventual outcome of the achievement of peace.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea	Near
I understand the role of greed in causing war and religious views regarding it		
I understand the role of self-defence in causing war and religious views regarding it		
I understand the role of retaliation in causing war and religious views regarding it		
I understand the concept of a just war		
I understand the concept of a holy war		

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The Reasons for War, Just War and Holy War

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following reasons for war do most religions disapprove of due to
 - Greed
 - Retaliation
 - C Self-defence
 - Holy war
- What is the term for a war in the name of Gc ... A Holy war
 - Holy war
 - В Just war
 - Unjustified war

- What is the Islamic term for a just war?
 - Greater jihad
 - В Adhan
 - C Lesser jihad
 - Jihadi
- Which Christian figure put forward the idea of a just war?
 - St Anselm of Canterbury
 - Jesus
 - C St Thomas Aquinas
 - Pope John XIII
- 5. Give **one** reason for war.
- Explain **two** different religious criteria for war.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain **two** different religions' approaches to just war.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of
- 'There is no just reason to wage a war within religious belief.' Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this
 - give reasoned arguments against thi. id a
 - refer to religious viewpoint
 - refer to non-religiou www ints
 - reach a justicial in iclusion



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Pacifism



Keywords

Pacifism Peace 0

Just war 0

Suffering

Quakers

Harmony 0

Conscientious objectors 0

Beatitudes \circ

the opposition to any form of war for any cause the absence of conflict, and a state of harmony with the idea that war can have moral justifications the experience of pain, which war can cause a branch of Christianity which heavily emphasises the absence of discord will a ociety those within the rm w c refuse to carry weapons

or more 1.

we thing preaching from Jesus in the New Testa , acemakers as being blessed

the idea that violence is unjustified in the vast major some extreme exceptions where it is the lesser of two



Overview

Pacifism is the firm belief that violence can never be justified and peace should

Peace within a pacifist definition should be emphasised to mean not just the absence of war but also the achievement of harmony within society.

Some branches of Christianity, such as the Quakers, adhere to a strict moral code of pacifism. They believe that violence in any form can never be justified based on the teachings of Jesus. Their religious teaching includes a 'Peace Testimony', which is an account of their commitment to take no violent action.

Within this belief, there is no instance in which they would consider violence to be acceptable.

They are likely to, within the context of a war, adopt or pursue roles within the war which support their views. For this reason, they might opt to adopt roles such as those of medical conflict to avoid actively fighting within the conflict but instead try to solve suffering and loss of life.



Key Points

Christian Pacifism

- Many of te Confide the New Testament given by Jesus emphasise the e Beatitudes, Jesus emphasises that those who are peacemak some Canans have adopted a totally pacifist stance in their approach tow
- There are a few branches of the Church which adopt a pacifist stance. They as he preached peace and discouraged his followers from using violence.
- Many Quakers, among other Christians from other denominations, take the This means that within the context of a war they consciously choose not to
- An important biblical teaching used to support the idea of Christian pacifism disciples from defending him with violence. Therefore, many Christians talk even in defence of religion or in God's name, is not justified.

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Blessed are th

be called the

the peacema

sons of God.

peace, for the

of God. Ble

- A famous example of a Christian contentious objector is Desmond T Doss. World War who refused to bear arms due to his religious beliefs. He saved many men on the battlefield without a gun. He is remembered as an example of a conscientious objector who did not carry a weapon into battle, and yet saved many lives of soldiers during the Second World War.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Christian living within Nazi Germany who opposed the Nazi regime. He believed in pacifism largely and preached to those within the Confessing Church to oppose the regime without resorting to violence. He helped Jews to escape from Germany.
- However, he did take part in a plan to assassinate Adolf Hitler, which indicate violence could, in extreme cases, be necessary in some way in order to protect Jewish and other minorities who suffered upper the Jahird Reich).
- Some Christians would argue that Tac. Is not a viable way to live within a violence and war can some ines of justified, but not always. They would arg sometimes justify it to exploit of they would wish to be determined to do is to defend someon way violence.

The Golden Rule:

'In everything do to others as you would have them do

Islamic Pacifism

- > The majority of Muslims do not practise pacifism.
- This is because the Qur'an lays out criteria under which violence can be permit to be permissible within criteria laid out in their scriptures, then it would fol (the idea that violence is never justified) would not follow as fitting within the
- Muhammad himself is remembered as being a great military leader himself violence within a war context, and was very good at it. As many Muslims wis example given by the Prophet), they would then argue that violence can occa Prophet himself practised justified violence.
- However, it is important to stress that many Muslims believe that God (Allal state of violence. Some Muslims practise conditional pacifism (e.g. the Ahma Sufis). This is the belief that violence should be avoided at almost all costs be instances, only as a final resort if there is no other option and the alternative

Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea	Nea
	(8)	(9)
I understand the identity ce		
I understar concept of pacifism		
I understand Christian arguments for pacifism		
I understand Christian arguments against pacifism		
I understand Islamic arguments about pacifism		
I can give an example of a religious group which believes in pacifism		

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Pacifism

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following is the term for people who believe that violence can need to be the following is the term for people who believe that violence can need to be the following is the term for people who believe that violence can need to be the following is the term for people who believe that violence can need to be the following is the term for people who believe that violence can need to be the following is the term for people who believe that violence can need to be the following that the following is the term for people who believe that violence can need to be the following that the following is the term for people who believe that violence can need to be the following that the following the following that the following the following that the following the followi
 - **A** Peacemakers
 - **B** Just war theorists
 - **C** Ouakers
 - **D** Pacifists
- **2.** Which of the following branches of Christian cy iranses pacifism?
 - **A** Church of England
 - **B** Baptism
 - C Quaker
 - **D** C is
 - D C
- 3. Which or the following Bible verses contains an important teaching on pacific
 - **A** John 3:16
 - **B** Matthew 5:9
 - **C** Genesis 1:27
 - **D** Mark 25
- **4.** What is the term for the belief that violence should be avoided at all costs bu circumstances?
 - **A** Pacifism
 - **B** Occasional pacifism
 - **C** Conditional pacifism
 - **D** Unconditional pacifism
- **5.** Give **one** biblical passage to support pacifism.
- **6.** Explain **two** different religious views on pacifism.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** ways a pacifist might navigate a war.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of
- **8.** 'Pacifism is the best interpretation of religious teaching. Evaluate this statement, and in your answer
 - o give reasoned arguments in sur profitms idea
 - o give reasoned arguments aging this idea
 - o refer to religiou v v mints
 - o reanch joous viewpoints
 - re stified conclusion

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Religion and Belief in Twenty-first-ce

Religion and Belief as a Cause in the Contemporary V



Keywords

0	Terrorism	this refers to acts of extreme Lice committed to instil
0	Jihad	meaning struggle, the lesser term of this is used to justify
		within Island
0	9/11	ist a committed on 11th September 2001 in which
		ta Con the World Trade Center in New York
0	Isla: te	a group of individuals who commit acts of terror in the nam
	W-20	Islam
0	Israeli-Palestinian	a conflict within the Middle East
	conflict	
0	Politics	the issues regarding the running of a country and the interest



Overview

- Violence is a reality in the natural world however, among humans there is a multifaceted reasons which contribute.
- Religion has historically been a reason for which people waged wars, and tho acts within the twenty-first century themselves claim to commit these acts in reason, people can argue that religion causes conflict and violence. Examples (known as **terrorism**) which are claimed by the committers to be religiously groups such as Islamic State and other Islamist groups such as al-Qaeda have events such as the bombing at the Manchester Arena in May 2017.
- Religion has also become a source of contention in conflicts which have othe Israeli-Palestinian conflict has become one in which the religious identity of with Israel, and Islam with the Palestinians) has become closely tied to ideas



Key Points

Reasons Religion Might be Viewed () Lase of Violence

- Many argue that religious motivations to a rime have led to large-scale wars history (such as the Crusa let) as war as within the modern day, with the phomotivated terroris to the more and more attention and importance within
- Some to the saim to create a theocratic society in which their religion can occasionally result in such groups committing acts of viole behind their acts of violence is their religious faith and conviction, it could be is the cause of the violence.
- For many, religion and politics are closely linked. Therefore, for some, politically religious.

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Within Islam, there are the criteria for jihad, which is considered to be a holy committed in the name of Allah. Muhammad himself was a military leader, this gives his followers the basis to commit violent acts. Many of those who terrorism linked to groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS have claimed to be doin a form of jihad.

- One of the arguments used surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the the land which bears great significance for all three major Abrahamic religious importance of the location is stipulated as an argument for why the peace no peacemakers would perhaps like as neither side is willing to compromise due the land to each side.
- Specifically concerning the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, one of the escalating religious importance of the land. It is considered to be 'e Holy Land by bot religion, this factor would not exist to exacerbet to conflict, and, therefore arguably be making the conflict worse.
- Those within this conflict could be used they are fighting the cause of Go would not be a motivate of and, therefore, would not be a contributing individual or a large these crimes are so great that they believe their action they are fighting to the great cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting to the great cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they perceive as a large fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a world they are fighting the cause of God against a worl

Examples of Religion within Violence

- The **Israeli-Palestinian** conflict is commonly used as an example of a conflor of Israel was established in 1948, claiming the land of Israel as being a land point there has been a huge conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinian religious tone as it has been pitted as Jews vs Muslims. There have been hug bombings, beatings and murders, committed by both sides.
- In India, there are many examples of violence between religious groups. This Christians by Hindus, for example a mob attack on a church in 2023, or Mus population in Indian-administered Kashmir.
- Many people point towards religious groups who commit **terrorist acts** against the UK, the US and France in the name of Islam as being religiously motivate commit such acts are **ISIS** (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant also known Qaeda. Extremist group ISIS took responsibility for the bombing of a concert Manchester in 2017 which killed 22. Much like the terror attack of 9/11, the this act in the name of God. These acts were committed by individual agents but were claimed to be motivated by the collective group.
- Acts of terrorism such as these are argued to be caused by the beliefs within commit them may justify them by stating the motivation of pursuing lesser

Reasons Religion Might Not be Viewed as a Cause of Violer

- Some argue that those who are attempting to use vicine e to establish an Islain their use of violence, as they violate the cricer in the Qur'an for lesser jih
- The example of the Israeli–Palestinia. Slices infinitely more complicated religion. At the root of the issue of territory and treatment. Many land was wrongfully and round them at the point of the establishment of the that the religious plugated since then.
- that the reaction of groups claiming to act in the name of that their actions, such as the bombing of the World Trade Center and the M violated the criteria of lesser jihad of causing no harm to women, children or that these individuals have motivations other than their religious beliefs, such motivations.
- Furthermore, they would emphasise that the jihad considered to be greater v a good Muslim and follow the instructions of God to become a better person
- While religion might be a reason to battle over territory for example, with of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict some might argue that the battle is for copolitical power this brings rather than it being a war solely motivated by religious

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- Extremist groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda are an extremely small segment Some would argue it is unfair to tar the entirety of religious believers world violence due to the actions of a few who claim to be motivated by such thing motivators for these actions, such as political retribution, the desire for power
- Many religious people point to religious teachings of non-violence as being cause violence. They might argue that religious teachings might have stopp due to these peaceful teachings, although this is impossible to measure and proof.
- Some might argue that religious teachings about the afterlife and consequent violence, i.e. they would not want to be punished for committing acts of violence,
- The Middle East conflict, for example, is infinitely note omplicated than sin Muslims, not least because there are groups and enable - the Arab Jewish Christians are a living contradiction se who cite the conflict as being p the Israeli Jews and the Aral Aral Aral as.
- Specifically regard as ferrorism, it is important to consider that terro terrori no a lusive to religion. Anders Breivik, a Norwegian terrorist, when I many people in 2011 due to his strong opposition to the faith motivated attack, rather than one done out of religious motivation. Therefo attacks cannot be said to be religiously motivated.
- Often crimes which were argued to be religious can be revealed to have polification 9/11 is often cited as being religiously motivated; however, Osama Bin Lader committed the act were not violating the jihad criterion to not kill innocents complicit in their government's interference in the Middle East. The act app reason to commit a politically motivated crime.
- More people died during the Second World War (a conflict not caused by reli differences) than have been killed within religious conflicts.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea	Nearl
I understand how religion might be a cause of violence		
I understand how religion might not be a cause of violence		
I can give two examples of groups who have committed violence in the name of religion		
I understand religious responses to cas		



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Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following is the meaning of terrorism?
 - **A** Holy war
 - **B** Violence in the name of religion
 - **C** Violence in order to ignite terror
 - **D** Violence with no meaning or drive
- 2. What is commonly given as an example of a conflict on h is said to be cause
 - **A** The Second World War
 - **B** The First World War
 - C The Israeli-Palestini on i
 - **D** The American Can War
- **3.** What a ce is there within Islam for violence in the name of God?
 - **A** Greater jihad
 - **B** Lesser jihad
 - **C** Adhan
 - **D** Iblis
- **4.** Which of the following events caused the most deaths?
 - A The Crusades
 - **B** First World War
 - C Second World War
 - **D** 11th September 2001
- **5.** Give **one** example of an act of violence which could be argued to have religious
- **6.** Explain **two** contrasting views on the role of religion in violence.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** ways in which it might be argued that religion causes violence.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of
- 8. 'Religion causes violence and war.'

Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:

- o give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
- o give reasoned arguments against this idea.
- o refer to religious viewpoints
- o refer to non-religious view of s
- o reach a justified containing



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Weapons of Mass Destru



Keywords

Weapons of mass destruction modern developments in warfare which are des

o WMD

Nuclear weapons

o Atomic bomb

Biological warfare

Chemical warfare

Radioactive warfare

Nuclear deterrence

o MAL

devastation beyond the realm of normal warfar weapons of mass destruction weapons which use nuclear power causing huge within their scope a form of nuclear weapon the use of bility call ruses or diseases as a forth of challed substances as a weapon to be of radioactive material as a weapon the idea that the possession of nuclear weapons attacking a nation mutually assured destruction



Overview

- Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are developments within modern weap warfare which are controversial due to their ability to cause large-scale irrepa
- Forms of weapons of mass destruction include nuclear weapons (such as the warfare (e.g. releasing viruses, or diseases such as anthrax), chemical warfare Agent Orange used by the US in the Vietnam War) and radioactive warfare material contained within matter is used to cause long-lasting harm).
- The events at Hiroshima is an example of the use of nuclear warfare. On 6th Morld War, America dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima which killed appeared the radioactive material it let off has affected hundreds of thousands in the y deaths and massive levels of destruction, and the nature of the atomic bomb continue to be affected by the bomb today (e.g. birth defects caused by radiations).
- In general, weapons of mass destruction might be used to cause damage on a conflict (as in the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima). Those who use their choice by citing that it is the only way to end a conflict, or that it is necessation from ongoing attack; for example, in the hope of stopping terrorism



Key Points

Religious Attitudes

- No religious group supports or the use of nuclear weapons.
- This is for a variety of a such least because the use of such weapons cau of sufferiments.
- One of usons that religious groups do not support the use of nuclear within within what they consider as a just war.
- For example, within Christianity, nuclear warfare does not fit within several of the requirements of just war theory, not least the impact it has on innocent civilians. It also harms nature.
- One of the principles of just war for Christians is that the amount of harm which is caused is reasonable. The level of harm caused by nuclear weapons is obviously considered to be too great.

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- It would also violate the idea of proportionality within the just theory. This unduly harm the population of a country. Teachings such as the Golden Rule view.
- Weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons would also cause mas they were dropped – this would be damaging to God's creation, which Christ over. Therefore, they would consider this to be another argument against the nuclear weapons.
- The use of weapons of mass destruction causes so much loss of life that man with this as they believe that life is sacred. Ending, or dramatically deteriora weapon could never be considered to be moral.
- Within Islam, this would violate the stipulation within jihad that a conflict of does not unduly harm civilians. It is incredibly difficult to pinpoint the destretations, meaning their use results in a great that of the for civilians. The conordinate come to women, children the theory/vulnerable. This is improved to mass destruction to the force, most Muslims would strongly opposite the stipulation within jihad that a conflict of the stipulation within jihad that a conflict of does not unduly harm civilians. It is incredibly difficult to pinpoint the destretation of the stipulation within jihad that a conflict of does not unduly harm civilians. It is incredibly difficult to pinpoint the destretation of the stipulation within jihad that a conflict of does not unduly harm civilians. It is incredibly difficult to pinpoint the destretation of the stipulation o
- Due to the damage in factorial weapons of mass destruction, such as damage of a court the inductor weapons would also violate the requirement stipulate to crops should not be burned.

Nuclear Deterrence

- Some groups have argued for the development of nuclear weapons as a form war. This is known as nuclear deterrence.
- The logic follows that should a country possess nuclear weapons, then other attempt to attack them for fear of the use of the weapon against them. Some developed nuclear weapons for this reason they claim that they do not interested develop them in order to deter potential attacks. This is known as MAD (mu meaning that both groups will maintain but not launch their weapons as do retaliation, thus destroying both nations.
- Some religious people might support this idea as they would reason that the war will potentially help keep peace. Therefore, there will be less war and fev
- Many Christians and religious people disagree with this, however, as there is weapons will not be used. The leaders who develop them with no intent of u democracy changes, meaning that newly elected leaders might have access to might be more inclined than their predecessors to use.
- Such weapons require a huge amount of funding to build, develop and maint religious views, would be better spent on helping the poor or healing the sick
- The Roman Catholic Church made a stark statement against the use of nucle destruction, stating in the Second Vatican Council that: 'Though the monstrougles as a deterrent, it is feared that the mere continuance of nuclear tests, undertaken consequences for life on earth ... nuclear weapons should be hanned'
- Some religious people agree with the idea of nuclear rence in terms of dexample, Islamic republic Pakistan itself las urana weapons. Pakistan justi weapons as being a form of self las la liquid and Indian threat. In protection of the nation of the samic faith justifies the possession of weaponsider to be using a samic faith justifies the possession of weaponsider to be using the samic faith justifies the possession of weapons as the samic faith justifies the possession of weapons as the samic faith justifies the possession of weapons as the same faith justifies the possession of weapons.

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Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea	Near
I understand the different forms of weapons of mass destruction		
I understand the Christian arguments against weapons of mass destruction		
I understand the Islamic arguments against weapons of mass destruction		
I understand the concept of nuclear 1 or eace		
I understar in the responses to nuclear deterrence		

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Religion and Belief as a Cause of Violence in the Con

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following is not an example of a weapon of mass destruction?
 - A Nuclear bomb
 - **B** Chemical attack
 - **C** Biological warfare
 - **D** Artillery bombs
- **2.** Which of the following is not a religious object of the fuciear bombs?
 - A They cause unnecessary sufferiage
 - **B** They violate just war +h .ory
 - C They are more and in the
 - **D** The man screation beyond repair
- **3.** Which or the following religious groups described nuclear weapons as a 'month'
 - **A** The Catholic Church
 - **B** The Church of England
 - **C** The Church of Scotland
 - **D** Baptists
- **4.** What does 'MAD' stand for?
 - **A** Mutually assured detonation
 - **B** Mutual assignation and devastation
 - C Mutually assured destruction
 - **D** Mutually assured devastation
- **5.** Give **one** example of a weapon of mass destruction.
- **6.** Explain **two** religious viewpoints against weapons of mass destruction.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** different religious responses to nuclear deterrence.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of
- **8.** 'It is impossible to justify nuclear weapons from the perspective of religion.' Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this
 - o give reasoned arguments against thioid a
 - refer to religious viewpoint
 - o refer to non-religiou www ints
 - o reach a just Good ic. sion







Religion in Peacemaking and



Keywords

0	Peacemakers	those who attempt to aid peace negotiations, believed to be ble
		Jesus' teaching
0	Reconciliation	the establishing of a peace agreement between opposing sides v
0	War victims	those who suffer as a result of a conflict
0	Making peace	the act of attempting to bring about peace within a situation
0	Pope Francis	the current Pope, who has made an eff to contribute to the
0	Protest	to actively display opposition in a going conflict



Overview

- Religio e a motivating factor for some in attempting to bring about the known for Christians to protest against wars in an effort to bring about their
- For the reasons discussed within the reconciliation section of the course, mapoints towards the idea of reconciling rather than continuing a conflict in or relieve the suffering of those who are being persecuted by the effects of war.
- Many religious people work for reconciliation between different countries, (through interfaith action) and other groups in conflict with others.
- Many Christians might also help victims of war or those heavily impacted by cause. They might do this by fundraising, charity work, volunteering with al Christian Aid), or praying for those affected.



Key Points

Religious Roles in Peacemaking

- While religion can be argued to have a role in motivating conflict, it is import religious belief is for many a motivation to pursue peace. In order to make p religious groups have made efforts to aid and foster reconciliation between g experienced conflict.
- Within Christianity, there is Scripture within the New Testament which tead endeavour to attempt to make peace. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus stapeace should be considered to be blessed. In a series of statements regarding upon favourably, Jesus includes those who make peace goal and attempt to Therefore, many Christians consider this to have the teaching that God desactively pursue peace between warring a tie 'adding Christians to involve themselves to have a governments to involve themselves.

 Blessed

 Therefore

 Therefore
- and us power to help the peace process develop.

 Within there is the idea that Allah looks favourably upon those who choose mercy and peace.





Many religious people take an active role in the seeking of peace within conflicts. Examples include Revd Desmond Tutu, who campaigned for the end of apartheid in South Africa on the basis of his Christian faith.

Pacifist religious groups, such as the Quakers within Christianity, will often take on peacemaking roles during wars.

An example of an individual who was inspired by their religious faith to make peacemaking efforts is Pope Francis. During his papal service he has attempted to a and the United States. In his speeches, he has publicly spoken out against coin various situations. He has emphasised that his poor in has been inspired preaching against conflict and support of perce.

An example of another individual ir and dry religious teaching regarding than Christianity) is the Tor and is a characteristic (the 14th Dalai Lama), who is the lead been involved with the analysement of non-violence against persecution (expulsion of the Chinese). Buddhism is a faith in which non-violence key are values.

Example of actions which might be taken by a person motivated by religion leaders speaking about and praying for peace.

War Victims

Many lay people also work for peace; for example, Christians within the Israe gather to pray and work for peace within the situation. They have also been discussions between those on opposite sides in order to aid reconciliation.

Many Christians donate money to charities which help protect and support lives have been impacted greatly by the effects of war, such as losing their homembers to a conflict. These people are vulnerable, and as Jesus taught Christian.

the lowest and most vulnerable in society, so Christians aim to help and aid these people through volunteering, donations and prayer. It is important to remember that this is based on biblical teaching such as Matthew 25:40 – Christians believe that by serving the vulnerable, such as victims of war, they are serving God.

The King will reply, The did for one of the last sisters of min

Peace I leave

to you. Not as

to you. Let no

neither

Examples of specific Christian charities which aim to improve and ser Tearfund and Christian Aid. One of their aims is to help those affected by the countries. For example, in 2018, Tearfund raised funds for the victims of the

Student Checklist

TAT 1 T know?	No Idea	
I understal religious people might want to achieve peace		
I understand how religious people might work towards peace		
I can give one example of a religious individual who tries to achieve peace		
I understand why Christians might attempt to help victims of war		
I understand the ways in which Christians might attempt to help victims of war		

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Religion in Peacemaking and War Victims

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be

- **1.** Which of the following is not a religious figure who has campaigned for peace
 - **A** Pope Francis
 - **B** Revd Desmond Tutu
 - C Tenzin Gyatso
 - **D** Bertrand Russell
- **2.** Which of the following Bible verses suggests and C 1 stians should attempt

PEGIN

- **A** Mark 5:9
- **B** Luke 5:9
- **C** John 5:9
- **D** M



- **3.** Which of the following Bible verses suggests Christians should care for victing
 - A Matthew 25:40
 - **B** John 25:40
 - **C** Luke 25:40
 - **D** Mark 25:40
- **4.** Which of the following is not an example of how Christians might aim to help
 - **A** Prayer
 - **B** Donations
 - **C** Collecting vouchers
 - **D** Volunteering
- **5.** Give **one** reason why a Christian might be motivated to look after the victim
- **6.** Explain **two** different ways religious people respond to victims of war.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- **7.** Explain **two** religious beliefs regarding the pursuit of peace.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of
- **8.** 'Working for peace is a requirement of religion.'

Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:

- o give reasoned arguments in support of this
- o give reasoned arguments against thi. id a
- o refer to religious viewpoint
- o refer to non-religion wy i..ts
- o reach a justicial inclusion



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Mark Schemes

Peace, Justice, Forgiveness and Reconciliation

1-4. Multiple choice: Correct answers in order: (c) (d) (c) (c) (1 mark each for a total of

- 1 mark for any correct point. Students might include the passages below, but any re-
 - Matthew 5:9
 - Matthew 10:9
- 2 marks per point for a total of **4 marks**:

Simple explanation = 1 mark

Detailed explanation = 2 marks

Students may describe the fill wing

- Islam: there is a degree and the establishment of justice within continued crimes should be punished in accordance with the scope of d harmony will be restored to society.
- Justice within Islam will also be delivered on the Day of Judgement and in the they will be rewarded for their good deeds within life.
- Christianity: some Christians believe in the idea of 'an eye for an eye' as being they believe that this will establish justice for the victim.
- However, other Christians emphasise mercy towards all and, therefore, would justice.
- Marked as the four-mark question, plus 1 mark for naming a relevant reference to so further mark for applying this to the question, for an overall total of **6 marks**:

Students might include the points below, but any relevant points can be included:

- Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the two Christian attitudes able to demonstrate that some Christians feel they are required to specifically Bible instructs them in the Old Testament to specifically pursue justice.
- Other Christians emphasise the teachings of the New Testament in emphasis addition to justice, dissuading Christians from pursuing human understanding forgive and show mercy.
- Bible verses to support these answers could be any relevant content, but exam
- 'Justice and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land Deuteronomy 16:20
- 'Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, no sacrifice". For I have come to call Matthew 9:13

8.

One argument with justification

Different arguments for and against, with in the ion

OR Several linked, justified argue in feet one position

This is the highest level and can be reached if only one point of view is considered mention religion

Good stilled arguments for and against, linked together

Defini ence to religion

Very well argued

Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonal Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

Answers could include the following details. They should show the importance of ju demonstrate how important the ideas of peace, reconciliation and forgiveness are. which is reasoned and argued well with support from relevant Bible passages.



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