

Revision Summaries for GCSE AQA Religious Studies A

Component 2: Theme D
Religion, Peace and Conflict

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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 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.
- ✓ **Exam-style 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 learning how to 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.

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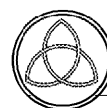
Peace, Justice, Forgiveness Reconciliation

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Keywords

- **Conflict** a clash or struggle between individuals or groups, e.g. war
- **Forgiveness** letting go of past harm and moving forwards to work together
- **Justice** the achievement of fairness within a society or a situation
- **Peace** a state of harmony within society and between societies
- **Peacemakers** those who are actively involved in achieving the aim of peace
- **Reconciliation** the bringing together of two or more conflicting sides with a view to ending conflict
- **Sermon on the Mount** a section of teaching within the Bible where Jesus promotes peace



Overview

- The topic of violence and conflict is an important one to address in the modern world. Many non-religious people have views regarding the issues of peace and conflict, like the position of the pursuance of peace and the avoidance of violence.
- Nevertheless, violence remains a reality with which our society must grapple, with terrorism and war being just a few examples of modern day violence.
- Some of the most important themes when discussing ideas of violence include peace, justice and reconciliation. There are many biblical teachings on these ideas which are used as a 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's forgiveness is the letting go of hurt and negative emotions as a result of conflict. It is necessary in order to move forward.
- Reconciliation is the resolution of the conflict between conflicting parties and moving forward.



Key Points

Peace

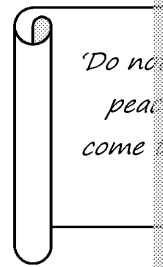
- Peace is the status of society living in harmony, with the absence of conflict or war.
- Many Christians lay great emphasis on the importance of peace. Indeed, there are many biblical teachings in the New Testament which put a high importance on the achievement and maintenance of peace within society.
- Many Christians believe that Jesus taught emphatically that peace is something which he brought to the world. In the Sermon on the Mount, an important teaching in Matthew, Jesus taught specifically that the peacemakers will be called sons of God.
- 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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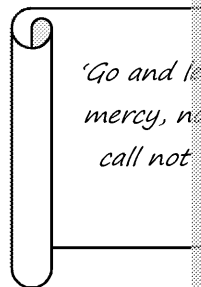
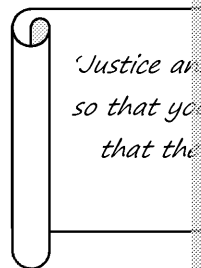


- Theoretically, if peace is highly valued by most social groups, e.g. religious groups, then there would be less conflict within the world. However, some religious groups might use violence as means to the end of achieving peace, e.g. intervening in a conflict in order to stop injustices from happening,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



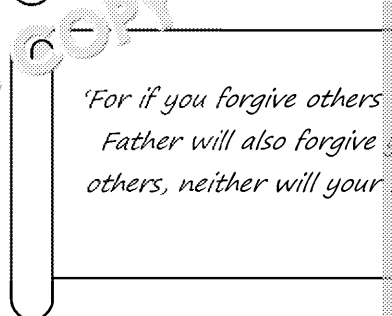
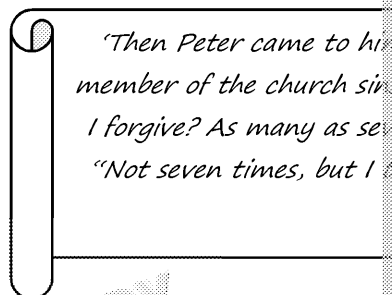
Justice

- Justice is the achievement of fairness in society and within situations.
- The Bible specifically teaches that Christians should 'act justly' (Micah 6:8).
- Justice is a central part of many religious teachings. Within Islam, the central teaching regarding what God is like in his nature within both Sunni and Shia Islam is the establishment of justice within Islam – those who are guilty of a crime should be punished in accordance to the scope of their crime, and by doing so they can be restored to society. Justice within Islam will also be delivered on the Day of Judgment when Muslims believe they will be rewarded for their good deeds during their lives.
- Some believe that justice can be achieved through violence, e.g. 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 or 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.
- Punishment which is just must always be proportional to the crime, otherwise it is unjust.
- Some Christians believe that justice is something which Christians should specifically aim to do to biblical teaching.
- However, some Christians argue that while justice is important, mercy is equally a hugely important teaching of Jesus, therefore, should be considered to be as important.



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 ideas of forgiveness being offered to them through Jesus, they also believe that they should in turn offer 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 with others.



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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 peacefully, avoiding continued or future conflict between the groups.
- The Gospels and the New Testament speak of the reconciliation of human beings to God through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Reconciliation, therefore, is an important part of Christian life, and it should be considered that the Bible does state that those 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 other.

'For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, will He not work with us to secure for us eternal life?'

'So when you are reconciling to your brother or sister, go first to your brother or sister and then to your father and mother.'



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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		
I understand Christian attitudes towards justice		
I understand the concept of forgiveness		
I understand Christian attitudes towards forgiveness		
I understand the concept of reconciliation		
I understand Christian attitudes towards reconciliation		

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Practice Exam-style Questions

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 justify Christian positions that peace is a Christian value?
A Mark 10:9
B Luke 10:9
C John 10:9
D Matthew 10:9
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 two different religious teachings 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 religious authority.
8. 'The achievement of justice is the ultimate aim according to religious beliefs.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

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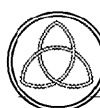


Violence



Keywords

- **Conflict** a struggle or discord between groups of people
- **Death** the cessation of life
- **Evil** something which is morally wrong and causes suffering
- **Jihad** the lesser form of this means Holy War within Islam
- **Protest** to formally oppose an idea or action, such as a war
- **Sin** breaking the law of God within a religious belief
- **Suffering** the experience of pain
- **Terrorism** acts of violence committed in order to provoke terror
- **Violence** the use of physical force to inflict suffering
- **War** a large-scale conflict between two groups such as countries



Overview

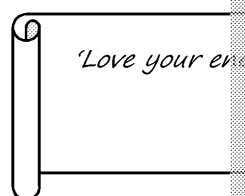
- Violence is a physical struggle or action in which physical force is used to cause harm.
- Violence can manifest in different ways – for example, someone throwing a brick is violence, but large-scale wars are also violence. There are scales of violence.
- Causes of violence vary hugely depending on the situation, but largely it is based on the relationship 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 traditional to human physical violence, to modern types of violence through weapons, 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 their enemies, but instead to love them. Therefore, some Christians argue that this teaching extends to teach against harming enemies, advocating instead love and prayer as the way to solve disputes.
- Jesus never taught that violence would ever be justified and for this reason violence cannot be justified. Jesus offered no teaching of violence allowing wrong, and violence against men is not less sinful than violence against women.
- Some Christians practise pacifism, which is the belief that violence can never be justified. 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 in the loss of human life, many Christians might oppose it for that reason. Murder is considered to be the Tenth Commandment, so the taking of a human life within the context of violence is a serious sin.
- Some Christians might argue that violence could be seen as justified in order to bring about good, or to prevent evil. For example, some Christians have taken violent action against those who work within abortion clinics as they believe that the taking of a human life is a sin.



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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, this is as justified.
- Some Christians might also see some forms of violence, such as war in response, as justified as they are trying to stop violence from taking place. In this way, the violence could be argued to be an end which justified the means of violence within Christian thought. There are many instances within the Old Testament which are on the side of those at war, which some Christians might use to argue that God is calling it as it is justified.
- Some Christians argue that violence can be permissible when it is used as retribution for a crime that has been committed. For example, some Christians might support the death penalty for capital crimes as there is justification for this in the Bible.

Muslim point

- There is a variety of teachings within Islam which apply to violence.
- Islam has a tradition of peace – the word ‘Islam’ has linguistic ties to the word ‘salam’ which means peace.
- There is allowance within Islam for the practice of violence in certain situations.
- For example, there are teachings surrounding the ideas of ‘jihad’. Jihad means struggle. There are two forms of jihad – the first, the greater form of jihad, is considered to be the spiritual struggle to follow the path of God. The second, and lower, form of jihad involves the physical 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 example, how and why violence can be committed, e.g. no harm must come to civilians and crops can be burned.
- In modern times, the idea of jihad has been taken on by some extreme Muslims, such as terrorism. Largely, this interpretation of jihad does not take into account the lesser jihad and the criteria laid out for the allowance of jihad.
- Many Muslims are unhappy with the way in which jihad is being used and are in an attempt to counteract these actions with 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 of the main reasons for this is that the Qur’an states that violence may be permissible if the faith of others is being threatened.
- Some Muslims might argue that violent punishments (such as the death penalty) are permissible for certain crimes, as ideas regulating corporal punishment are found in the Qur’an. These are known as the Hudud punishments.

Non-religious Viewpoints

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



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea	Not Done
I understand what the Bible says about violence	☹	
I understand at least two Christian approaches to violence		
I understand the Muslim approach to violence		
I understand a non-religious approach to violence		

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Practice Exam-style Questions

Violence

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

- Which of the following is not a reason Christians might oppose violence?
 - Life should have a high quality
 - Life is sacred
 - Jesus emphasised non-violence
 - Murder is a sin
- What is the term for the context in which violence might be permitted within Islam?
 - Zina
 - Jihad
 - Hudud
 - Adhan
- Which of the following is a Bible verse used to oppose the use of violence?
 - Mark 5:44
 - Matthew 5:44
 - Luke 4:45
 - John 3:54
- What is the term for the secular group which might oppose the use of violence?
 - Humanism
 - Darwinism
 - Secularism
 - Atheism

- Give two religious teachings on violence.
- Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about violence.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain two religious beliefs about the justification of violence.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious teaching.
- 'Violence is always wrong within religious belief.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

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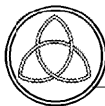
The Reasons for War, Just War and Holy War

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Keywords

- **Civil war** a war between the citizens within a country due to different reasons
- **Gain** acquisition of resources; this can sometimes be a motivation for war
- **Greed** the drive for personal gain above all else
- **Holy war** a war which is believed to be fought in God's name
- **Human rights** the inherent rights of an individual by virtue of being human
- **Just war** a war which is fought for just causes
- **Pacifism** the opposition to any form of war for any cause
- **Religion as cause** a war which is fought due to religious beliefs or differences
- **Retaliation** the act of war in revenge for an attack or breach of agreement, not necessarily in defence of oneself
- **Self-defence** the act of waging war in reaction to an attack, in order to protect oneself
- **Territory** a war which is waged over debate regarding ownership or rights



Overview

- There are various reasons why an individual or a country might choose to fight. In general secular societies these reasons might include greed, self-defence, perception of violation of human rights, violation of a treaty, etc.
- The reason for which people fight war can be as morally important as how the war is fought. A war which is fought for the cause of defending a country (self-defence) can be morally justifiable, whereas a war which is fought in order to gain territory will be viewed as being morally unjustifiable.
- **Pacifism** is the belief that no war can ever be justified within religious beliefs. For example, the Christian denomination Quakers (otherwise known as the Society of Friends) believe that violence can never be justified in any instance ever.
- Some people believe that religion can cause war, and certainly religion can be a factor in conflicts; however, these conflicts do tend to also involve other factors in war. This will be addressed further in the Religion as a Cause of War section of the course.
- There is a variety of religious beliefs which discuss within their teachings and teachings whether war might, or might not, be justifiable. For the sake of this course, the main three reasons for war to be focused on are greed, retaliation and self-defence, as well as factors such as



Key Points

Greed

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

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Self-defence

- Some wars are fought on the basis of self-defence. This means that another country – 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 reasonable to attack in order to preserve the life of one's civilians and one's way of life. Some wars are necessary in order to preserve their freedom of religion, for example.
- Within religions such as Islam, self-defence is first mentioned within the teachings (those in which it is permissible to wage war).
- Emphatically, self-defence must be proportionate in order to be moral. If one country bombs another country by bombing an area, this might be seen as a defence, therefore, a moral action.

Retaliation

- The acceptance of retaliation as a reason for war will vary hugely depending on the culture and the governing laws of a country.
- Retaliation is different from self-defence as it indicates that there is not an immediate threat to oneself. It is an act of revenge rather than a necessity in order to protect oneself.
- Much like self-defence, it is generally thought that retaliation should be proportionate.
- Regarding large-scale retaliation, such as what led to the First World War, many people believe that it is important to attempt to come to a peaceful agreement before any killing.

Holy War

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

Just War

- A just war is a conflict which is perceived by a group of people to be morally just. It is a war in which the collective and the individual has an important part in deciding what a just war is.
- Within Islam, a holy war is considered to be a just war.
- Within Christianity, there are criteria regarding what makes a war just. While war is discouraged due to Jesus' teaching regarding the laying down of the sword, in some cases that fighting is the only option – for example, if greater evil will occur if one does not fight, then in this instance, fighting is justified. An example of a Christian turning to war was the Confessing Church founding member Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was involved in a 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 nuclear war is never just.'



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- St Thomas Aquinas posited a variety of rules regarding what makes a war just 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 for the sake of power.
 - 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 must have been made beforehand.
 - 5) There should be a good chance of winning the conflict as it is immoral to perpetuate a situation, thus waging a war which is sacred.
 - 6) It should be undertaken with fair conduct. Where possible civilian casualties should be avoided.
 - 7) It should have the potential 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 just war		

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Practice Exam-style Questions

The Reasons for War, Just War and Holy War

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

- Which of the following reasons for war do most religions disapprove of due to religious beliefs?
 - Greed
 - Retaliation
 - Self-defence
 - Holy war
- What is the Islamic term for a war in the name of God?
 - Holy war
 - Just war
 - Unjustified war
 - The good fight
- What is the Islamic term for a just war?
 - Greater jihad
 - Adhan
 - Lesser jihad
 - Jihadi
- Which Christian figure put forward the idea of a just war?
 - St Anselm of Canterbury
 - Jesus
 - St Thomas Aquinas
 - Pope John XIII

- Give two reasons why a just war is necessary.
- 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 religious authority.
- '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 idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

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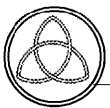


Pacifism



Keywords

- **Pacifism** the opposition to any form of war for any cause
- **Peace** the absence of conflict and a state of harmony with others
- **Just war** the idea that war can have moral justifications
- **Suffering** the experience of pain, which war can cause
- **Quakers** a branch of Christianity which heavily emphasises peace
- **Harmonious objectors** those who support the absence of discord within society
- **Conscientious objectors** those within the army who refuse to carry weapons on moral or moral basis
- **Beatitudes** a section of preaching from Jesus in the New Testament which describes peacemakers as being blessed
- **Conditional pacifism** the idea that violence is unjustified in the vast majority of cases, but some extreme exceptions where it is the lesser of two evils



Overview

- Pacifism is the firm belief that violence can never be justified and peace should be the goal.
- 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 or war can never be justified based on the teachings of Jesus. Their religious teaching includes a 'Peace Testimony', which is a statement 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 workers or humanitarian aid workers in conflict to avoid actively fighting within the conflict but instead try to solve the conflict and reduce suffering and loss of life.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. They shall inherit the peace, for they are the children of God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. They shall inherit the peace, for they are the children of God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. They shall inherit the peace, for they are the children of God.'



Key Points

Christian Pacifism

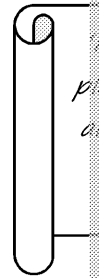
- Many of the teachings of the New Testament given by Jesus emphasise the importance of peace. In a section of the Beatitudes, Jesus emphasises that those who are peacemakers will be called the sons of God. Some Christians have adopted a pacifist stance in their approach to war.
- There are a few branches of the Church which adopt a pacifist stance. They believe that violence is wrong and discouraged his followers from using violence.
- Many Christians, among other Christians from other denominations, take the teachings of Jesus as a guide. This means that within the context of a war they consciously choose not to use weapons.
- An important biblical teaching used to support the idea of Christian pacifism is the teaching that Jesus gave his disciples from defending him with violence. Therefore, many Christians take the teaching that violence, even in defence of religion or in God's name, is not justified.

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- 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 with a Nazi Germany who opposed the Nazi regime. He believed in pacifism largely and preached to those within the Protestant Church to oppose the regime without resorting to violence. He helped Jews to escape from Germany.
- However, he did not support a plan to assassinate Adolf Hitler, which indicates that, in extreme cases, be necessary in some way in order to protect Jewish and other minorities who suffered under the Third Reich).
- Some Christians would argue that pacifism is not a viable way to live within a world of violence and war can sometimes be justified, but not always. They would argue that sometimes justify the use of violence, as sometimes you would wish to be defended. However, they would argue, the most loving and caring thing to do is to defend someone in a way violence might be justified.



The Golden Rule:
'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.'

Islamic Pacifism

- The majority of Muslims do not practise pacifism.
- This is because the Qur'an lays out criteria under which violence can be permitted. If violence is deemed necessary, then it would follow the idea that violence is permissible (the idea that violence is not forbidden) would not follow as fitting within the Islamic faith.
- Muhammad himself is remembered as being a great military leader – himself a violent man in your context, and was very good at it. As many Muslims would argue (by the Prophet), they would then argue that violence can occur in a just cause. The Prophet himself practised justified violence.
- However, it is important to stress that many Muslims believe that God (Allah) does not desire a state of violence. Some Muslims practise conditional pacifism (e.g. the Ahmadiyya Muslims). This is the belief that violence should be avoided at almost all costs but in some instances, only as a final resort if there is no other option and the alternative is worse.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹	Nearly ☺
I understand the idea of peace		
I understand the concept of pacifism		
I understand the arguments for pacifism		
I understand the 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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Practice Exam-style Questions

Pacifism

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

- Which of the following is the term for people who believe that violence can never be justified?
A Peacemakers
B Just war theorists
C Quakers
D Pacifists
- Which of the following branches of Christianity practises pacifism?
A Church of England
B Baptism
C Quaker
D Catholicism
- Which of the following Bible verses contains an important teaching on pacifism?
A John 3:16
B Matthew 5:9
C Genesis 1:27
D Mark 25
- What is the term for the belief that violence should be avoided at all costs but in some circumstances?
A Pacifism
B Occasional pacifism
C Conditional pacifism
D Unconditional pacifism

- Give two biblical passages to support pacifism.
- Explain two different religious views on pacifism.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain two ways a pacifist might navigate a war.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious teaching.
- 'Pacifism is the best interpretation of religious teachings.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

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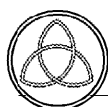


Religion and Belief as a Cause of Violence in the Contemporary World



Keywords

- **Terrorism** this refers to acts of extreme violence committed to instil fear
- **Jihad** meaning struggle, the lesser form of this is used to justify violence within Islam
- **9/11** a terrorist act committed on 11th September 2001 in which an aircraft was used in an attack on the World Trade Center in New York
- **Islamic State** a group of individuals who commit acts of terror in the name of Islam
- **Israeli-Palestinian conflict** a conflict within the Middle East between Muslims and Jews
- **Politics** the issues regarding the running of a country and the interests of its citizens



Overview

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



Key Points

Reasons Religion Might be Viewed as a Cause of Violence

- Many argue that religious motivations for crime have led to large-scale wars in history (such as the Crusades) as well as within the modern day, with the phenomenon of motivated terrorism gaining more and more attention and importance with the rise of groups like Islamic State.
- Some religious groups aim to create a theocratic society in which their religion is the only valid one. This can occasionally result in such groups committing acts of violence behind their acts of violence as their religious faith and conviction, it could be argued, is the cause of the violence.
- For many religions, religion and politics are closely linked. Therefore, for some, political issues are often seen as religious issues.

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- Within Islam, there are the criteria for jihad, which is considered to be a holy war 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 commit acts of terrorism linked to groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS have claimed to be doing a form of jihad.
- One of the arguments used surrounding the Israeli–Palestinian conflict is that the land which bears great significance for all three major Abrahamic religions. The importance of the location is stipulated as an argument for why the peace negotiators would perhaps like as negotiators willing to compromise due to the land to each side.
- Specifically concerning the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, one of the escalating religious factors for the land. It is considered to be the Holy Land by both religions. This factor would not exist to exacerbate the conflict, and, therefore, arguably, is making the conflict worse.
- Those within this conflict could believe that they are fighting the cause of God. This would not be a motivating factor and, therefore, would not be a contributing factor. Individuals committing these crimes are so great that they believe their actions are fighting for the great cause of God against a world they perceive as evil.

Examples of Religion within Violence

- The **Israeli–Palestinian** conflict is commonly used as an example of a conflict. The state of Israel was established in 1948, claiming the land of Israel as being a land of their own. From that point there has been a huge conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The religious tone as it has been pitted as Jews vs Muslims. There have been huge bombings, beatings and murders, committed by both sides.
- Many people point towards religious groups who commit **terrorist acts** against the UK, the US and France in the name of Islam. Some of the religiously motivated groups that commit such acts are **ISIS** (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – also known as Daesh), al-Qaeda, who were responsible for the tragedy of the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 in New York. Other individuals claiming to be acting in the name of Islam flew the hijacked planes into the skyscrapers (the World Trade Center) within New York. Such groups claim to wish to establish an Islamic state. They argue that their actions are in the name of Islam and in the name of God (as a form of jihad).
- Extremist group ISIS took responsibility for the bombing of a concert of pop singer Ariana Grande in Manchester in 2017 which killed 22. Much like the terror attack of 9/11, they claimed 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 Islam. Those who commit them may justify them by stating the motivation of pursuing lesser jihad.

Reasons Religion Might Not be Viewed as a Cause of Violence

- Some argue that those who are attempting to use violence to establish an Islamic state are not acting in their use of violence, as they violate the criteria in the Qur'an for lesser jihad.
- The example of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict is a far more complicated one. It is not a 'religious' issue. At the root of the issue are issues of territory and treatment. Many of the lands were wrongfully taken from them at the point of the establishment of the state. They have been subjugated and oppressed.
- Many Muslims do not view the actions of groups claiming to act in the name of Islam as being in violation of the criteria of lesser jihad of causing no harm to women, children or the elderly. They argue that these individuals have motivations other than their religious beliefs, such as greed or power.
- Furthermore, they would emphasise that the jihad considered to be greater jihad is the struggle of a good Muslim and follow the instructions of God to become a better person.

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- While religion might be a reason to battle over territory – for example, with the Israeli–Palestinian conflict – some might argue that the battle is for political power this brings rather than it being a war solely motivated by religion.
- Extremist groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda are an extremely small segment of the world's population. Some would argue it is unfair to tar the entirety of religious believers worldwide with violence due to the actions of a few who claim to be motivated by such things. Motivators for these actions, such as political retribution, the desire for power, and so on, are often cited.
- Many religious people point to religious teachings of non-violence as being the cause of violence. They might argue that religious teachings might have stopped violence due to these peaceful teachings, although this is impossible to measure and prove.
- Some might argue that religious teachings about the afterlife and consequences of violence mean they would not want to be punished for committing acts of violence.
- The Middle East conflict, for example, is infinitely more complicated than simply Muslims, not least because there are groups in the middle – the Arab Jewish Christians are a living contradiction to those who cite the conflict as being purely between the Israeli Jews and the Arabic Muslims.
- Specifically regarding acts of terrorism, it is important to consider that terrorism, is not exclusive to religion. Anders Breivik, a Norwegian terrorist, when he killed many people in 2011 due to his strong opposition to the faith, was a faith motivated attack, rather than one done out of religious motivation. Therefore, such attacks cannot be said to be religiously motivated.
- Often crimes which were argued to be religious can be revealed to have political motivations. 9/11 is often cited as being religiously motivated; however, Osama Bin Laden's reasons for committing the act were not violating the jihad criterion to not kill innocent people. He was complicit in their government's interference in the Middle East. The act appears to be a politically motivated act.
- More people died during the Second World War (a conflict not caused by religious differences) than have died in any other conflict within religious conflicts.



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹️	Nearly 😊
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 the conflict		

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Practice Exam-style Questions

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

- Which of the following is the meaning of terrorism?
 - Holy war
 - Violence in the name of religion
 - Violence in order to ignite fear
 - Violence with no meaningful objective
- What is commonly given as an example of a conflict which is said to be caused by religion?
 - The Second World War
 - The First World War
 - The Israeli–Palestinian conflict
 - The American Civil War
- What allowance is there within Islam for violence in the name of God?
 - Greater jihad
 - Lesser jihad
 - Adhan
 - Iblis
- Which of the following events caused the most deaths?
 - The Crusades
 - First World War
 - Second World War
 - 11th September 2001
- Give two examples of causes of violence which could be argued to have religious origins.
- Explain two contrasting views on the role of religion in violence.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- 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 religious authority.
- 'Religion causes violence and war.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

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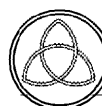


Weapons of Mass Destruction



Keywords

- **Weapons of mass destruction** modern developments in warfare which are devastating beyond the realm of normal warfare
- **WMD** weapons of mass destruction
- **Nuclear weapons** weapons which use nuclear power causing huge devastation within their scope
- **Atomic bomb** a form of nuclear weapon
- **Biological warfare** the use of biological viruses or diseases as a form of warfare
- **Chemical warfare** the use of chemical substances as a weapon
- **Radioactive warfare** the use of radioactive material as a weapon
- **Nuclear deterrence** the idea that the possession of nuclear weapons deters attacking a nation
- **MAD** mutually assured destruction



Overview

- Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are developments within modern warfare which are controversial due to their ability to cause large-scale irreparable damage.
- Forms of weapons of mass destruction include **nuclear weapons** (such as the atomic bomb), **biological warfare** (e.g. releasing viruses, or diseases such as anthrax), **chemical warfare** (e.g. Agent Orange used by the US in the Vietnam War), and **radioactive warfare** (e.g. radioactive material contained within matter is used to cause long-lasting harm).
- The events at Hiroshima are a key example of the use of nuclear warfare. On 6th August 1945, during the Second World War, America dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima which killed approximately 140,000 people. The radioactive fallout from the bomb has affected hundreds of thousands in the years since. The 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 radiation).
- In general, weapons of mass destruction might be used to cause damage on a large scale in a conflict (as in the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima). Those who justify their choice by citing that it is the only way to end a conflict, or that it is necessary for national defence, or in reaction to an ongoing attack; for example, in the hope of stopping terrorism.



Key Points

Religious Attitudes

- No religious group supports or condones the use of nuclear weapons.
- This is for a variety of reasons, not least because the use of such weapons causes massive suffering.
- One of the reasons that religious groups do not support the use of nuclear weapons is that it is outside the bounds of what they consider as a just war.
- For example, within Islam, nuclear warfare does not fit within several of the principles 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 would unduly harm the population of a country. Teachings such as the Golden Rule would view this as unjust.
- Weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons would also cause massive damage if they were dropped – this would be damaging to God’s creation, which Christians would consider a sin. Therefore, they would consider this to be another argument against the use of nuclear weapons.
- The use of weapons of mass destruction causes a great loss of life that many people would object with this as they believe that life is sacred. Killing, or dramatically deteriorating the environment, by a weapon could never be considered morally just.
- Within Islam, this would violate the stipulation within jihad that a conflict should not be fought against civilians. It is incredibly difficult to pinpoint the destruction caused by weapons of mass destruction. Killing their use results in a great loss of life for civilians. The cause of harm often comes to women, children or the elderly/vulnerable. This is incompatible with Islamic teachings on weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, most Muslims would strongly oppose the use of nuclear weapons.
- Due to the damage inflicted by weapons of mass destruction, such as damage to the environment, the use of nuclear weapons would also violate the requirements of the just theory which stipulates that crops should not be burned.

Nuclear Deterrence

- Some groups have argued for the development of nuclear weapons as a form of self-defence in a world of war. This is known as nuclear deterrence.
- The logic follows that should a country possess nuclear weapons, then other countries would not attempt to attack them for fear of the use of the weapon against them. Some countries have developed nuclear weapons for this reason – they claim that they do not intend to use them but develop them in order to deter potential attacks. This is known as MAD (mutual assured destruction) meaning that both groups will maintain but not use their weapons as do not want to risk mutual retaliation, thus destroying both nations.
- Some religious people might support this idea as they would reason that the fear of nuclear war will potentially lead to peace. Therefore, there will be less war and fewer deaths.
- Many Christians and other religious people disagree with this, however, as there is a strong belief that nuclear weapons should not be used. The leaders who develop them with no intent of using them are seen as hypocrites. Changes, meaning that newly elected leaders might have access to the weapons, might be more inclined than their predecessors to use them.
- Such weapons require a huge amount of funding to build, develop and maintain. This money, from 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 nuclear weapons, stating in the Second Vatican Council that: *‘Though the monstrous evil of nuclear weapons as a deterrent, it is feared that the mere continuance of nuclear tests, undertaken for the sake of security, has consequences for life on earth ... nuclear weapons should be banned’*
- Some religious people agree with the idea of nuclear deterrence in terms of self-defence. For example, Islamic republic Pakistan itself has nuclear weapons. Pakistan justifies its possession of nuclear weapons as being a form of self-defence against Israeli and Indian threat. In the eyes of many Muslims, the protection of the nation and the Islamic faith justifies the possession of weapons. However, many would consider this to be unjust.

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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 for and against weapons of mass destruction		
I understand Islamic arguments against weapons of mass destruction		
I understand the concept of nuclear deterrence		
I understand the religious responses to nuclear deterrence		

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Practice Exam-style Questions

Religion and Belief as a Cause of Violence in the Contemporary World

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

- Which of the following is not an example of a weapon of mass destruction?
 - Nuclear bomb
 - Chemical attack
 - Biological warfare
 - Artillery bombs
- Which of the following is not a religious objection to nuclear bombs?
 - They cause unnecessary suffering
 - They violate just war theory
 - They are more expensive
 - They damage God's creation beyond repair
- Which of the following religious groups described nuclear weapons as a 'monstrous evil'?
 - The Catholic Church
 - The Church of England
 - The Church of Scotland
 - Baptists
- What does 'MAD' stand for?
 - Mutually assured detonation
 - Mutual assignation and devastation
 - Mutually assured destruction
 - Mutually assured devastation

- Give two examples of weapons of mass destruction.
- Explain two religious viewpoints against weapons of mass destruction.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain two different religious responses to nuclear deterrence.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- '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 idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

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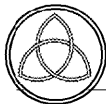


Religion in Peacemaking and



Keywords

- **Peacemakers** those who attempt to aid peace negotiations, believed to be blessed by Jesus' teaching
- **Reconciliation** the establishing of a formal agreement between opposing sides
- **War victims** those who suffer as a result of a conflict
- **Making peace** the act of attempting to bring about peace within a situation
- **Pope Francis** the current Pope, who has made an effort to contribute to the peace process
- **Protest** to actively display opposition to an ongoing conflict



Overview

- Religion can be a motivating factor for some in attempting to bring about the end of wars. It is well known for Christians to protest against wars in an effort to bring about their end.
- For the reasons discussed within the reconciliation section of the course, many religions point towards the idea of reconciling rather than continuing a conflict in order to relieve the suffering of those who are being persecuted by the effects of war.
- Many religious people work for reconciliation between different countries, cultures (through interfaith action) and other groups in conflict with others.
- Many Christians might also help victims of war or those heavily impacted by war (e.g. Christian Aid), or praying for those affected.



Key Points

Religious Beliefs in Peacemaking

- While religion can be argued to have a role in motivating conflict, it is important to note that religious belief is for many a motivation to pursue peace. In order to make peace, many religious groups have made efforts to aid and foster reconciliation between warring parties who have experienced conflict.
- Within Christianity, there is Scripture within the New Testament which teaches that peacemaking is an endeavour to attempt to make peace. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus states that peacemaking should be considered to be blessed. In a series of statements regarding peacemaking, Jesus includes those who make peace a goal and attempt to bring about reconciliation. Therefore, many Christians consider this to be a direct teaching that God desires for Christians to actively pursue peace between warring parties, leading many Christians to involve themselves by helping during war reconciliation processes. They may also protest against wars in an attempt to get their own governments to improve themselves and use their power to help the peace process develop.
- Within Islam, there is the idea of *Al-Salam* which looks favourably upon those who choose mercy and peace.



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- 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 ... and the United States. In his speeches, he has publicly spoken out against ... in various ... He has emphasised that his position has been inspired ... preaching ... against conflict and support of peace.
- An example of another individual influenced by religious teaching regarding ... than Christianity) is the Tenzin Gyatso (the 14th Dalai Lama), who is the leader ... been involved with the encouragement of non-violence against persecution ... expulsion from Tibet by the Chinese). Buddhism is a faith in which non-violence ... are key and core values.
- Examples of actions which might be taken by a person motivated by religious leaders speaking about and praying for peace.

'Peace I leave to you. Not us to you. Let neither ... neither ...'

War Victims

- Many lay people also work for peace; for example, Christians within the Israel ... 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 ... such as losing their ... members to a conflict. These people are vulnerable, and as Jesus taught Christians the lowest and most vulnerable in society, so Christians aim to help and aid these people through volunteering ... 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.
- Examples of specific Christian charities which ... aim to improve and see ... 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 ...

'The King will reply, ... did for one of the ... sisters of mine ...'



Student Checklist

What do I know?	No Idea ☹
I understand why religious people might try to achieve peace	
I understand how religious people might work towards peace	
I can give an 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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Practice Exam-style Questions

Religion in Peacemaking and War Victims

Multiple-choice Questions (Note: in the exam papers there will only be one correct answer)

- Which of the following is not a religious figure who has campaigned for peace?
 - Pope Francis
 - Revd Desmond Tutu
 - Tenzin Gyatso
 - Bertrand Russell
- Which of the following Bible verses suggests that Christians should attempt to bring about peace?
 - Mark 5:9
 - Luke 5:9
 - John 5:9
 - Matthew 5:9
- Which of the following Bible verses suggests Christians should care for victims of war?
 - Matthew 25:40
 - John 25:40
 - Luke 25:40
 - Mark 25:40
- Which of the following is not an example of how Christians might aim to help victims of war?
 - Prayer
 - Donations
 - Collecting vouchers
 - Volunteering
- Give two reasons why a Christian might be motivated to look after victims of war.
- Explain two different ways religious people respond to victims of war.
 - Your response must refer to at least one religion.
- Explain two religious beliefs regarding the pursuit of peace.
 - In your response you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious authority.
- 'Working for peace is a requirement of religion.'
Evaluate this statement, and in your answer:
 - give reasoned arguments in support of this idea
 - give reasoned arguments against this idea
 - refer to religious viewpoints
 - refer to non-religious viewpoints
 - reach a justified conclusion

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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 4 marks)

5. 1 mark per example for a total of **2 marks:**
Students might include the passages below, but any relevant passages can be included:

- Matthew 5:9
- Matthew 10:9

6. 2 marks per point for a total of **4 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate religious attitude = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate religious attitude = 2 marks

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

- Islam: there is a strong sense of justice and the establishment of justice within Islam. Those who have committed crimes should be punished in accordance with the scope of the crime. Balance and harmony will be restored to society. (2)
- Justice within Islam will also be delivered on the Day of Judgement and in the meantime they will be rewarded for their good deeds within life. (1)
- Christianity: some Christians believe in the idea of 'an eye for an eye' as being just. They believe that this will establish justice for the victim. (1)
- However, other Christians emphasise mercy towards all and, therefore, would not pursue justice. (1)

7. 2 marks per Christian approach for a total of 4 marks (1 mark for a relevant reference to the Bible for an overall total of **5 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate Christian approach = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate Christian approach = 2 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. They should be able to demonstrate that some Christians feel they are required to specifically pursue justice. The Bible instructs them in the Old Testament to specifically pursue justice. (2)
- Other Christians emphasise the teachings of the New Testament in emphasising mercy. In addition to justice, dissuading Christians from pursuing human understanding and instead to forgive and show mercy. (2)
- Bible verses to support these answers could be any relevant content, but examples include:
- *'Justice and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land.'* Deuteronomy 16:20 (1)
- *'Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, no sacrifice". For I have come to call for mercy.'* Matthew 9:13 (1)

8.

One argument with justification
Different arguments for and against, with justification
OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
This is the highest level of argument to be reached if only one point of view is considered
Good, justified arguments for and against, linked together
Definite reference to religion
Very well argued
Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion
Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

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

- Students should acknowledge that justice is an important aim within Christianity. Christians should pursue justice. (1)
- They might give a Bible verse to support this – for example, 'Justice and only justice may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you' Deuteronomy 16:19. (2)
- Students should show argumentation that forgiveness is a much bigger theme than justice. Students should show awareness that peace is continually taught and emphasised in the Bible. (2)
- Examples of Bible verses to support this could include Matthew 6:14–15 and Luke 11:4. (2)
- Students should show an awareness that there is a requirement for Christians to forgive others. (1)
- Students should show an awareness that forgiveness is closely tied to the aim of peace. The aim to reconcile themselves to others with whom they have conflict or discord is closely tied to reconciliation to God through Jesus. (1)
- Biblical teachings such as Matthew 5:23–24 and Romans 5:10. (1)
- Students should show awareness that many Christians will actively work towards peace in order to establish peace and restore harmony, and so minimise pain. (2)
- Students should show an awareness that the aim of peace is important within Christianity. There is a large emphasis on the importance of peace. Indeed, there are many biblical teachings that lay a high importance on the achievement and maintenance of peace within society. (2)
- Teachings such as Matthew 5:9 are often used to support this argument as Jesus says in this verse, suggesting God has a positive view of the aim of peace and those who seek peace. Some Christians feel that violence (which is the absence of peace) is justifiable in some circumstances. As Matthew 10:9 lead to the idea that some forms of violence, or violence in some circumstances, can be acceptable. (2)



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Violence

1–4. Multiple choice: Correct answers in order: (a) (b) (b) (a) (1 mark each for a total of 4 marks)

5. 1 mark per example for a total of **2 marks:**

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

- Matthew 5:44, explaining how loving enemies are a teaching for them would be to use violence.
- Matthew 26:52, where Jesus discourages his followers from using violence to defend him, which is considered to be an instruction by Jesus not to use violence.

6. 2 marks per point relating to a religious belief for a total of **4 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate religious belief = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate religious belief = 2 marks

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

- Islam is a faith in which peace is encouraged. The word 'Islam' has linguistic roots in the word for peace. (1)
- However, students should show awareness and ability to explain the concept of jihad within the faith, as a teaching within Islam. They should show awareness that within Islam there are circumstances where violence is permitted. (2)
- The criteria for these circumstances are laid out within the Qur'an. (1)
- While peace and forgiveness are viewed as being preferable to God, sometimes violence is permitted within Islam and, therefore, there is allowance and there are criteria for it. (2)
- Quakerism is a branch of Christianity which advocates pacifism completely, meaning that they do not use any form of violence in any way. This is based on the Christian teaching that people should love your neighbour as yourself. (2)
- Some Christians believe, conversely, in just war theory as a method of judging when violence is justified. This considers violence in some specific instances, and conducted in a specific way. (2)

7. 2 marks per explanation for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for an overall total of **5 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate justification = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate justification = 2 marks

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

- Students should show awareness of at least two different reasons for which Christians might use violence in some instances, and relevant responses from other Christians.
- Some Christians might argue that violence could be seen as justified in order to defend themselves or what they consider to be evil acts and sins against God. (1)
- For example, some American Christians have taken violent action against those who support abortion as they argue that abortion is a sin. (1)
- Christians who oppose the use of violence might argue that by using violence to defend themselves from sin, they are meeting sin with sin. (1)
- They might point towards the teaching in the New Testament where Jesus instructed his followers to love and pray for those who persecute them as the correct way to respond to such things.
- Some Christians might also see some forms of violence, such as war in response to a sin, as justified. In this case it is to stop violence from taking place.
- In this way, the pursuit of peace by using violence could be argued to be an example of using violence within some branches of Christian thought. (1)
- There are many instances in the Old Testament which involved God being angry with people but use to argue that God is content for war to happen as long as it is justified.
- Other Christians might oppose this view, arguing that God wants peace among his people and that practising violence would go against the desires of God. (2)
- Quakers would be an example of such a group. They might argue that God created the world in peace, and since murder is a sin (and war involves a lot of death), it would be wrong to use violence. (2)

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8.

One argument with justification
Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position This is the highest level which can be reached if only one point of view is considered no mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion. Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

Students should include a balanced account of both sides of the debate about the moral and religious issues. They should use relevant verses to support their answer:

- Within Christianity, there are those who support the use of violence in some cases and those who would not view this as wrong. (1)
- Some Christians might also see some forms of violence, such as war in response to terrorism. In this case it is to stop violence from taking place. In this way, the pursuit of peace is argued to be an end which justified the means of violence within some branches of Christianity.
- There are many instances within the Old Testament which involved God being violent. Some Christians might use to argue that God is content for war to happen as long as it is in the name of God.
- Some Christians might also support the use of violence as a way of achieving justice. Methods of punishment (e.g. the death penalty) being examples of the biblical teaching.
- There are Muslims who would support the use of violence within certain set circumstances. This is justified if it is done in the name of God in the context of a holy war (lesser jihad).
- There are criteria that a situation must meet in order for this to take place, however, this is not always ideal. (1)
- The Prophet was a military leader, so violence is not considered to be wholly wrong.
- There are Christians who would agree that violence is wrong. For example, the Church practises complete pacifism, which is the belief that violence is always wrong.
- A Bible verse which might be used to support the opposition to violence within Christianity is 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'. (1)
- Therefore, some Christians argue that this teaching extends to teach against the use of violence. They believe in love and prayer as the way to solve disputes. Any other religious teaching should be included.

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Reasons for War, Just War and Holy War

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

5. 1 mark per example for a total of **2 marks:**

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

- Greed (1)
- Self-Defence (1)
- Retaliation (1)

6. 2 marks per point for a total of **4 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate criterion = 1 mark
 - Detailed explanation of an appropriate criterion = 2 marks
- Students might include the points below, but any relevant points can be included:

Islam:

- War must be for God's glory (not that of man) – meaning that it should not seem like wars fought for greed, etc. should be avoided if this criterion is adhered to. (2)
- War must not involve attacking or harming civilians, etc. – meaning that the war is between those who are choosing to fight, and not harming those who are innocent.

Christianity:

- It must be called by a just authority, according to just war theory.
- It must be a fair war.
- It must not harm civilians.
- Undue harm must not be done – it must be proportional.

7. 2 marks per approach for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for a total of **5 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate approach = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate approach = 2 marks

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

Christianity:

- Students should have an awareness that war is not considered to be an ideal within Christianity, but some Christians might consider a war to be just. (1)
- Within Christian thought, there are criteria which have been developed regarding when fighting is generally discouraged due to Jesus' teaching regarding the laying down of one's life. It might be the case that fighting is the better option – for example, if greater evil is being done, then in this instance fighting is justified. (2)
 - 1) Just war should be started by and led by a governmental authority.
 - 2) Just war should have a just or moral reason or cause, and must not be waged against an enemy.
 - 3) Just war should have the end goal of defeating evil and establishing good.
 - 4) Just war should be the final straw in the case – all efforts to negotiate peace should have been made beforehand.
 - 5) There should be a good chance of winning the conflict as it is immoral to prolong a war, thus bettering a situation, thus wasting life, which is sacred.
 - 6) Just war should be undertaken within fair conduct. Where possible civilians should not be harmed.
 - 7) Just war should have the eventual outcome of the achievement of peace.

Islam:

- The criteria of jihad are laid out within the Qur'an as to how to approach a just war, and a military leader; therefore, it is not that violence is not completely opposed and encouraged.
- One of the situations in which violence can be justified within Islam is when there is an injustice and the faith in what is known as lesser jihad, which is the fight against injustice.
- The criteria for this laid out within the Qur'an regarding what is acceptable within a just war. (1)
- Various parts of the criteria of lesser jihad could be discussed, including the criteria that peaceful discussions attempted first. (1)
- The criteria of jihad apply both to when it is permissible to undertake a war and when it is acceptable within the context of a war. (1)
- Just war must not harm women and children, and it is not permissible to harm non-combatants.

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8.

One argument with justification
Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position This is the highest level which can be reached if only one point of view is considered no mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion. Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

Students should be able to give a reasoned account for both sides of the argument, and following details:

- There is no direct teaching within Christianity regarding whether or not war is interpreted certain passages to shed light on this issue. (1)
- For example, Joshua 6:1–27 is an example of a war within the Old Testament, which has been on the side of the Israelites and Joshua’s army. (1)
- Some Christians consider this to be a teaching that justified war is fine within Christian teaching. (1)
- However, Matthew 26:52 is a passage in which Jesus dissuades his disciples from his arrest. (1)
- Some Christians take this to be a teaching that violence is never an option, and the use of violence. (1)
- Within Christian thought, there have been developments (which are not doctrinally) war justified and moral. St Thomas Aquinas posited a variety of rules regarding Christianity. (1)
- These are as follows: War should be started by a governmental authority for a moral reason or cause, and must not be waged out of hatred for the enemy; defeating evil and establishing order. (2)
- War should be the final resort in the case – all efforts to negotiate peace without bloodshed. There should be a good chance of winning the conflict as it is immoral to cause a carnage, thus wasting life, which is sacred; War should be undertaken only if civilian casualties should be minimised; War should have the eventual goal of peace. (2)
- Within Islam, a just war is a holy war, which is a war which is fought in the name of jihad within the Qur’an. (1)
- Therefore, within some religions, such as Islam, war can definitely be justified by a military leader, and as the central figure of Islam, this would give significant backing. Islam can be considered to be justified. (2)

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Pacifism

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

5. 1 mark per example for a total of **2 marks:**

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

- “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him. “All who draw the sword will die by the sword” – this verse is used to justify pacifism as this is taken to mean Jesus instructing against violence even in the instance of self-defence. On this basis, this is considered pacifism. (2)
- ‘In everything do to others as you would have them do to you’; Matthew 7:12. This verse is used to support pacifism, as it suggests that Christians should always try to avoid causing harm. No one enjoys suffering and would like to be treated in such a way. Christians use this to justify their pacifism. (2)

6. 2 marks per point for a total of **4 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate view = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate view = 2 marks

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

- Some Christians would argue that pacifism is not a viable way to live within society.
- They believe that violence and war can sometimes be justified, but not always.
- They would argue that the Golden Rule can sometimes justify the use of violence if it can be defended by others. (2)
- Standing up for and caring for the innocent and those who suffer within society is a key part of Christianity and, therefore, they might argue that sometimes the most loving response is to stand up for someone who is vulnerable, and in this way violence might be justified. (2)
- Some Christians might argue that the specific teaching in Matthew 26:52 was not meant to be a blanket teaching. Jesus wished to fulfil his destiny in being crucified and therefore in that situation he did not resist his arrest. They might argue that this was not considered to be a blanket teaching.
- Some Christians (Quakers) are pacifist and believe this is the correct interpretation of the Bible as Matthew 5:9; they believe that total pacifism is the desired way of life of God.
- There is little support within the Islamic faith for pacifism, as there are specific verses that allow for a just war. For that reason there are very few Muslim pacifists.

7. 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for a total of **5 marks:**

Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark

Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- Many Christians who practise pacifism might have the issue of facing the navy.
- There is a variety of roles that they might opt to take in order to support a war effort, such as to help the peace and reconciliation process in order to attempt to make the world a better place and reduce the suffering where possible. (1)
- They might choose to protest against a war if they disagreed with the way in which it was being fought or the reason for the war. (1)
- They might opt to be a medic within the army with the aim of saving life rather than causing harm.
- In the event of war, they may avoid combat and opt to work on the home front in order to support the war effort.
- They might focus on verbal protest as Matthew 5:9. (1)

Students might include the following examples to justify their answer:

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a founding member of the Confessing Church within Germany. He was a pacifist and disagreed heavily with the practices of the Nazi regime.
- He focused on peaceful protest and spoke out openly against the actions of the regime. He was involved in an assassination plot against Adolf Hitler, so it could be argued that violence could be considered to be justified in extreme cases. (2)

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8.

One argument with justification
Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position This is the highest level which can be reached if only one point of view is considered no mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.
Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

Students should consider and discuss any of the following points within their answers:

- Many of the teachings of the New Testament given by Jesus emphasise the importance of being peaceful and non-religious, including a section of the Beatitudes, in which Jesus emphasises that the meek and lowly in spirit are blessed. (1)
- For this reason, some Christians have adopted a totally pacifist stance in their lives and believe this is the best interpretation of this verse. (1)
- Quakers are an example of a Christian branch who believe in pacifism; they have a unique interpretation of the Bible that signifies that violence is always wrong. (2)
- For example, the teaching of “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to his disciples, “who do not die by the sword.” Matthew 26:52 is taken to be a literal teaching and instruction against violence. (2)
- However, there is basis within Old Testament tradition within the Bible in which violence can be justified by God as God is described as being on the side of those fighting. Some Christians argue that there is doctrinal basis for violence in some instances and that pacifism is not a core tenet of Christianity. (2)
- The majority of Muslims do not practise pacifism.
- This is because the Qur’an lays out criteria under which violence can be permissible. If violence is permissible within criteria laid out in the scriptures, then it would follow that violence is never justified. It would not follow as fitting within this religious belief.
- Muhammad himself is remembered as being a great military leader – himself successful in a military context, and was very good at it. As many Muslims wish to follow his example, they would then argue that violence can occasionally be justified as a necessary part of Islam. (2)
- However, it is important to stress that many Muslims believe that God (Allah) does not desire a state of violence. (1)
- Some Muslims practise conditional pacifism (e.g. the Ahmadiyya branch of Islam) which states that violence should be avoided at almost all costs but that it is justified in some circumstances where there is no other option and the alternative is a greater evil. (2)
- Therefore, it can be conclusively argued that while peace is important within Islam, it is not always the best interpretation of Islamic teaching. (1)

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Religion as a Cause of Violence in the Contemporary World

1–4. **Multiple choice:** Correct answers in order: (c) (c) (b) (c) (1 mark each for a total of 4 marks)

5. 1 mark per example for a total of **2 marks:**

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

- The terrorist attack by al-Qaeda on the World Trade Center on 11th September 2001 was claimed to have been committed in the name of Allah. (2)
- Extremist group ISIS took responsibility for the shooting of a concert of popstar Justin Bieber in 2017, which killed 22. Much like the 9/11 attack of 9/11, they claimed to have been done in the name of Allah. (2)

6. 2 marks per point for a total of **4 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate view = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate view = 2 marks

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

- Some people might argue that religion is at the centre of many conflicts and, therefore, religion causes violence. (1)
- The Israeli–Palestinian conflict is often used as an example of a conflict which can be framed as a Muslim–Jewish conflict. (1)
- Some people feel so strongly about their religion, and feel that their religious beliefs justify violence in conflicts. If religion was not a factor then these acts of violence may not have occurred. (1)
- While religion might be at the centre of many conflicts, it might be that the tensions that have just brought issues of religion to the surface due to tension. (1)
- Extremist groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda are an extremely small segment of the world's population. (1)
- Some would argue it is unfair to tar the entirety of religious believers worldwide to the actions of a few who claim to be motivated by such things. (2)
- There are other potential motivators for these actions, such as political retribution. (1)
- The Middle East conflict, for example, is infinitely more complicated than simply religion. Not least because there are groups in the middle east who are both Jewish and Muslim, living contradiction to those who cite the conflict as being purely a religious rift between the Arabic Muslims. (2)
- Specifically regarding acts of terrorism, it is important to consider that terrorism is not exclusive to religion. For example, Breivik, a Norwegian terrorist, committed an act of terrorism due to his strong opposition to the faith of Islam. This was not done out of religious motivation. Therefore, it can be argued that terrorism is not always motivated. (2)
- While religion might be a reason to battle over territory – for example, with the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, some might argue that the battle is for control of the land rather than a war solely motivated by religious purposes. (2)

7. 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for a total of **5 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- If acts of extreme violence such as terrorism are claimed to be done in the name of God or that motivation, then surely acts of violence done for this reason will surely be argued that religion causes violence. (2)
- For example, some religious groups aim to create a theocratic society in which the law is based on the religion. This can occasionally result in such groups committing acts of violence. If a group's conviction, it could be argued that religion causes violence. (1)
- One of the arguments concerning the Israeli–Palestinian conflict is that the land which bears such significance for all three major Abrahamic religious faiths is the same. (1)
- The importance of the location is stipulated as an argument for why the peacekeepers would perhaps like as neither side is willing to compromise the importance of the land to each side. (1)
- Religion could be argued to be a highly escalating factor within conflicts, meaning that violence might be caused. Specifically concerning the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, one of the reasons for the conflict is the religious importance of the land. It is considered to be the Holy Land. Without religion, this factor would not exist to exacerbate the conflict, and, therefore, it could be argued that religion is arguably making the conflict worse. (2)

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- Within some religious traditions, such as Islam and Christianity, there are doctrines in the name of God. (1)
- For example, Joshua 6:26 states within the Old Testament that God is on the side of the Israelites. This verse could be used to justify violence on the part of Christians as those who are fighting the cause of God. (2)

8.

One argument with justification
Different arguments for and against, with justification for one position OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position This is the highest level which can be reached if only one point of view is considered no mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definition of religion
Very well-justified. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion. Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

Students should be able to sum up the arguments made in this theme and give a balanced conclusion to this debate. Reasons given could include:

- It could be argued that religion could cause violence and war.
- Those within this conflict could believe that they are fighting the cause of God and therefore, would not be a contributing factor.
- The convictions of the individuals committing these crimes are so great that they believe it is legitimate – that they are fighting for the great cause of God against a world they perceive to be unjust.
- Religion has historically been a reason why people waged wars, and those who commit these acts in the twenty-first century themselves claim to commit these acts in the name of God. They argue that religion causes conflict and violence. Examples of this include violence which are claimed by the committers to be religiously motivated. (2)
- For example, groups such as Islamic State have claimed responsibility for events such as the Manchester Arena in May 2017. (1)
- Some religious groups aim to create a theocratic society in which their religion is the law. This occasionally result in such groups committing acts of violence. Since the driving force behind their religious faith and conviction could be argued that religion, therefore, is the cause of violence.
- For some, religion and politics are inherently linked; therefore, it is important to consider the link between religious conflicts. (1)
- Within some religious traditions, such as Islam and Christianity, there are doctrines in the name of God. For example, Joshua 6:26 states within the Old Testament that God is on the side of the Israelites. This verse could be used to justify violence on the part of Christians as those who are genuinely believe they are fighting the cause of God. (2)
- An example of a conflict which involves religion is that one of the arguments used in the Palestinian conflict is that the land they are disputing is the land which bears great religious importance to Abrahamic religious faiths. The religious importance of the location is stipulated in the Bible. Negotiations are not moving as peacemakers would perhaps like as neither side is willing to give up the religious importance of the land to each side. The conflict is often slanted as being religiously motivated.
- However, it could be argued that while religion is present in issues of violence it is not the sole cause. (1)
- Many religious people take an active role in the seeking of peace within conflict. Desmond Tutu, who campaigned for the end of apartheid in South Africa on the basis of his religious beliefs, is a good example of this.
- While religion is often conflated with acts of terrorism it is important to remember that not all acts of terrorism are religiously motivated. Anders Breivik, a Norwegian terrorist, committed an attack on many people in 2011 due to his strong opposition to the faith of Islam. (1)
- This was a politically motivated attack, rather than one done out of religious motivation. It could be argued that such attacks cannot be religiously motivated. Students following 9/11, the attack on the World Trade Center, were argued to have had political motivations. (2)
- Furthermore, many groups denounce the actions of groups claiming to act in the name of God. For example, the bombing of the World Trade Center and the 9/11 attacks were condemned by many religious leaders. The criteria of lesser jihad of causing no harm to women, children or the elderly is a key principle of Islam. This suggests that individuals have motivations other than their religious beliefs, such as political or economic.
- The Middle East conflict, for example, is infinitely more complicated than simply religion. It is not least because there are groups in the middle – the Arab Jewish population. The conflict is a living contradiction to those who cite the conflict as being purely a religious one between the Arab Muslims. (2)
- Therefore, we can see that while religion might play a role within violence it is not the sole cause of people using violence. (1)

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Weapons of Mass Destruction

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

5. 1 mark per example for a total of 2 marks:

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

- Students could give an example of any of the weapons of mass destruction from an explanation of the effects they individually bring with them. (1)
- e.g. a nuclear bomb, and the effects of mass death, destruction of a land area and on future generations (birth defects and developments of cancers later in life of those who were exposed to the bomb). (1)

6. 2 marks per explanation for a total of 4 marks:

- Simple explanation of an appropriate religious viewpoint = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate religious viewpoint = 2 marks

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

- Students should show an awareness of the fact that there are different reasons for the use of nuclear weapons.
- These reasons could include the sanctity of life as nuclear weapons cause a huge loss of life hard to pinpoint a target and as a result a large number of civilian deaths are caused.
- This is considered to be irreconcilable with religious ideas about the importance of life. Many religious people believe that God has created life.
- They also cause huge levels of suffering to those who might be considered to be innocent. For most religious viewpoints, such as those of Islam and Christianity, is considered to be wrong.
- Furthermore, the damage that such bombs cause to the world (which many religions believe God created) is argued to be a violation of the human responsibility to care for the earth. (2)

7. 2 marks per way for a total of 4 marks, 1 mark for each relevant reference to scripture for a total of 5 marks:

- Simple explanation of an appropriate religious response = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate religious response = 2 marks

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

- Many Christians and religious people disagree with this as they have no strict rules about the use of nuclear weapons.
- The leaders who develop nuclear weapons with no intent of using them will die, meaning that newly elected leaders might have access to nuclear powers which their predecessors to use. (1)
- Such weapons require a huge amount of funding to build, develop and maintain. These views, would be better spent on helping the poor or healing the sick. (1)
- The Roman Catholic Church made a stark statement against the use of nuclear weapons, stating in the Second Vatican Council that: 'Though the monstrous threat of nuclear deterrence is feared, it is feared that the mere continuance of nuclear tests, undertaken without end, has consequences for life on earth ... nuclear weapons should be banned.' (2)
- Some religious people might support this idea as they would reason that the existence of nuclear weapons will potentially help keep peace, and also be a form of justice for the lives lost in nuclear conflict and fewer lives lost. (2)
- For example, Islamic republic Pakistan has developed nuclear weapons. They justify this as being a form of self-defence against the Indian and Indian threat. In this way they believe that the Islamic religion justifies the possession of weapons that most Muslims would consider unjust. (2)

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One argument with justification
Different arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position This is the highest level which can be reached if only one point of view is considered no mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion. Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

Students should show a balanced understanding:

- Generally speaking, no religious group supports or condones the use of nuclear weapons, not least because the use of such weapons causes a disproportionate amount of harm. The fact that religious groups do not support the use of nuclear weapons is beyond the bounds of many religious traditions. (2)
- For example, within Christianity, nuclear warfare does not fit within several of the principles of just war theory, not least the impact it has on innocent civilians. (1)
- It also harms nature. Furthermore, within Christianity it is important to note that nuclear weapons cause mass harm. One of the principles of just war is that the amount of harm would be proportional to the good that would be achieved. The level of harm caused by nuclear weapons is considered to be too great. They would not be proportional within the just theory. This level of destruction would unduly harm innocent civilians. (1)
- Teachings such as the Golden Rule could be used to support this view. (1)
- Weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons would also cause mass death and destruction – this would be damaging to God’s creation, which Christians believe that they would consider this to be another argument against the development and use of nuclear weapons. (1)
- The use of weapons of mass destruction causes a massive loss of life that many religions would consider as unacceptable. Ending or dramatically deteriorating the human race would never be considered to be morally justifiable. (1)
- Within Islam, this would violate the stipulation of the criterion within jihad which states that it is only when it does not cause harm to civilians. It is incredibly difficult to pinpoint when the use of nuclear weapons results in a great loss of life of civilians. (2)
- The teachings of lesser jihad dictate that no harm can come to women, children or the elderly. It is impossible to avoid with the use of weapons of mass destruction. (1)
- Therefore, most Muslims would strongly oppose their existence or use. As nuclear weapons cause mass destruction including to agriculture, the use of nuclear weapons would also violate the teachings of lesser jihad which stipulates that crops should not be burned. (2)
- The Roman Catholic Church made a stark statement against the use of nuclear weapons, stating in the Second Vatican Council that: ‘*Though the monstrous deterrent, it is feared that the mere continuance of nuclear tests, undertaken with the consequences for life on earth ... nuclear weapons should be banned*’ (2)
- However, some religious groups can justify the possession of nuclear weapons as a form of deterrence as a form of deterrent from escalating war. (1)
- Some religious people might support this idea as they would reason that the existence of nuclear weapons will potentially help keep peace. Therefore, there will be less conflict and fewer deaths. (1)
- Many Christians and religious people disagree with this, however, as they believe that nuclear weapons should not be used. The leaders who develop them with the intent of using them will be condemned. This means that newly elected leaders will not have access to nuclear powers which their predecessors to use. (1)
- Such weapons require a large amount of funding to build, develop and maintain. This money could be spent on helping the poor or healing the sick. (1)
- Some religious people agree with the idea of nuclear deterrence in terms of deterring aggression. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan itself has nuclear weapons. (1)
- They justify the possession of these weapons as being a form of self-defence as they argue that the protection of the nation and the Islamic faith justify this. Most Muslims would consider to be unjust. (2)

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Religion in Peacemaking and War Victims

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

5. 1 mark per example for a total of **2 marks:**

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

- Answers which show a knowledge of how Christianity's teaching might influence actions that will be accepted.
- An example might be the use of Jesus' words: 'The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you do for the least of these brothers and sisters, you do for me.'" Matthew 25:40. (1)
- Many Christians would consider this a direct instruction to care for those suffering.

6. 2 marks per argument for a total of **4 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- Charity – Christians who might not have the time to donate by volunteering pay for it in order to fund such projects. They might do this via charities such as Tearfund.
- Prayer – Christians believe that God hears and answers prayers; therefore, by praying for those who are suffering as a result of war, they believe they are making a difference.
- Volunteering – travelling to the place where the suffering is taking place and, for example, working to provide homes, clean water, food, counselling for those with trauma from the conflict. Muslims, for example, volunteer with such agencies in war in Muslim countries.

7. 2 marks per way for a total of 5 marks, 1 mark for a relevant reference to scripture for a total of **5 marks:**

- Simple explanation of an appropriate way = 1 mark
- Detailed explanation of an appropriate way = 2 marks

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

- A Christian might be motivated to pursue peace because they believe that Jesus is referred to within the Bible as the Prince of Peace. As Christians are called to follow his teachings, a conscious effort to pursue peace. Teachings such as Matthew 5:9 might influence this because they believe it is something which God desires them to do, as Jesus states 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' (2)
- Muslims might be motivated to pursue peace because they believe that Allah values peace as they believe he will give favour to those who value and practise mercy. However, Islamic ideas of lesser jihad being justified in specific circumstances, so that peace is not always justified. However, jihad is a specific set of circumstances which is set out in the Quran, therefore, it is considered to be an exception. Harmony within society is a goal of Islam, therefore, it is considered to be important within the faith. (2)
- For example, Buddhism is a faith in which non-violence and the promotion of peace are central. Those who practise this faith will ensure the pursuit of peace within the interests of all, thus minimising of violence. (1)

8.

One argument with justification
Different arguments for and against, with justification
OR Several linked, different arguments for one position
This is a high level of argument which can be reached if only one point of view is considered, with no mention of religion
Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
Definite reference to religion
Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.
Appropriate reference to religion used to answer question

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Students could include any of the following details in their answer:

- Within some religions, peace is a central and important teaching and, therefore, an endeavour to create peace within a conflict. In order to make peace between groups, many religions have made efforts to aid and foster reconciliation between groups who have previously been in conflict.
- Within Christianity, there is Scripture within the New Testament which teaches that Christians should endeavour to make peace. (1)
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus states that those who pursue peace should be 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' Matthew 5:9. Regarding qualities which God will look upon favourably, Jesus includes those who bring about reconciliation between groups. (2)
- Therefore, many Christians consider this to be a direct teaching that God desires peace between warring groups, leading Christians to involve themselves with helping to bring about peace. They may also protest against wars in an attempt to get their own message across and their power in order to help the peace process develop. Some might argue that it is a requirement of Christians to bring peace. (2)
- This is also underlined by other verses such as John 14:27 which states 'Peace I leave with you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, for I have given you my peace which no one can take from you.' Christians might interpret this as being given the peace of Christ, and as having peace with others. (2)
- Many religious people take an active role in the seeking of peace within conflict. Desmond Tutu, who campaigned for the end of apartheid in South Africa on the basis of non-violence, is an example of a Christian who has done this.
- Pacifist religious groups such as the Quakers within Christianity will often take on an active role in the seeking of peace.
- An example of a Christian individual who was inspired by their religious faith to seek peace is Pope Francis. During his papal service he has attempted to aid negotiations between groups in conflict.
- In his speeches he has publicly spoken out against conflict and has promoted peace. He has emphasised that his position has been inspired and influenced by Jesus' preaching of peace. (2)
- It could also be argued that Christians are called to pursue peace for the good of the world and are called to serve. (1)
- Examples of specific Christian charities which aim to improve and serve the lives of people in conflict are Christian Aid. Among other things they aim to help those affected by the fallout from conflict in various countries. (2)
- Other religions also emphasise the importance of peacemaking. The pursuit of peace is a central teaching in Buddhism, where non-violence is a strong principle of the faith. (1)
- This is exemplified in the example of Tenzin Gyatso (the 14th Dalai Lama), who has been involved with the encouragement of non-violence against persecution and expulsion from Tibet by the Chinese. (2)
- Buddhism is a faith in which non-violence and the promotion of peace are key teachings. The pursuit of peacemaking within this faith could be seen as a religious requirement. (1)
- Within Islam, there is the idea that Allah looks favourably upon those who choose to bring about peace.
- Therefore, in order to gain favour with Allah, many Muslims believe it is a requirement to bring about peace. However, it could be argued that within Islam achieving peace is not a requirement and that it is permissible to use violence when necessary to defend the faith in the role of lesser jihad, which is violence which is justified in the name of God. (2)

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