

RE GCSE

Year 11 Topic:

AQA Specification A

Ethical Theme – Religion, peace and
conflict



Name:







FG:

Class:

AQA Religious Studies A – Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Knowledge organiser

Key Words			
Forgiveness	Pardoning someone for wrongdoing	Peace-making	Working toward bringing about an end to war and a state of peace
Greed	Going to war to gain land or natural resources such as oil	Protest	A public expression of disapproval, often in a big group, can be peaceful or violent
Holy War	A war that is fought for religious reasons, usually backed by a religious leader	Quakers	A Christians denomination who worship in silence and are well known pacifists
Just War	A Christian theory that asks whether a war is fought justly	Reconciliation	Restoring friendly relationships after a war or conflict
Justice	Bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law or God's will	Retaliation	Deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you
Nuclear Weapon	A weapon using a nuclear reaction to cause massive damage	Self-Defence	Protecting yourself or others from harm
Pacifism	A belief that all forms of violence are wrong, commonly held by Quakers	Terrorism	Using violence in order to further a political or religious message
Peace	A state of happiness and harmony, an absence of war	WMD	Weapons of mass destruction: chemical, nuclear or biological weapons

Key Ideas			
Protests and Terrorism 	Protests The right to gather together and protest is a fundamental democratic freedom . UK law allows for peaceful public protest but sometimes protests can turn violent and become a riot . Christians often protest unjust laws or for other forms of justice but would rarely advocate the use of violence in protest.		Terrorism Examples of terrorism include suicide bombing, mass shootings or using vehicles to injure pedestrians. The aim of terrorism is to make society aware of a cause or issue and to make people frightened to go about their business. Christians don't promote political violence + believe terrorism is wrong as it targets innocent people
Reasons for War 	Greed To gain more land or to control important resources such as oil or gas. e.g. The UK and US invading Iraq in order to control oil resources	Self-Defence To defend one's country against invasion or attack or to protect allies who are under attack e.g. UK threatened by Nazi invasion in WWII	Retaliation To fight against a country that has done something very wrong or to fight against a country that has attacked you e.g. US invading Afghanistan in retaliation for 9/11
Nuclear War and WMD 	Nuclear weapons work by a nuclear reaction and devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people. They are a type of WMD (weapons of mass destruction) which also includes chemical and biological weapons. All these weapons are not allowed under the Christian Just War Theory and would therefore be rejected by most Christians. Nuclear weapons were used at the end of WWII in Japan to force the Japanese to surrender. Some people say their use was justified as it prevented more suffering even though 140,000 people died. Although some Christians justify war with 'an eye for an eye', this cannot be used to justify the use of weapons of mass destruction as they are not a proportionate response.		
Holy War 	A Holy War is a war which is fought for religious reasons, often with the backing of religious leaders. An example of this was the Crusades fought from the 11 th -14 th Century by Christians, backed by the Pope. Religion can still be a cause for war today such as in Northern Ireland where Protestant and Catholic Christians fought a civil war between 1968-98.		
Just War Theory 	Just War Theory is a Christian moral theory for working out if a war meets internationally accepted criteria for fairness. These are some of the conditions that must be met in order for a war to be just: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Cause – fought in self-defence or to protect others • Just Intention – fought to promote good and defeat wrongdoing • Last Resort – only going to war if all other methods have been tried first • Proportional – excessive force should not be used and innocent civilians must not be killed 		
Pacifism and Christian Responses to War 	Pacifism is the idea that all forms of violence are wrong . Pacifists such as Quakers refuse to take part in war and often choose to be a conscientious objector (someone who doesn't go to war for moral reasons) or to assist in medical tasks like ambulance driving. Christians try to follow Jesus' teaching that "blessed are the peacemakers"		Christians try to show mercy and agape to victims of war and provide them with assistance. This can be through charity or through welcoming them into their churches. It can be victims in their own country or refugees such as people fleeing from Syria or Yemen. This is an example of 'love your neighbour' in action.

Key Quotes

"Forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times" (Bible)	"If you forgive others, God will forgive you" (Bible)	"An eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" (Bible)	"If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also" (Bible)	"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Bible)
"Thou shalt not kill" (Ten Commandments)	"For the love of money is the roots to all evil" (Bible)	"Blessed are the peacemakers" (Bible)	"Love your neighbour" (Bible)	"Those who live by the sword will die by the sword" (Bible)

Pick any 3 quotes and explain them in your own words.

1.

2.

3.

Personal learning checklist Theme D: Religion, peace & conflict	Notes	Assessed	Revised
What do I need to know?			
• Peace –What is it and why is it significant?			
• Justice – What is it and why is it significant?			
• Forgiveness - What is it and why is it significant?			
• Reconciliation - What is it and why is it significant?			
• Violence – What is it? Why is it used?			
• Violent protest – What is a protest, and why do some use violence?			
• Terrorism – What is it? Examples? Why do some people become terrorists?			
• War – What are some reasons for going to war?			
• Just war theory – What is the theory?			
• Just war theory – What are the conditions for a ‘just war’?			
• Holy war – What makes a war ‘holy’? Examples?			
• Pacifism – What is it? What’s the difference between absolute and relative?			
• Religion & belief as a cause of war & violence in the 21 st century			
• Nuclear weapons – What are they? Why are they dangerous? Examples?			
• Nuclear deterrence – Valid reason or excuse?			
• Weapons of mass destruction – What are they? How are they used?			
• Individuals influenced by religious beliefs who promote peace – 2 examples?			
• Religious responses to victims of war- Can I name 1 religious organisation?			

<u>Religion, violence, terrorism and war summary</u>	<u>Religion and belief in twenty-first century conflict summary</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about the meaning and significance of peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation• Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about violence, including violent protest• Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about terrorism• Explain reasons for war, including greed, self-defence and retaliation including Christian beliefs and teachings about these• Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about the just war theory, including the criteria for a just war• Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about Holy War.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain attitudes to the use of nuclear weapons and weapons on mass destruction, including Christian beliefs• Examine religion and belief as a cause of war and violence in the contemporary world• Explain Christian beliefs and teachings about pacifism and peacemaking• Explain Christian responses to the victims of war, including the world of a religious organisation• Explain contemporary British attitudes towards all of the above issues• Explain contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society to the issues of violence, weapons of mass destruction and pacifism, with reference to Christianity⁴

Key Term	Definition
biological weapons	weapons that have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease or death.
chemical weapons	weapons that use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyse humans and destroy the natural environment.
forgiveness	showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong
greed	selfish desire for something
Holy War	fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader.
justice	bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law or making up for a wrong that has been committed.
just war	a war which meets internationally accepted criteria for fairness; follows traditional Christian rules for a just war, and is now accepted by all other religions.
nuclear weapons	weapons that work by a nuclear reaction, they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people.
Pacifist	a person who follows pacifism
Pacifism	the belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence
peace	an absence of conflict, which lead to happiness and harmony
peacemaker	a person who works to establish peace in the world or in a certain part of it
peacemaking	the action of trying to establish peace
protest	an expression of disapproval often in a public group
reconciliation	a sacrament in the Catholic Church; also, when individuals or groups restore friendly relations after conflict or disagreement.
retaliation	deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you
self-defence	acting to prevent harm to yourself or others
terrorism	the unlawful use of violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal
violence	using actions that can threaten or harm others
war	fighting between nations to resolve issues between them
weapons of mass destruction	weapons that can kill large numbers of people and/or cause great damage.

A reminder of how your GCSE RE works

Here is a list of the topics you have to study to pass your GCSE RE –

A study of two religions:

- Christianity – beliefs ✓
- Christianity – practices ✓
- Islam – beliefs ✓
- Islam – practices ✓

A study of four themes:

- Theme A – Religion and families ✓
- Theme B – Religion and life ✓
- Theme D – Religion, Peace and Conflict ✗
- Theme E – Religion, Crime and Punishment ✓

THIS IS YOUR LAST UNIT!



Paper 1

Component 1: The study of religious beliefs, teachings and practices

What is assessed?

Beliefs, teachings and practices from Christianity and Islam.

How is it assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (plus marks for SPaG)
50% of GCSE

What type of question?

Each religion has a common structure of **two five-part questions** of 1, 2, 4, 5, 12 marks.

AND

Paper 2

Component 2: Thematic studies

What is assessed?

Four religious, philosophical and ethical studies:

- Theme A - Relationships and families
- Theme B - Religion and life
- Theme D - Religion, peace and conflict
- Theme E - Religion, crime and punishment.

How is it assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (plus SPaG)
50% of GCSE

What type of question?

Each theme has a common structure of **one five-part question** of 1, 2, 4, 5, 12 marks.

You must remember:

Religion, peace and conflict

Violence

- Violence may be justified as a last resort. It may be the only way to get rid of a corrupt regime and restore justice. In protest at the misuse of the Temple, Jesus overturned the merchants' tables
- Jesus taught that violence is counter-productive. Violence encourages retaliation and so makes the situation worse. At his arrest he said to his disciples, 'Put away your swords. Those who live by the sword die by the sword.'

Weapons of mass destruction

- The possession of nuclear weapons is justified on the grounds of deterrence and protection. Governments have a duty to keep their citizens safe. Protection of the vulnerable is a key biblical teaching
- The potential for indiscriminate killing and injury to thousands of innocent people, eg at Hiroshima, can never be justified on any grounds. These weapons create terrible long-term misery and their use does not show 'love of neighbour'.

Pacifism

- Martin Luther King taught that hatred could only be driven out by the force of love. He achieved civil rights for black Americans without ever responding to violence with violence. This refusal to use force fulfilled Jesus' command to turn the other cheek.
- 'Blessed are the peacemakers' does not always prohibit some use of force and a war that follows the rules of the Just War theory may result in lasting peace Bonhoeffer accepted that sometimes regimes are so evil that only the use of violence will overthrow them and restore justice.

Task: GCSE 12 Marker- Make a plan – Add 3 arguments to each side and remember to add quotes and evidence to support the views

“.....”
Evaluate this statement

Agree-

Disagree-

<p>Paragraph 1</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p>Who would AGREE with the statement? would agree/support ... (use the language of the statement) because ... For example ... Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes</p> <p>Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason These arguments are convincing/persuasive/logical/strong ... or However, these arguments are unconvincing/not persuasive/illogical/weak This is because ...</p> <p>This argument might appear convincing at first because ... however, ...</p>
<p>Paragraph 2</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p>Who would AGREE with the statement? In addition/a second reason to agree is ... For example ... Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes</p> <p>Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason These arguments are convincing/persuasive/logical/strong ... or However, these arguments are unconvincing/not persuasive/illogical/weak This is because ...</p> <p>This argument might appear convincing at first because ... however, ...</p>
<p>Paragraph 3</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p>Who would DISAGREE with the statement? In contrast/alternatively/however, would disagree because ... For example ... Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes</p> <p>Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason These arguments are convincing/persuasive/logical/strong ... or However, these arguments are unconvincing/not persuasive/illogical/weak This is because ...</p> <p>This argument might appear convincing because ... however, ...</p>
<p>Paragraph 4</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p>Who would DISAGREE with the statement? A second reason to disagree might be ... For example ... Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes</p> <p>Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason These arguments are convincing/persuasive/logical/strong ... or However, these arguments are unconvincing/not persuasive/illogical/weak This is because ...</p> <p>This argument might appear convincing because ... however, ...</p>
<p>Paragraph 5</p> <p>Conclusion</p>	<p>CONCLUSION – Make a final judgement on whether the statement is true or not In conclusion, having evaluated the arguments, the most convincing ... because ...</p> <p>Some people such as might disagree because ... however, this argument is not likely/convincing because ...</p>

Title: Introduction to religion, peace and conflict

LO:

- To understand war as a way of resolving differences
- To explain the key concepts of peace and justice

Starter:
what does
peace and
justice mean
to you?

- | | | | |
|----|----------|----|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Justice | A. | To live in harmony with others |
| 2. | Peace | B. | A serious disagreement or argument |
| 3. | Conflict | C. | To live in harmony with others |

Key concept - Peace

- Peace may be difficult to achieve through war as after a war there is often uncertainty and anger.
- Christians seek inner peace through prayer and meditation
- Peace is also known as the absence of war
- Peace can also be a feeling of happiness, wellbeing and tranquility. This may come through religious faith, especially prayer

Task: Answer the questions in full sentences

1. What do you do to feel peaceful?
2. Is it possible to achieve world peace? Explain your answer
3. 'Everyone has the right to feel peaceful'. Do you agree?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry5jTjBhZpA> – watch the following video and write down 3 points

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Christian views - peace

"He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples... Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more."
Isaiah 2:4 [NIV]



Task:

What does Isaiah say about peace?

Isaiah looks forward to a time where....

[4lines in your book]

Significance	Examples
Many Christians believe they should work for peace, because this is God's will. Many non-religious people also desire peace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Christians have worked for peace, negotiating the end of wars and violence. Many non-religious people have been peaceful.
Some Christians believe violence is justified, or better than peace if it achieves something for God. Some atheists (people who do not believe in God or gods) may not disapprove of violence if it achieves them something, as they have no religious reasons not to fight. Humanists (people who try to live good lives without religion) may accept wars which aim to achieve principles such as freedom or democracy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Christians have put holy wars such as the Crusades above peace. Many non-religious people have fought in wars.

Task:

1. What do Christians believe about peace? [Make sure you give two different perspectives]

What did Jesus teach about peace?

‘Turn the other cheek’

Teachings on the sermon on the mount

Told disciples to put his sword away during Jesus’ arrest

‘Peace I leave you, my peace I give you’

‘Blessed be the peacemakers’



Task:

1. Select 2 teachings – note them in your book and explain what the quote means and how it might influence a Christian

Religious References

Jesus taught his followers that he brought them **peace**, and that being peaceful rather than violent was good. However, on other occasions he taught that he had not come to bring peace. Some Christians use this to justify taking part in violence, such as wars, if they feel God would approve of the cause.

Key concept - Justice

Justice is making things fair again. There are two elements to it:
a) To put right injustice; making right a situation which has been unjust
b) To carry out this fight in a just way

Why do you think justice is important? Imagine someone murders someone but only gets 6 months in prison? Has justice been served? Explain your answer.



- Many wars are fought to achieve justice
- The quote from Isaiah on the previous page looks forward to a time when God, as the ultimate judges, will establish justice between nations.
- Justice is often linked with equality. If people are not given the same opportunities, they may be seen as unfair (or unjust)
- This could lead to conflict
- Some Christians believe that God will bring justice when we are judged on Judgment Day . We will be rewarded for our good actions by being with Him in heaven.

Term	Meaning	Significance	Examples
Justice	Fairness, getting what is deserved – morally or legally right	Christians, and many others, believe that people should act justly, and if they do wrong then it is just that they will be punished.	♦ Many have believed some wars are just, e.g. fighting against the Nazis.
		However, Christians also believe that it can be better to be merciful to someone than to give them a just punishment, and may also believe that it is for God to judge and decide what is just as humans cannot know for certain.	♦ Some Christians and humanists believe that even if killing in war is just, it is often better not to fight and kill people, even if they believe they deserve it.

Task:

1. In your own words explain what Justice is and give some examples.

The Bible teaches that people should act **justly**; however, Jesus shows that God does not always punish humans, which would be just, but is merciful to them – and humans should be merciful to others. It is also important that humans know whether they are acting justly, as it is important not to take revenge on someone, thinking that it is justice.

'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you.'
(Deuteronomy 16:20 NRSV)

'Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' (Matthew 9:13 NRSV)



Scales of justice. People may also weigh up whether it is more important to achieve justice, or to forgive and reconcile.

Jesus taught his followers to **forgive**, and that this was very important. He emphasised that people should keep on forgiving, and that if they did not forgive then God would not forgive them.

Task:

1. Explain how peace and justice link together

Challenge: explain how justice can help achieve peace

Exam question practice

Explain two religious beliefs about peace [4mark]

Point/ Development

Some Christians believe.... because.....

Point /Development

Other Christians believe.... because.....

Peace

- Peace may be hard to achieve through war because its aftermath is often instability and resentment.
- Christians seek inner peace and tranquillity through prayer and meditation
- The prophet Isaiah spoke of a time when God will bring peace,

Exam question practice

Explain two religious beliefs about justice [4mark]

Point/ Development

Some Christians believe.... because.....

Point /Development

Other Christians believe.... because.....

Justice

- Isaiah says God, the ultimate judge, will establish justice. Justice is linked to equality of opportunity.
- If more privileged parts of the world are seen to be the cause of injustice, conflict may result.

Title: Why are forgiveness and reconciliation important?

LO: To understand and explain the key concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation

Which of the following acts would you be able to forgive? Write an explanation next to each one explaining whether you would forgive or not.

1. Someone swearing at you –
2. Someone fighting with you –
3. Someone crashing their car into yours –
4. Someone stealing something from you –
5. Someone cheating on you –
6. Someone murdering a family member of yours –

Reflection: Write down a time that you forgave someone. What happened? Why did you forgive them?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgQyBLWFDBI> – watch the following video. What does this show about forgiveness?

Christian views to forgiveness

- Forgiveness is a core belief in Christianity.
- Jesus emphasized the importance of forgiveness and taught Christians that they should forgive others regardless of what they have done.
- Christians believe that in turn, God will forgive them.
- The Lord's prayer (Our father) shows the importance of forgiveness.
- Jesus gets asked about how many times we should forgive, and he tells the disciples countless times.
- The Church interprets seventy-seven times as an unlimited amount.
- Therefore there is no maximum times a person should be forgiven.
- Christians believe that there is no limit on the love that God shows to them and they should show to others, so there can be no limit to forgiveness.
- Even when Jesus was being crucified, Jesus said to those crucifying him.
- Christians believe that in their lives they should follow the example of Jesus.

Christians believe that forgiveness is important for living peacefully. It does not necessarily mean that no action should be taken to right a wrong. But once the wrong is righted, possibly through conflict, forgiveness should follow. Action to establish peace and justice should follow the act of forgiveness, otherwise it is likely that problems will reoccur.

What does Christianity teach about forgiveness?

Christianity teaches that **sin** is a part of human nature and that all people have the potential to commit a crime. This is shown in the story of the fall of **Adam and Eve** in **Genesis**, when they disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit.

Many Christians believe that the **Bible** teaches the difference between right and wrong. Following God's will leads people to the right path; ignoring God's will leads to disaster.

A typical set of guidelines from the Bible is the **Ten Commandments**. Christians should follow these guidelines to be good people.

Christianity also teaches that:

- People should be treated fairly.
- God wants the world to be ruled justly.
- Many crimes treat people unfairly. Punishments ensure that **justice** is done.
- Christians do not believe in taking **revenge** when they have been wronged. They believe that they should forgive the sins of others, in the same way that they believe God forgives them for their sins.
- Christians look to the example of Jesus, who taught the importance of forgiveness

Task: Analyse the following quotes. What do they show about forgiveness?

<u>Quote</u>	<u>Analysis</u>
"Forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven" (Bible)	
"Allah is Forgiving and Merciful" (Qur'an)	
"You shall pay life for life, eye for an eye" (Bible)	

Evidence 1

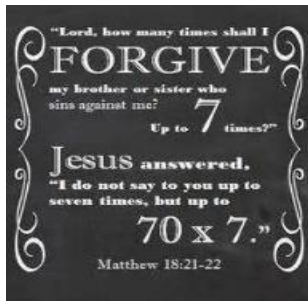


Task: Watch the video and answer the questions below: Adulterous woman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ylFgewaFcM>

1. Why was the woman going to be stoned?
2. What did Jesus say to the Jews who were going to stone her?
3. Jesus saved the woman's life – she had broken the law and was about to be punished to death – and he said these words –
4. **"Those who have not sinned should throw the first stone"** How does he save this woman's life with this line? Why did the men drop the stones?
5. Explain what this story tells us about Jesus and forgiveness think about what Jesus taught and how can Christians follow this

Evidence 2



Jesus' teachings – forgiveness

Forgiveness is central to Jesus' teachings. He taught and practised it himself

- ✓ Even when dying on the cross Jesus said 'father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing' (Luke 23:34)
- ✓ After the resurrection he forgave Peter for denying him
- ✓ When peter asked about forgiveness and how many times he should forgive he said 'not seven times, but I tell you, 77 times' (Matthew 18:21-22)
- ✓ Lord's prayer - 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'

Evidence 3



Task: Watch the video and answer the questions below: Prodigal Son

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_QCQ5i7NKs

1. Watch the video
2. Summarise what happens
3. Explain what this story tells us about Jesus and forgiveness think about what Jesus taught and how can Christians follow this

The exam board has specified you must know this story

Tasks:

1. Write a paragraph explain Christian attitudes towards forgiveness you must use all the word below:
 - Jesus
 - Forgiveness
 - Crucifixion
 - God
 - Lord's Prayer
 - Punishment
 - Justice

Challenge: how does reconciliation link to forgiveness?

Forgiveness

- Christians are taught to forgive others if they wish to be forgiven (the Lord's Prayer).
- Forgiveness does not mean no action should be taken to right a wrong, but when conflict is over forgiveness should follow. Actions to establish peace and justice need to be taken to avoid future conflict.
- Both Muslims and Christians believe God to all who ask in faith.

Exam question practice

Explain two religious beliefs about forgiveness [4mark]

Point/ Development

Some Christians believe.... because.....

Point /Development

Other Christians believe.... because.....

Reconciliation

- Reconciliation means a conscious effort to rebuild a relationship which has been damaged by conflict.
- It is also important in the prevention of conflict.

The New Testament teaches that Christians have been **reconciled** to God through Jesus' death, and that Christians should reconcile with others who are in conflict with them. Many Christians believe that God does not just want them to have a good relationship with him, but also to be on good terms with others, and if Christians are in conflict with others, then this will damage their relationship with God, because he desires them to **forgive**.

'For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.' (Romans 5:10 NRSV)

'So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.' (Matthew 5:23-24 NRSV)

- Jesus taught have to be reconciled with each other before they can praise God:
 - 'first be reconciled to your brother, sister, and then come and offer your gift' Matthew 5:23-24
- Once forgiveness and reconciliation have taken place a relationship is much stronger
- Reconciliation can lead to peace - which Jesus prayed for at the last supper - 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'
- Increased awareness about reconciliation between different religions in recent events the quote below makes reference to the need for reconciliation between Islam and Christianity
 - 'Muslims along with us adore the one and merciful God, who on the last day will judge mankind' (Lumen Gentium 16)

Task:

- Explain how forgiveness and reconciliation are linked

Impact and Influence

Some believe that if everyone valued **peace** highly, there would be a lot less conflict in the world. On the other hand, those who enter into conflict, wars or terrorism, often claim that they are doing this to achieve peace in the long run. Alternatively, they may argue that **justice** is more important, and that the people they are fighting deserve to be punished, or the people they are fighting for deserve to be liberated. Religious organisations often work towards worldwide **forgiveness** and **reconciliation**, as do many non-religious people. However, if people believe that those who oppose them with violence do not deserve forgiveness, this may result in more hard feelings, and it will be more likely that conflict will reoccur.

Important to note...

Some Christians will not see fighting which aims to punish as just because they believe that it is up to God to punish in such cases, and it is not for humans to decide such courses of action. However, others feel that it is important that humans punish those who deserve to be punished, because this is right.

Quick Questions

- Which of these is a word for fairness? (1 mark)
 - a) Peace
 - b) Justice
 - c) Forgiveness
 - d) Reconciliation
- Give **two** examples of biblical teachings about peace. (2 marks)



Reconciliation

Forgiveness



**Exam question – ‘Religious people should always forgive those who do wrong to them’.
Evaluate this statement. (12 marks)**

Paragraph 1

Point – Include a reason why you agree with the statement

Evidence – Include a quote/teaching to support your argument

Explanation – Explain your quote/teaching clearly.

Link – Explain if the argument is strong or weak – how many people agree with it and why?

Paragraph 2

Point – Include a reason why you disagree with the statement

Evidence – Include a quote/teaching to support your argument

Explanation – Explain your quote/teaching clearly.

Link – Explain if the argument is strong or weak – how many people agree with it and why?

Paragraph 3

Point – Include a reason why you agree/disagree with the statement

Evidence – Include a quote/teaching to support your argument

Explanation – Explain your quote/teaching clearly.

Link – Explain if the argument is strong or weak – how many people agree with it and why?

Conclusion

Say which reason is the most important and why. What is your opinion and why?

Title: What are violent protests?

LO:

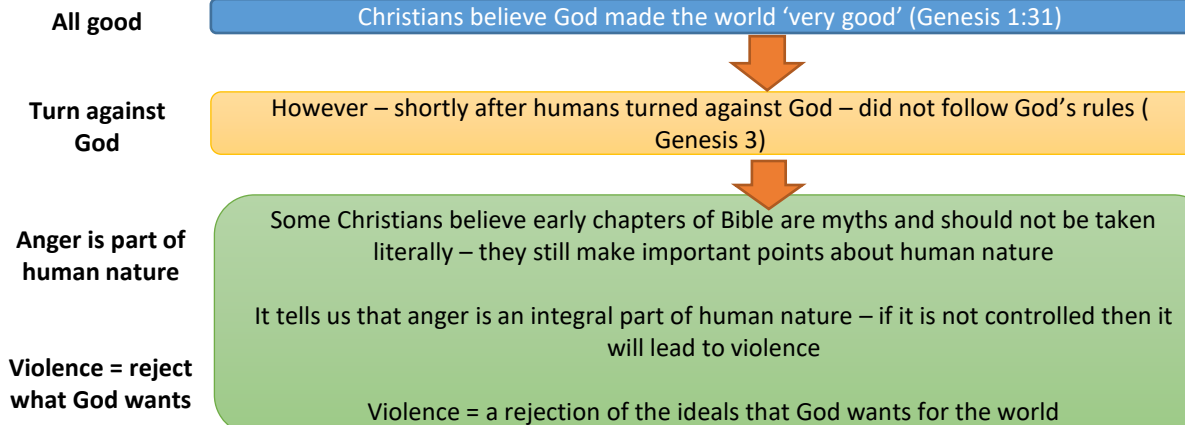
- To understand UK law regarding protesting
- To understand Christian beliefs about violent protest

Violence

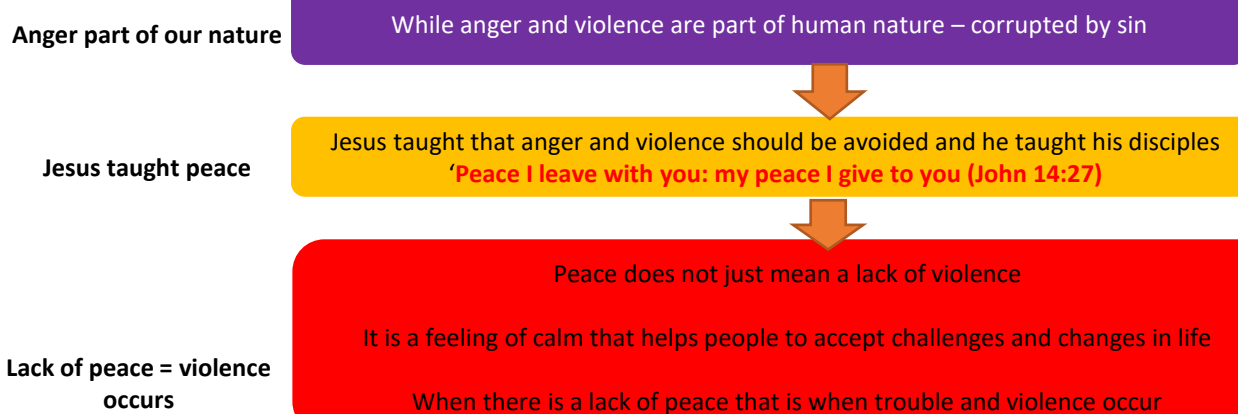
- Violence may be justified as a last resort. It may be the only way to get rid of a corrupt regime and restore justice. In protest at the misuse of the Temple, Jesus overturned the merchants' tables
- Jesus taught that violence is counter-productive. Violence encourages retaliation and so makes the situation worse. At his arrest he said to his disciples, 'Put away your swords. Those who live by the sword die by the sword.'



What is our human condition?



BUT



Christianity

Many Christians oppose **violence**, because of Jesus' teachings about **peace** – they believe that God desires peace, and so causing violence goes against this. Further, violence is often motivated by anger and hate, and Christians believe that they should not act on such feelings but seek to **forgive**. They believe Jesus taught not to harm enemies, but to treat them well. Because Jesus gave no circumstances in which violence was justified, he did not talk about types of war or violence which were more or less acceptable than others. Therefore, it could be argued that because Jesus disallowed all violence, he did not allow violence towards men more than violence towards women and children, or other such examples. This is a different approach from other religions which often give rules about who is and is not a legitimate target of violence.



People fighting in a war

'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' (Matthew 5:44 NRSV)





However, other Christians believe that God will support them in some instances of violence. Some may believe it is **just** to punish some criminals violently (e.g. through the death penalty). Others may believe it is just to be violent towards those they see as **sinning** against God, such as those who work in abortion clinics, who have been the victims of extreme violence such as bombing. They may also see war as justified, especially if they believe it is working towards a better world, including fighting against terrorism.

There are many stories in the Old Testament where God aided the Jewish people in war against their enemies and commanded violent punishments for certain crimes. This implies that God is not completely against violence, but approves of it in certain circumstances.

The right to protest is considered to be a fundamental democratic freedom. The law in the UK allows individuals and groups to protest in public to demonstrate their point of view. If the protest involves a procession or a march, the police must be told at least six days before it takes place. The police can request alternations to the route or even apply to a court for an order to ban the march. They may do this if they feel that the march might intimidate other people or if they predict that violence might be involved.

Violent protest - a noisy, violent public disorder caused by a group or crowd of persons

Task: Should everyone have the right to protest? Explain your answer.

Are there any times when people should not protest?

Should the police have the right to ban marches and protests? Explain your answer

Tasks:

1. What is the human condition? Why do Christians believe violence happens?
2. What do Christian believe about violence?
3. Is God against violence?

What are violent protests?

The UK law and protesting

1. In the UK, the law permits individuals and groups to protest in public to demonstrate their point of view.
2. If a protest includes a march or processions, the police must be informed at least 6 days before it is planned to take place.

The police can request alterations of the route and can apply for a court order to stop the march from happening. This will be applied if the march might intimidated other people or if they believe violence will be involved.



The London Riots 2011

The rioting that broke out in England in early August began on the evening of Saturday, August 6th, in Tottenham, a district of north London.

The first trouble followed a protest by local people against the fatal shooting of a local man by armed police two days previously (most British police officers don't carry guns, but a few do). The reasons for the shooting are still unclear, although it seems that the man had a gun and the police thought he was a danger to them.

The protest, at first peaceful, turned violent when young people – mostly teenagers or in their twenties – started throwing bottles and other missiles at police cars. Later, vehicles were set on fire, store windows were smashed, and looting began. The next night, there was similar violence in a few other districts of London, and on August 8th, things got much worse when stores and police were attacked in more than ten different areas. Two people died – one of them a 68-year-old man who was attacked by a group of youths when he tried to put out a fire they had started on the street near his home.

The violence was no longer directly linked to the shooting in Tottenham: instead, it seemed that large groups of young people were just copying what they had seen there – and as more police were called in to deal with the most serious rioting, there were fewer officers to prevent looters from attacking stores in other districts.

On the night of August 9th, there was serious trouble outside London, particularly in the cities of Birmingham (where three men died; it seems they were deliberately run over by youths in a car) and Manchester. London, meanwhile, was much calmer, as the government had almost trebled the number of police officers on the streets, from 6,000 to 16,000.

Most British people were shocked and disgusted by the violence, and a debate began about its possible causes. In the media and among the public, there seems to be agreement that a minority of young people in Britain have grown up with far too little respect for the law, the police, or in fact anyone but themselves. A lack of discipline from parents and at school is seen as a major part of the problem. Many people also think unemployment and poverty (that is, the fact that most of the rioters are poorer than most British people; they are not poor in comparison with most people in the world's poorer countries) can help explain, though not excuse, the violence.

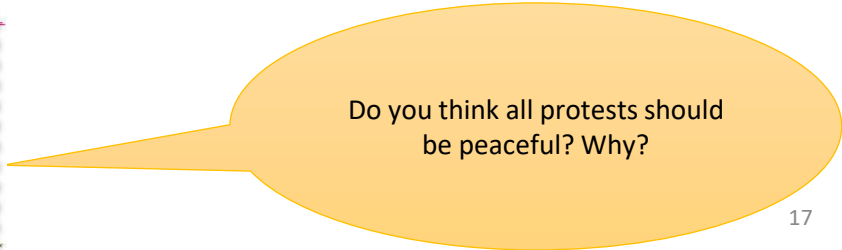
Soon after the riots ended, there were signs of a much healthier side to British society, as people in the affected districts of London got together to help clean up the streets using brooms and garbage bags. Clearly, however, it will take longer to address the social problems behind the riots than it did to sweep up the broken glass.

Did these people have the right to protest? Explain your answer.

Peaceful protest was an important part of the Civil Rights movement in the USA in the 1950s and 1960s. One of the movement's leaders a Christian pastor called Dr Martin Luther King JR, organised peaceful rallies to protest about racial and social inequalities. Even though he was assassinated in 1968, the peaceful methods adopted by the Civil Rights movement proved successful, and equal rights legislation was passed into US law. Martin Luther King's peaceful protests reflect the belief shared by many Christians that protest to achieve what is right is acceptable, provided violence is not used.

Task:

1. Who was Martin Luther King and what did he do?
2. Was he successful? Why do you think this?



Title: What is terrorism?

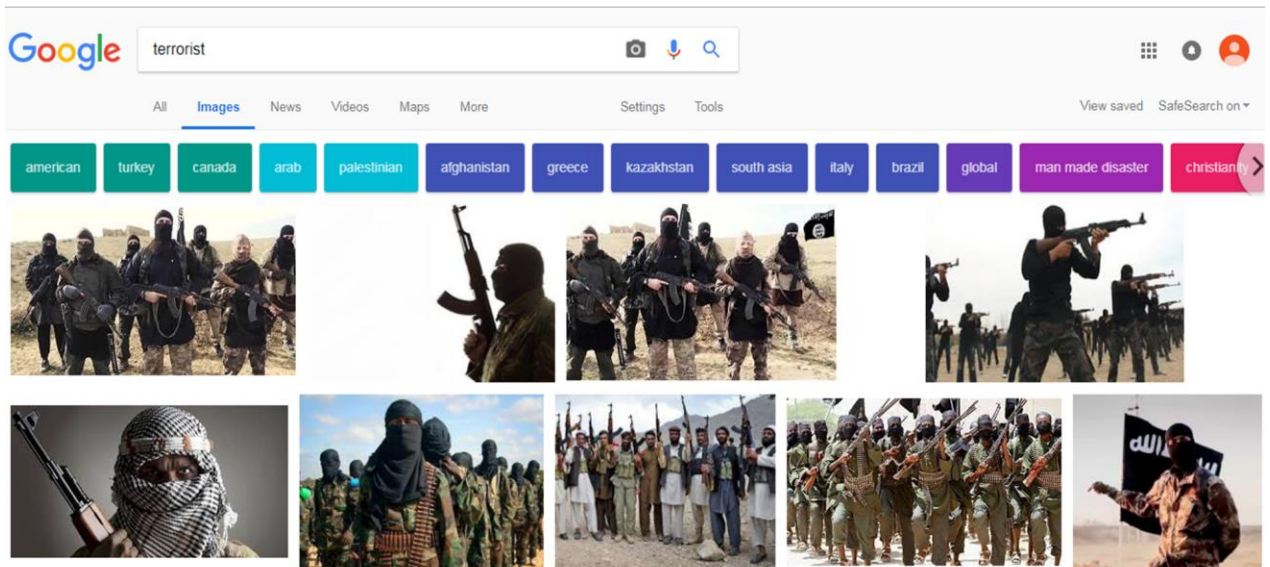
LO:

- To understand terrorism as a means of conflict
- To understand Christian beliefs about terrorism

What do you think terrorism is?

Keywords:

- ♦ **terrorism** – unauthorised (non-state) violence for political reasons
- ♦ **legitimate** – permissible because of logic and/or law (human law or God's law)
- ♦ **controversial** – widely debated and disagreed about
- ♦ **civilian** – someone who is not a soldier / actively involved in conflict



This is the results page from Google when you type in 'terrorist'. Is this a fair representation? Explain your answer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYuZLHkUD04> - watch the following video.

Make a list of reasons why you think someone would carry out a terrorist attack.

Example:

- They are fighting to assert their political beliefs

Terrorists violence usually deliberately targets civilians using suicide vests, car bombs, and gunmen who might shoot into crowds of people. These are some of the tactics used. Terrorists believe that by killing people in this way, the rest of society will become more aware of their causes, will be scared of them and push the authorities into giving way to their demands.

A terrorist may associate their cause with a religion, including Christianity, **but NO religion promotes terrorism**.

Most Christians consider terrorist acts of violence to be wrong, especially as the victims are usually innocent people going about their normal daily lives.

Task:

1. Explain how terrorists attempt to bring about the changes they want?
2. How do you think Christians should respond to terrorism?

Top tip: Try not to let your feelings change the way you write and the language you use, even when you are evaluating

Starter: Which of these are terrorists?



(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

All four of these people are considered terrorists. The actions of some of these people resulted in the deaths of many people, while some of them did not get to carry out their attacks.

Terrorists are people who use violent methods, or violent threats, to achieve their demands. Terrorists aim to bring a complete change in the country, such as overthrowing the Government, or forcing a major change in the law or policy.

One of the issues is that it can sometimes be difficult to describe what terrorism is. Some people view an act of terrorism in one way, while others may believe they are fighting for their freedom.

Despite this, terrorism is never acceptable in religion as it involves the loss of life of innocent people. Religions teach that killing is wrong, and the holding of these extreme views does not represent the beliefs of the religion.

Terrorism – use of violence and threats to intimidate, especially for political purposes to create a state of fear in a population

Task: Why is terrorism never acceptable? Include examples in your answer.

Terrorism Today

Notable instances of **terrorism** include the attacks on the World Trade Centre on the 11th September 2001 and the bombings on London transport on 7th July 2007, though there are many more, further back in time, and more recently.

Much terrorism in the contemporary world has been associated with Islam, particularly with suicide bombers who say they are Muslim. These suicide bombers may not feel that Allah endorses mass killing, but may feel that they are serving Islam in some way through their actions. However, most Muslims condemn terrorist violence. It can be argued strongly that the link between Islam and terrorism has been sensationalised and portrayed inaccurately by the media. Further, there are many terrorists with no association with Islam; for example:

- ◆ Anders Breivik, the Norwegian terrorist who killed many people in politically motivated attacks in 2011. He strongly opposed Islam and wanted Muslims to be deported from Europe.
- ◆ The Irish Republican Army (IRA), whose members identify as Roman Catholic Christians, and fought against Irish Protestants. Also, other Irish terrorist groups which associated with Catholicism or Protestantism and were involved in the Irish troubles in the twentieth century.
- ◆ There has been terrorism associated with the Hindu nationalist movement (those who believe that India should be / is Hindu). Not all Hindu nationalists are violent, but some have killed Christians and Muslims, which they justify as defence of Hinduism.
- ◆ There are examples of terrorism associated with other religions, and with no religion.

Pause for thought:

Try to think how you would feel if your country was attacked or you felt your religion was threatened. Do you think those labelled terrorists are always worse than governments who declare war?



Terrorism is an interesting concept because those who commit acts of terrorism may not feel that they are terrorists; they feel that their acts are **legitimate**. Also, acts which may not be deemed by the UK government to be acts of terrorism, such as the war in Iraq, and other military intervention in the Middle East, may be deemed by others as terrorism – some people may not believe that the UK has legitimate authority for the violence which its military has carried out abroad for political purposes.

One way that people may try to separate acts of terrorism from 'legitimate' acts of violence is to say that terrorism targets innocent people (who are often considered to include **civilians**). However, it can be argued that in most wars, there are many innocent casualties. Also, people who many others have described as terrorists have sometimes argued that those they target are not innocent. Osama bin Laden argued that the casualties of the attacks against the World Trade Centre in the US were not innocent (even though they were civilians) because they were happy for their government to interfere in the

Middle East, and were responsible for their government's actions because they had voted for them. (Of course not all the people killed may have supported George Bush and his military decisions.)

The governments and media sources of countries often focus on terrorist events which have affected them, or countries close to them in distance or culture, which may contribute to the belief that one's own country, or people of one's own religion or culture, are under high levels of attack from terrorists. In reality, it may be the case that many other countries and peoples are experiencing higher levels of terrorism.

The perception of 'terrorists' may change over time; for example, Nelson Mandela was widely regarded as a terrorist due to his role in violent action against apartheid (racist segregation) in South Africa. However, today he is widely regarded as a hero, and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for helping with the peaceful transition to a democratic South Africa.

Religious Responses

A small number of individuals who are religious commit acts deemed by others to be **terrorist** acts; bombing or shooting people to achieve their goals, such as laws which reflect their religious beliefs, or rule by a government of their religion.

However, most religious people disapprove of terrorism – for example, it does not follow the Christian principle of loving one's neighbour, or the Islamic principle, derived from the **Qur'an**, that people should always be given warning of military action against them; surprise attacks are forbidden. Many religious people such as Hindus and Buddhists will disapprove of terrorism because of its **violent** nature.

'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)



Many religions other than Christianity teach similar principles about treating people as you would want to be treated. This is often known as the Golden Rule.

Quick Questions

against terrorism

5. Which of these is **not** a reason an act might be classed as terrorism? (1 mark)
- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| a) It is carried out at night | b) It is violent |
| c) It is not authorised by a government | d) It is politically motivated |
6. Give **two** examples of reasons why people may oppose terrorism. (2 marks)

Title: Why do people go to war?

LO:

- To understand why wars are fought
- To understand Christian attitudes towards the reasons for war

Keywords:

- ♦ **self-defence** – protecting yourself against violence or attack
- ♦ **retaliation** – taking revenge against someone for something they have done, usually trying to inflict harm similar to the harm they inflicted



At any point in time there is always a war happening somewhere in the world. We have fought wars throughout history and there is little sign of them stopping. Wars between nations, civil wars, etc have threatened our existence on a daily basis.

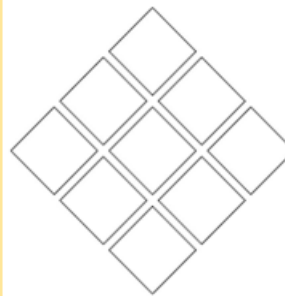
Task: Complete the diamond 9 on the diagram below. Write a sentence explaining which reason you think is the most important.

What are the causes of war?

Task: Complete the diamond nine on the different causes of war. Put your most important cause at the top and your least important at the bottom.

Explain why you have chosen your most important reason.

Aim high: Do you think any of these are a good reason to go to war? Explain your answer



- 1) Land
- 2) Oil & Minerals
- 3) Religion
- 4) Greed
- 5) Poverty
- 6) Racism
- 7) Politics
- 8) Building empires
- 9) Controlling population

I think the biggest cause of war is...
This is because...

Greed, Self-Defence and Retaliation

Greed – This is war to gain, for example, more land, more power or more resources. Most religious teachings would not support this as a reason.

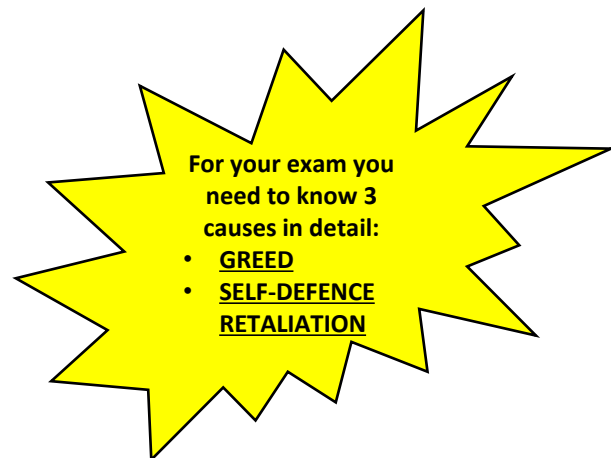
Self-defence – If a country or religion is under attack, then conflicts can happen. It would be seen as entirely right and proper to defend your own country.

Retaliation – At times, a country will be attacked in a way which provokes retaliation. E.g. World War 1. Retaliation can lead to the escalation of a situation.

The causes of any war are complex. Wars are rarely about just one thing. They can be declared when a state or states act to:

- attack or invade another state, to gain territory or resources
- resist such an attack or invasion by an aggressor
- protect another state from attack by an aggressor
- impose domination or political change on another state, or to resist such domination
- challenge a threat to 'essential national interests' by another state
- counter perceived threats from a different ideology, religion or ethnic group
- defend the national honour when under threat

War can also occur internally within a state between organised groups. This is known as **civil war**.



Greed

Greed

Many wars may be caused by greed. Centuries ago, many different countries tried to advance their empires, or gain more land, fighting against people who lived in areas which they wished to conquer, and causing many wars. This was apparently motivated by greed for more land and more subjects, which would result in more resources and more power.

Some people might try to justify this greed, or claim that it was not true greed; for instance, some might argue that the leaders of Muslim empires did not expand their empires due to greed, but were following Allah's will to introduce the religion of Islam to as many people as possible (i.e. it was actually a holy war).

Taking it further...

Why don't you research a war or conflict online and see which reasons motivated each side to fight?



Some people have argued that when Britain **colonised** other countries, such as India, and some African countries, it sought to 'civilise' them; to teach the people appropriate ways of living, and to introduce them to modern inventions and to Christianity. However, this is now highly **controversial** as it is seen as **elitist** to claim that your culture and religion is better than someone else's.

Some people believe that some modern wars have been fought due to greed. Some people believe that when the US and the UK went to war in Iraq in 2003, this was because they wished to protect their supply of oil; in other words, they were greedy for resources. Others have argued that this was not the case, and that the war was for other reasons.

Many Christians may believe that going to war because of greed is wrong, because Jesus taught against greed, teaching his followers to give their possessions to others, and to strive for treasures in heaven, rather than on Earth, because focusing on greed shows that someone is not focused on God.

'And [Jesus] said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."' (Luke 12:15 NRSV)



'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' (Matthew 6:19-21 NRSV)

The Bible warns against greed

"For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil."
1 Timothy 6:10 [NIV]

Task:

1. What does this quote mean?
2. How might it influence Christians?

Greed:

- To gain more land/regain land previously lost
- To control important resources, e.g. oil
- To deprive the enemy of main source of income

Retaliation

Some wars are fought in **retaliation**; in revenge for a previous attack. This is sometimes seen as revenge and is also considered to show countries that they cannot attack another for a bad reason, perhaps greed, without suffering consequences. This is also partly to discourage future attacks.

Some people feel this is acceptable, because it creates a culture in which no one should want to go to war, because they will know they will receive retaliation if they do. However, in reality, this can lead to a large amount of violence if each side of a conflict wishes to keep retaliating against the other. For instance, in the conflict between Israel and Palestine, people on both sides wish to retaliate against the other, and this has led to a long conflict.

Some people believe a motivation for the conflict in Iraq was retaliation for the attacks on the World Trade Centre; that some American officials believed that the Iraqi government were supporting or protecting al-Qaeda (the terrorist group which claimed responsibility for the attacks). However, this is contested and was not an official reason for the war.

Many Christians believe that retaliation is wrong, because Jesus taught that you should not take revenge.

'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer.' (Matthew 5:38-39 NRSV)



However, others may feel that it is acceptable if it will teach others not to fight against one's country in the future, preventing loss of life.

Non-religious people will have different personal opinions, depending on what they value most: whether they value **peace** above **justice**; or whether they prioritise saving certain human lives in the future over losing other human lives now.

Did you know?

Wars are not always international. Many wars occur between different groups in one country; this is called a civil war.



Also...

Another cause of war is disagreement about political policies. People of different views within the same country can cause conflict, which can result in civil war, such as the English Civil War in the seventeenth century.

A country might also enter into war with another country if they strongly disagree with their political policies – for example, if they are carrying out genocide (mass murder) against their own citizens.

People may approve or disapprove of wars started for this reason, depending on whether they feel that the benefit caused by a change in political policy will outweigh the costs associated with war, for example, loss of life.

Jesus taught that retaliation is wrong

"But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."
Matthew 5:39 [NIV]



Task:

1. What does this quote mean?
2. How might it influence Christians?

Task:

1. Explain how retaliation is a cause of war
2. Explain why some people might think this cause is justifiable
3. Do you think Christians would agree with greed as a cause? Why/why not?

Exam question

Explain two causes of war [4mark]

Point/ Development

Some Christians believe.... because.....

Point /Development

Other Christians believe.... because.....

Retaliation:

- To fight against a country that has done something very wrong
- To fight against a country which has attacked or damaged your country

Self-defence

Another reason for war is **self-defence**. People may fight against those who have attacked them (possibly due to greed), or may perform a **pre-emptive strike** – where someone declares war against a country which has not yet threatened them directly, but which they believe will threaten them.



An airstrike. Can a pre-emptive strike really be self-defence?

Many people have justified fighting wars in self-defence, claiming that, otherwise, innocent people could be killed, enslaved, or repressed by anyone who wanted to invade them.

The UK's part in the Second World War is often justified as being due to the need for self-defence, and also the need to defend other countries, because the UK government felt that Hitler was a threat to public safety.

Some people have argued that the 2003 invasion of Iraq was also a pre-emptive case of self-defence, if the government believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction which could be used against them in the future.

Christians have mixed opinions on wars fought in self-defence. Jesus taught not to fight against people to stop them hurting you, but to accept suffering which came one's way. This would make them better people; not being **violent** to anyone. Jesus not only taught this but put it into practice – he stopped his disciples defending him from arrest with violence, though he knew, or could expect, that he would die. This is an important example for Christians in showing how far Jesus' teaching against violence extended.

'... if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also...' (Matthew 5:39 NRSV)



- People may fight to defend their own country against invasion or attack or even to defend allies who are under threat
- They may fight to defend their own values, beliefs and cultures
- Another reason may be to defeat evil, for example genocide.

Christian views

Many Christians believe that fighting in self-defence can be justified if all other forms of resolving conflict have been tried and failed.

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil... if it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."
Romans 12:17-19 [NIV]



Task:

1. What does this quote mean?
2. How might it influence Christians?

Self-defence:

- To defend one's country against invasion or attack/to defend allies who are under threat
- To defend one's values, beliefs and ways of life
- To defeat evil, e.g. genocide (deliberate killing of a whole nation or ethnic group)

Greed, self-defence and retaliation are the three main causes of war that we are going to look at. **For each one, explain how it can lead to war.**

1. Greed can lead to war because...
2. Self-defence can lead to war because...
3. Retaliation can lead to war because...

Task: Read through the following example. Highlight/underline how the war started, what has happened and how it affects civilians (innocent people).

The 2003 US-led Iraq war killed up to a million Iraqis, gave birth to Islamic State and left 179 UK troops dead. The UK and US invaded Iraq as they believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Now Britain and America are backing Iraqi forces as they battle IS fighters holding out in Mosul. Barely a week goes by without news of suicide bombings and other terror atrocities across this war-torn nation. Britain has a duty to help wipe out IS in Iraq since we took part in the disastrously mishandled aftermath of the 2003 invasion, which gave rise to the terror group.

Does religion cause wars?

Religious teachings on peace and war can sometimes be difficult to understand. The Bible/Torah says 'Do not kill', but also says 'an eye for an eye'; the Qur'an allows Muslims to fight in the name of Allah, but not to take another man's life.

- 1) Religion is involved in war – two countries of different religions can fight each other such as Israel vs Palestine or even two groups in the same religion as is the case in Syria (Sunnis vs Shi'as). However, these conflicts could be more to do with politics rather than religion.
- 2) Religious beliefs have divided people – violence broke out when Sikhism was formed from Hinduism, as well as after the death of the Prophet Muhammad causing the Sunni-Shi'a split.
- 3) There are many people who work across religious divides to help each other, save lives and solve conflicts. True religious beliefs do not cause war and these people are a testimony to that.

Read through the information above. Does religion cause wars? Write two points of view and a conclusion.

Title: What is a nuclear war?

LO:

- To know about different weapons of mass destruction
- To understand the possible implications of using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction, and consider whether the use of such weapons is justified

Most religious people disagree with weapons of mass destruction (WMD). These are weapons that are capable of killing and maiming large numbers of people. They can also cause massive levels of destruction in cities.

They are controlled from far away, either in the form of missiles or bombs dropped from planes. This means that whoever releases the weapon does not experience or see the weapon's effect directly.

Religious people believe in the sanctity of life and the effects of these weapons go completely against this belief. When America used a chemical weapon called Agent Orange in the Vietnam War, thousands of civilians died or were left permanently disfigured by its burning effects.

Some religious believers accept the existence of weapons as a deterrent. They stop others attacking a country, but there is no intention to use them. Most religious believers, however, think nuclear weapons are completely unacceptable.



Task:
See how many of the Ws you can answer



Note: All figures are estimates as exact numbers are secret

Countries known to have nuclear weapons and their estimated numbers

Did you know?

- In 1945 the first nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. This one small bomb killed about 150,000 people within the first four months. The immediate impact was 60,000 deaths but the rest were a result of radiation sickness.
- A second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki nine days later and Japan surrendered, ending World War Two.
- Since then, no power has used an atomic bomb in war, though many tests have been carried out on them. The smallest nuclear bomb now produced is about 20 times more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wxWNAM8Cso>

How would the atom bomb affect the city and people of Hiroshima?

On 6th and 9th August 1945, US forces used atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the Second World War. Over 140,000 people died in Hiroshima alone.

Due to the bombing, Japan then surrenders, thus ended the war. Due to this, some people say their use of the atom bomb was justified.

A **weapon of mass destruction (WMD or WoMD)** nuclear, biological or chemical weapons that cause widespread devastation and loss of life

Nuclear – A bomb or missile that uses nuclear energy (I.E the atomic bomb)

Chemical – This uses chemicals to inflict pain or death on humans (i.e gas).

Biological – These weapons use viruses or other living organisms to cause death or disease (i.e Anthrax)

What would you have done?

Try to make peace
Japan said it would accept surrender if the Emperor remained in power.

The American Secretary of War turned this down. He believed the fanatical dedication shown to the Emperor by many Japanese would quickly lead to another war.

Continue the war
By August 1945 America had been firebombing Japan for over a year, had overwhelming air superiority and would be ready to invade by land within a few months.

Prolonging the war for months would mean massive cost and loss of life. America planned to invade but believed the bomb would end the war sooner.

Drop the bomb
America dropped bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and had plans to drop seven more in the next two months if Japan didn't surrender.

80,000 Japanese people, mostly civilians, were killed instantly and up to 120,000 more died of causes linked to the bomb over the following decades.

Have a nuclear demonstration
America considered demonstrating a nuclear bomb by detonating it on uninhabited land, rather than drop it on a city

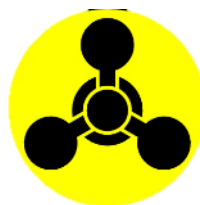
Scientists who built the bomb persuaded the military that there was no guarantee it would work. The shock factor of using it for the first time was important.

Chemical Weapons Convention

The Convention aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction.

Chemical weapons are thought to have been used in Iraq and Syria

Biological weapons introduce harmful viruses and bacteria into the atmosphere, water and food supplies. These weapons can kill large numbers of people.
Biological weapons are illegal but many countries will have them.



Religious beliefs about nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction

Christian views

- Sanctity of life - only God has the right to end life
- Nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction kill large number of innocent people so their use can never be justified
- The quote 'eye for an eye' is sometimes used to justify war but this does not mean it can be used to justify the use of weapons of mass destruction

"You shall not murder."

Exodus 20:13 [NIV]

Some Christians see the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent to maintain peace and prevent attack.

Christian beliefs

- Only God has the right to end life.
- Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons kill huge numbers of innocent civilians so their use can never be justified.

“You shall not murder.”

Exodus 20:13 [NIV]

- The quote 'eye for eye' (Exodus 21:24 [NIV]) is sometimes used to justify war but this cannot justify the use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Some Christians see the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent to maintain peace and prevent attack.

Exam question

Explain two contrasting views about weapons of mass destruction[4mark]

Point/ Development

Some Christians believe.... because.....

Point /Development

Other Christians believe.... because.....

Benefits of WMD	Problems of WMD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They are effective deterrent – nations are less likely to attack if there is a threat• Losses suffered by the side that uses them is minimal• Ensure a quicker end to conflicts• Better course of action than invasion• Because nuclear weapons have the potential to destroy the earth, this prevents one country attacking another with them as they could be destroyed as well (mutually assured destruction – MAD)• Biological and chemical weapons don't destroy buildings, roads etc and so they are an efficient way of destroying an enemy whilst leaving the infrastructure intact. Those using the weapons can be protected from their effects by using gas masks, protective clothing etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They are effective deterrent – nations are less likely to attack if there is a threat• Losses suffered by the side that uses them is minimal• Ensure a quicker end to conflicts• Better course of action than invasion• They deliberately target innocent civilians (specifically excluded from the effects of war by Just War theories and Holy War• Nuclear weapons are so powerful they threaten world extinction• Chemical and biological weapons are difficult to deliver effectively and the effects can only be guessed at. These weapons could be uncontrollable once released, nothing could stop them from spreading from outside the original target area

Task:

1. What was the effect of dropping the atomic bomb in 1945 on Hiroshima?
2. Explain the benefits of using WMD
3. Explain the problems with using WMD

Remember you need to know 2x different views.

Always remember Quakers – are pacifist and against war and violence

Task:

1. Explain the difference between nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological weapons.
2. Do you think using any of these weapons is justified?

Challenge: Explain why most Christians disagree with the use of weapons of mass destruction

Title: What are the criteria for a just war?

LO:

1. To understand the just war theory
2. To apply the just war theory to a specific war

Starter: Write a list of different conditions that you think makes fighting a war the right thing to do

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. Pacifist | A. Believing it is right to fight in a war in the interests of justice and the greater good |
| 2. Holy war | B. Believing it is right to fight a war in the name of God |
| 3. Just war | C. Believing all war and killing is wrong |

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGmLJgojD1E> – watch the video to understand views on the Just War theory. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=just+war

A **just war** is a war which is declared for right and noble reasons and fought in a certain way. A just war is not a war that is 'good' as such – it is a war that Christians feel to be necessary or 'just' in the circumstances, when all other solutions have been tried and have failed. It is a necessary evil and a last resort.

Christianity is not a **pacifist** religion although there are pacifists in most Christian **denominations**. Some Christian groups, eg the **Religious Society of Friends** (Quakers), oppose war in all circumstances.

Most Christians would support a war if it were justified by just war standards.

Task: What is the Just War theory?

The **Just War theory** was first developed by **St Thomas Aquinas**. Aquinas was one of the most influential **theologians** of the last 1,000 years. The theory set out conditions against which to judge whether or not a war should be waged (**jus ad bellum**) and if it could be justified, and how it should be waged (**jus in bello**).

The just war theory conditions:

1. Be fought for a **just cause** (e.g. self-defence or to defend others)
2. Be declared by a **proper legal authority** – this should be the government or lawful rulers of the country
3. Have a **just intention** (fought to promote good or defeat wrongdoing; justice and peace must be restored afterwards)
4. Be a **last resort** (other ways of solving the problem tried first)
5. Have a **reasonable chance of success** (the good gained by winning should outweigh the evil which led to the war)
6. Be **proportional** (excessive force should not be used and innocent civilians must not be killed)

TIP

The mnemonic 'CLIPS' will help you remember some conditions for a just war:

C – just CAUSE
L – LAST resort
I – Right INTENTION
P – PROPORTIONALITY
S – reasonable chance of SUCCESS

But don't forget proper legal authority!

Task:

1. Are there any criteria you think shouldn't be there?
2. Which condition is the most important and why?

Challenge: Would you change any of the just war conditions with your own ideas? Explain your answer.

Rules on how a war should be fought

The war should be fought by just means (innocent civilians should not be targeted or harmed)

Only appropriate force should be used (including type of force and how much force)

Internationally agreed conventions must be obeyed (Geneva Convention rules)

Task: Do you think these rules are always followed during a war? Give examples to support your view.

Are all wars 'just'?

The main problem with the just way theory is that both side in a war may claim that their cause is 'just'. For example, in the Second World War Hitler claimed that the Nazis were right and just in what they fought for, just as the allied forces did.



President Bush declared that the USA was the force of good. *'This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil, but good will prevail'* and defined the enemies of the USA as the 'axis of evil'.



In response, Osama Bin Laden, declared *'I swear by Almighty God... that neither the United States nor he who lives in the United States will enjoy security before... all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad.'*

Falklands War

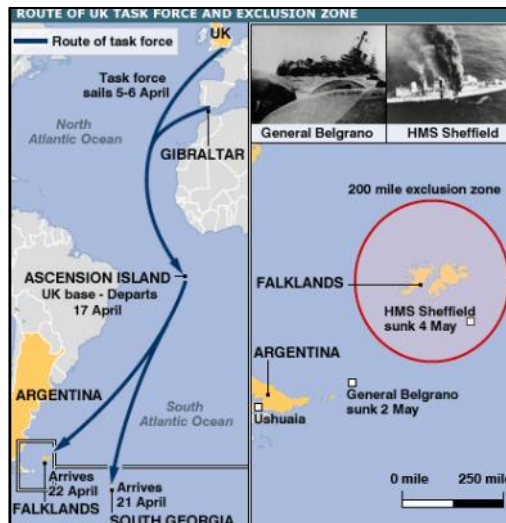
Task:

1. Read through the information about the Falklands War. Highlight any points you think are significant.
2. Do you think the Falklands war was a just war? Explain your answer and make sure you keep linking back to the different criteria

On 2 April 1982, Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, a remote UK colony in the South Atlantic. The move led to a brief, but bitter war. Argentina's military junta hoped to restore its support at a time of economic crisis, by reclaiming sovereignty of the islands. It said it had inherited them from Spain in the 1800s and they were close to South America. The UK, which had ruled the islands for 150 years, quickly chose to fight. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said the 1,800 Falklanders were "of British tradition and stock". A task force was sent to reclaim the islands, 8,000 miles away.

In the fighting that followed, 655 Argentine and 255 British servicemen lost their lives, as did three Falkland Islanders.





The battle for the Falklands began with the declaration of a 200-mile exclusion zone around the islands. The UK task force had 28,000 troops and over 100 ships, in total. Argentina had 12,000 mainly conscripted soldiers on the Falklands and about 40 vessels. Its superior air power was limited by the islands' remoteness.

South Georgia was re-taken on 25 April and on 1 May the RAF launched its first aerial assault, on Stanley's airport. The first major loss of life came on 2 May with the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano, and the loss of 368 crew. Two days later, the British destroyer, HMS Sheffield, was hit by an Exocet missile and sank with the loss of 20 crew.

Seven weeks after the Argentines invaded, the first major British troop landing began at San Carlos on 21 May. The plan was to launch attacks from there on Goose Green and Stanley.

The battle for Goose Green lasted a day and night and was fiercely fought, with many dead. British troops were hugely outnumbered but ultimately successful.

Victory meant British forces were clear to break out of San Carlos and begin the long march east towards Stanley. Carrying 120lb packs on their backs, the troops fought their way across the peat bogs of East Falkland before mounting their final attack on the last line of Argentine defence, the high ground around Stanley.

With their defences breached, the Argentines surrendered. On 14 June troops marched into Stanley and the town was liberated.

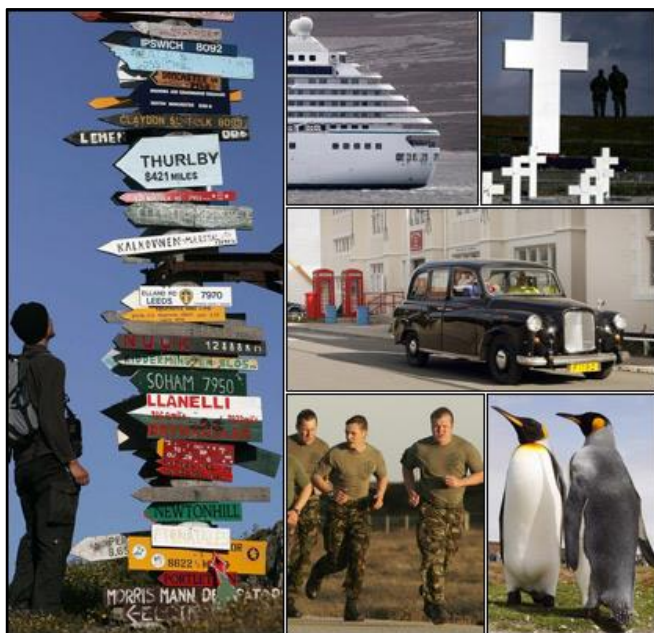


Diplomatic relations between the UK and Argentina resumed in 1990, but differences remain. Argentina maintains a peaceful claim to the islands, but the UK says sovereignty is not open to negotiation.

About 1,000 British troops are posted in the Falklands and are involved in patrolling the islands as well as road building and monitoring minefields.

Except for defence, the 2,955 islanders are self-supporting. The sale of fishing licences provides most income, but farming is also important. The possibility that large oil fields exist is being explored.

Tourism numbers are growing, with about 50,000 cruise ship visitors every year. Many are attracted by wildlife including large colonies of penguins.



Name of the war	
The intention of the war has to be to defeat wrongdoing and promote good	
Main reason for the war	
Which of the just war criteria were NOT fulfilled? Why?	
Approved by religious believers? Why or why not?	

Complete this grid for the Falklands war. You will need to give examples in your exam answers

Christian views

- Christian writers Augustine and Aquinas developed the concept of the just war theory
- Many Christians believe that although fighting in a just war is acceptable, it is better if there is no war, just or not
- Some Christians disagree with the just war theory because it defends the concept of war in certain circumstances

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Religious belief or teaching</u>
The intention of the war has to be to defeat wrongdoing and promote good	
Innocent people and civilians must not be targeted or harmed	
Fighting must be a last resort	
The war must be declared by the correct authority	

Evaluation – what if?

Of the people who broadly agree with *Just War Tradition*, there are points which are debated:

Going to war

- ◆ Not everyone agrees who can choose to start a war. Some countries are run by monarchies, and so the people have had no say in their leaders. If these leaders start a war, are they really any different from any other group of people? Also, in countries which are run by non-democratically-elected leaders (e.g. monarchies or dictators), if a group of people declare war on their leaders, do they have any less right to authority than those leaders?
- ◆ While many people agree on which reasons are acceptable for going to war, there may be some debate if others disagree.
- ◆ It is very hard to measure an intention. It is hard to know why people really wish to go to war, and so anyone who gives a good reason to go to war may be able to do so when they really have another motive.
- ◆ It is impossible to know in advance if a war will do more good than harm. Many people disagree with wars after they have happened and they know how many people have died in them.
- ◆ It can also be hard to know how likely you are to win. For instance, you may not know how many people will fight against you before you begin fighting. A large army might desert, or a country might keep producing more soldiers.
- ◆ It is very hard to say that all other methods have been tried before starting a war.

Task:

1. With your partner discuss the pause for thought questions

Pause for thought:

Are the criteria given for deciding if a war is just any good? Or are there too many problems, meaning it is impossible to tell if any war will be just before it is started, or even when it has finished?



Title: What is a holy war?

LO:

- To understand the features of a Holy War
- To consider whether religion is a cause of war and violence



A **holy war** is fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader.

Religion is sometimes seen as a cause of violence in the contemporary world.

Holy war and religion as a cause of violence

The idea of a holy war may cause conflict for many people. They may think that no activity that causes a large amount of people to die can have any religious engagement or justification.

In the Old Testament it refers to God helping Jews to win battles to settle in the Promise Land. There were also battles between Muslims and Christians in the 11th – 14th century, both sides believes that God was on there side. This was called the Crusades.

For Christians, a holy war must be the following:

- Authorised by a religious leader who has great authority
- Only be fought to defend the faith from attack

Holy war

- A holy war seems to be a contradiction – how can killing large numbers of people be holy?
- The Old Testament refers to God helping the Jews win battles to settle in the Promised Land.
- In the Crusades (11–14th century battles between Christians and Muslims) both sides believed God was on their side.
- For both Muslims and Christians a holy war must:
 - be authorised by a religious leader with great authority
 - only be fought to defend the faith from attack (e.g. the right to worship and practise the religion is being denied).
- Those who take part gain spiritual rewards (e.g. if they die in battle they will go straight to heaven/paradise).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcGzQ3ga5R8>

Religion as a cause of violence

Christians do not respond violently to attacks on their faith in the UK. This does not mean they approve of such attacks; they just believe that Christian teachings do not encourage a violent response

However, in the past there have been tensions in the UK between denominations in Christianity, especially between Protestants and Catholics. This was most recently evident in Northern Ireland during a period between 1968 and 1998 known as the 'troubles'. Although many consider this to have been a political conflicts rather than religious one, it led to discrimination and acts of violence against both Protestants and Catholics.

Christian beliefs about war and violence

Christian beliefs

- The words 'eye for eye, tooth for tooth' (Exodus 21:24) are sometimes used to justify retaliation, but this teaching was intended to reduce violence by limiting retaliation to the individual offenders rather than their whole tribe, many of whom were innocent.
- Most Christians accept Jesus' teaching that not only violence, but the anger that leads to violence, is wrong.
- Some Christians cite Jesus' advice to his disciples to buy a sword (Luke 22:36) as justification for violence, but most believe Jesus was warning his disciples of dangerous times ahead, not suggesting violence.
- Jesus' example at his arrest showed his non-violent stance:

“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said, “for all who draw the sword die by the sword.”

Matthew 26:52 [NIV]

Exam question practice

Explain two conditions for a Holy war
[4mark]

Point/ Development

Some Christians believe.... because.....

Point /Development

Other Christians believe.... because.....

Task: Complete the quote analysis table below. What does the quote teach about going to war? Is it acceptable or not? Explain your answer.

Quote	Analysis
"Blessed are the peacemakers" (Bible)	
"Those who live by the sword will die by the sword" (Bible)	

Task: How can these quotes cause problems for religious believers? Explain your answer.

Read the quotations below and then answer the following questions.

A **“**But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot...**”**
Exodus 21:23–24

1. Why do some people think this quotation from the Old Testament justifies fighting in retaliation?

2. When this quotation was first written, did it support or oppose the use of excessive violence? Explain your answer.

B **“**You have heard that it was said ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth’. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.**”**
Matthew 5:38–39

1. Jesus spoke the words above to his followers. What do you think he was telling his followers about the ‘eye for eye’ quotation?

2. Jesus gave many teachings about violence. Give another one of his teachings about violence and explain what it means.

TIP

Do you remember that one of Jesus’ most famous teachings is about how to treat your neighbour? This teaching could be linked to violence.

Task:

1. Explain the features of a holy war
2. Why do you think many Christians do not agree with the idea of a holy war? (think of religious teachings and the sanctity of life)
3. How far do you think Christians should go to defend their faith?
4. Do you think it is acceptable for people to offend Christians? Explain your answer

Exam question practice

'There is no place for a holy war in contemporary Britain' 12 marker
Evaluate this statement

Agree

Disagree

Task

Complete the 12 marker

<p>Paragraph 1</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p>Who would AGREE with the statement? would agree/support ... (use the language of the statement) because ... For example ... Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes</p> <p>Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason These arguments are convincing/persuasive/logical/strong ... or However, these arguments are unconvincing/not persuasive/illogical/weak This is because ...</p> <p><i>This argument might appear convincing at first because ... however, ...</i></p>
<p>Paragraph 2</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p>Who would AGREE with the statement? In addition/a second reason to agree is ... For example ... Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes</p> <p>Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason These arguments are convincing/persuasive/logical/strong ... or However, these arguments are unconvincing/not persuasive/illogical/weak This is because ...</p> <p><i>This argument might appear convincing at first because ... however, ...</i></p>
<p>Paragraph 3</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p>Who would DISAGREE with the statement? In contrast/alternatively/however, would disagree because ... For example ... Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes</p> <p>Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason These arguments are convincing/persuasive/logical/strong ... or However, these arguments are unconvincing/not persuasive/illogical/weak This is because ...</p> <p><i>This argument might appear convincing because ... however, ...</i></p>
<p>Paragraph 4</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Judgement Evaluate the arguments</p>	<p>Who would DISAGREE with the statement? A second reason to disagree might be ... For example ... Evidence/religious beliefs/quotes</p> <p>Make a JUDGEMENT and give a reason These arguments are convincing/persuasive/logical/strong ... or However, these arguments are unconvincing/not persuasive/illogical/weak This is because ...</p> <p><i>This argument might appear convincing because ... however, ...</i></p>
<p>Paragraph 5</p> <p>Conclusion</p>	<p>CONCLUSION – Make a final judgement on whether the statement is true or not In conclusion, having evaluated the arguments, the most convincing ... because ...</p> <p>Some people such as might disagree because ... however, this argument is not likely/convincing because ...</p>

Title: What is pacifism?

LO:

1. To consider pacifism as an alternative to conflict
2. To understand why some Christians are pacifist

Starter: Watch the trailer– and reflect on what you think pacifism is?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2-1hz1juBlm>

Homework: 'ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE PACIFIST' 12 marker – write and plan the exam question

RECAP - Christian beliefs about war

Human life is in God's hands and only God should be able to take it.

'Love your neighbour and love your enemy, pray for those who persecute you'

Follow Jesus' example and show love, compassion and kindness to others.

Do not kill

Disciples of Jesus should be peacemakers not war makers: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God' (Matthew 5:9)

'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.'
John 13:34

Pacifism is the belief that **ALL** war and **violence** is wrong.

Pacifism is an interesting concept; many people are pacifists and oppose violence, believing that people are mentally and physically hurt by violence and that this is not acceptable. They may believe that violence does not achieve anything or that what it achieves is not worth the cost. They may feel that violence creates a circle of violence; those who have experienced violence may become violent to others. Some people are pacifists partly because of a belief in **sanctity of life** – that life is sacred because it has been given by God, and so should not be destroyed.

There are two types of pacifism:

- ◆ **Absolute pacifism** is the belief that violence is always wrong, no matter what, and that no violent acts should ever be carried out, including in self-defence, or to help others.
- ◆ **Conditional pacifism** is the belief that violence is wrong in principle, but there may be times in which it is acceptable, for example, as a lesser evil to bring peace or defend the innocent.
- ◆ **Note:** there is a fine line between conditional pacifists who believe that violence is wrong but sometimes see it as *less* bad than a terrible alternative and those who dislike violence, but feel that it is *not* bad when they see it as the best course of action.

Pacifists feel that it is better to reject violence. Absolute pacifists make a distinction and say that it is always worse to *actively* do something bad, than to be *passive* (accept other things happening without acting), where this has bad consequences.

However, others may not be convinced of this. Some people believe that **pacifists** are cowardly; they are not prepared to get hurt fighting for what is 'right'. They might also argue that pacifism can be more damaging than some violence – for example, fewer people might be hurt if a country, or group of people, defends itself violently, than if they do not defend themselves, and are all killed.

Conditional pacifism may be able to rescue itself from this criticism, as it reluctantly accepts violence in extreme circumstances.



Many see non-violence as better than violence; this is an example of non-violent protest

Task:

1. What is pacifism?
2. Do you agree with it? Explain your answer
3. Is being involved in a non-combat role a reasonable alternative to fighting?
4. Pacifists believe that peace and justice should be brought about through non-violent means. Explain how you think peace and justice could be brought about through non-violent means.

Pacifists believe that war is a category of violence that is never necessary, so they refuse to fight or engage with violence

Pacifists believe that conflicts should be settled in a peaceful way, rather than through wars and violence. They believe that it is better to prevent wars from happening and this can be done by promoting peace and justice. Prayer and meditation can also be used to help people to become at peace with themselves and others.

Christian pacifists:

Believe in '**TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK**'

- They are willing to die, but not to kill for their beliefs
- They refuse to be in combat roles
- But may be prepared to be ambulance drivers or nurses

Task: Can you think of any other reasons why religious believers would not fight?

- Killing humans conflicts with their sacred writings
- The **SANCTITY OF LIFE**
- War wastes precious lives & damages the environment
- It causes suffering, hatred & greed
- In the end, negotiation is needed, **so why not do it in the first place?**

<u>For pacifism</u>	<u>Against pacifism</u>
• non violent means are sometimes more effective	• lesser of the two evils
• violence is costly	• responsibility to protect the unjustly attacked
• innocent victims	• last resort
	• self -defense

Religious Responses

Important! You need to be able to contrast beliefs about pacifism from Christianity and at least one more religious tradition.



Christianity

Some groups of Christians such as the Quakers, and other individual Christians, are **pacifists**. The teachings of the Quakers teach absolute pacifism. Due to Christian teachings (covered above) about promoting **peace**, **forgiving** those who do wrong, and not **retaliating** with **violence**, they believe that violence and war are wrong, and do not serve God. Jesus stopping his disciples defending him with violence provides particular biblical evidence that God opposes violence, even for religious goals or defence.

'... but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.' (Luke 22:48-51 NRSV)



Other Christians are not pacifists. They believe that violence and war can be justified in some cases, such as to defend and protect people. They may feel that the Golden Rule sometimes justifies violence – if you would wish to be defended (with violence) from violence, then it is acceptable to do this to help others.

'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you...'
(Matthew 7:12 NRSV, the Golden Rule)



Task:

- Read the different quotes related to pacifism
 - Answer the questions below in full sentences:
1. Name a Christian denomination that remains pacifist no matter what the circumstances are. What do they say?
 2. Name a famous Catholic who opposed all violence. What does she say?
 3. Explain why Martin Luther King opposed violence.
 4. Explain the Catholic position on pacifism.

Pacifism in Christianity

"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatever."

The Quaker Peace Testimony

"Wars as a method of settling international disputes is incompatible with the teaching and example of Jesus"

The Church of England Council

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God"

Matthew 5:9

"As for ourselves, yes, we must be meek, bear injustice, malice, rash judgment. We must turn the other cheek, give up our cloak, and go a second mile."

Dorothy Day
(Catholic Activist)

"You have heard it said 'Love your friends, hate your enemies' but now I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew 5:43-44

"Because of the evils and injustices that all war brings with it, we must do everything reasonably possible to avoid it."

Catechism

"Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars... Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Martin Luther King

Exam question practice

Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the issue of pacifism. [5marks]

Point/ Development

Some Christians believe.... because.....

Point /Development

Other Christians believe.... because.....

Quote:

This is supported by....

Summary for Religion, Violence, Terrorism and War

Different people have different opinions on **violence**, **terrorism** and war:

For

- ♦ Some believe that **violence** and war can be **just** and justified. For example, the Old Testament of the Bible contains examples of God sending the Jewish people to war, so some Christians believe there are reasons for going to war today.
- ♦ Religious and non-religious people may believe that it is **just** to fight against those who would hurt others.
- ♦ Some feel it is acceptable to **protest** violently against concepts and practices they disagree with. (Others, such as Martin Luther King and Gandhi, feel that peaceful protest is the only acceptable kind.)
- ♦ Some people resort to **terrorism**.
- ♦ Greed, **self-defence** and **retaliation** are all reasons for war and **violence**.
- ♦ Some people believe that there are criteria which must be fulfilled for there to be a **just war**.
- ♦ Some religious believers believe that they should pursue **holy war** – fighting for God or religion to earn a spiritual reward.

Against

- ♦ Some people believe that **peace** is very important. For example, Christians may want to work for peace because Jesus said that peacemakers were blessed, and encouraged people not to be violent, or retaliate against attackers.
- ♦ Religious people often have a particular focus on **forgiveness**, and religious and non-religious people may work to **reconcile** people to prevent future **violence**.
- ♦ Many people disagree with **violence**, including **violent protest**, **terrorism**, and war (they may believe it is never **just**).
- ♦ Many people completely disapprove of **violence**, and are **pacifists**.



A soldier with a peace symbol on his hand. War and peace are inextricably linked.

Title: Religion and peace-making in the 21st century**LO:** To know about the work of a Christian organisation and a Christian peacemaker**Recap sources of religious belief and teaching****A** Each quotation below has a box in the top left-hand corner.

- Tick this box if you think the quotation supports pacifism and peacemaking.
- Put a question mark in the box if you think the quotation is ambiguous (it could be used to either support or oppose pacifism and peacemaking).
- Put a cross in the box if you do not think the quotation supports pacifism and peacemaking.

“But if there is a serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth....”

Exodus 21:23–24

“But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgement.”

Matthew 5:22

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

“... Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.”

John 2:13–15

Add a quote that supports pacifism and peacemaking.

Add a quote that supports pacifism and peacemaking.



Anglican Pacifist Fellowship
The Anglican Communion's Movement for Peace

Who are we?

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship is a Christian pacifist group linked to the Anglican Church. They have around 1400 members in over 40 countries, but most of them are in the UK. They believe that peace and justice should be brought about through non-violent means.

As a Christian group they have three main pacifist beliefs:

1. that Jesus' teaching is incompatible with the waging of war.
2. that a Christian church should never support or justify war.
3. that Christian witness should include opposing the waging or justifying of war.

Central to Jesus' teaching is the message of love, for God, our neighbour and even our enemies. We are to do good to those who hate us, and not respond to violence with violence.

The urgency of this message is all the greater in today's world, with its weapons of mass destruction, its flourishing arms trade, and its intractable conflicts. Violent means fail to bring lasting solutions, and humanity itself is increasingly at risk of extinction.

“We believe that as Christians we are called to follow the way of Jesus in loving our enemies and becoming peacemakers.”

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

Task:

1. What is the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship?
2. What are their main beliefs?
3. Explain what has influenced the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship?



Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

The Anglican Communion's Movement for Peace

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

- Works to overcome the inequality and injustice that lead to war within and between nations.
- Sponsors the Week of Prayer for World Peace, contributes to peace-related events and religious services and raises awareness of the issue of pacifism.

“We believe that as Christians we are called to follow the way of Jesus in loving our enemies and becoming peacemakers.”

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

What do we do:

1. The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship is part of a worldwide movement for peace. Standing in solidarity with other peace organisations, we work with our partnership organisations on events and campaigning. We provide a focus for Anglicans to engage with peace-building.
2. Our quarterly magazine, offers news and articles about peace and peacemaking.
3. On social media we keep you updated on events, news and campaigns.
4. We provide training and resources in Gospel nonviolence and peacemaking.
5. APF also offers [grants to help peacemaking projects](#) across the globe.

Task:

1. What do the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship do?

A modern peacemaker

In 1976, Mairead Corrigan, a Catholic from Northern Ireland, together with Betty Williams and Ciaran McKeown, became peacemakers when they formed the 'Peace People' organization.

They organized peace marches throughout the UK that gave people the opportunity to show they wanted peace rather than violence and killings that were a tragic feature of Northern Ireland at that time. Mairead and Betty were awarded the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for their peacemaking activities.

After the Northern Ireland troubles were largely resolved and peace returned to the country. Mairead Corrigan became a tireless worker for world peace and human rights.



Task:

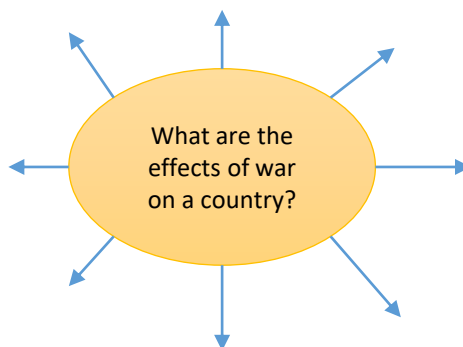
1. What did Mairead Corrigan do to create peace?
2. How might Christians be influenced by the work of Mairead Corrigan?

LO:

1. To understand what can be done to help victims of war
2. To understand the work of a present-day Christian organisation that helps victims of war

Task:

1. Complete the spider diagram - how many effects can you and your partner find



The main casualties of war include:

- servicemen and women who lose their lives or are injured
- civilians who lose their lives or are injured
- civilians who have their families, homes and way of life damaged or destroyed
- a country's infrastructure, eg roads and bridges which are destroyed
- refugees who have to flee their country of birth to find safety

A refugee is a person who is forced to flee from his or her country because of intolerable living conditions. These are often the result of persecution, war or other violence. Some are forced to flee with no warning and many have experienced significant trauma, perhaps witnessing the death of family members or the destruction of their home. Refugees are protected by international humanitarian law when they are in a state involved in an armed conflict. They must not be returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk.

During the past 60 years the main victims of war have been civilians. Civilians are often caught in the crossfire or killed in bombings simply by being in the wrong place at the wrong time. With infrastructure destroyed, many people die through illness due to lack of clean water or food. Others become traumatised because of the atrocities they have witnessed and may suffer from long term mental illness. Civilians are protected during armed conflict by international humanitarian law. They should be shielded from all forms of violence and degrading treatment, including murder and torture.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG8qrqCDOmU>

Watch the following video and complete the diamond 9.

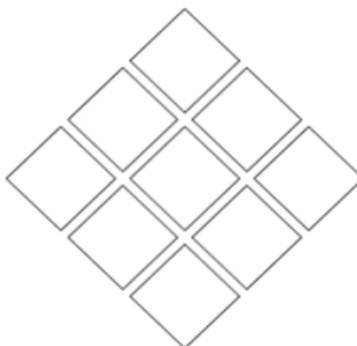
Consequences of war

Task: Complete the diamond 9 on the consequences of war. What do you think is the worst consequence of war?

Explain why you have chosen them in this order.

I think _____ is the worst consequence of war because...

Diamond 9



- 1) Injuries
- 2) Death
- 3) Refugees
- 4) Destruction of buildings and land
- 5) Famine and disease
- 6) Contamination of land and water
- 7) Victory or Defeat
- 8) Captivity – being caught or captured
- 9) Cost of war is expensive

Task: Which is the worst consequence of war and why?

Essential information:

- ☐ Victims of war include injured members of the armed forces, the families of those who died or were injured in war, civilians left in a war zone where everything has been destroyed and refugees from war-torn countries.
- ☐ Christians believe they should show love of neighbour by helping victims through Christian charities such as Caritas and Christian Aid.

Victims of war may need:

psychological support

money to live on if the main wage earner dies

a safe place to live

medical help for injuries

access to food and clean water

a means of earning a living

Task:

1. Which support do you think is the most important? Why?
2. Do you think there is anything else missing from the list?

Providing help to victims of war

Casualties are an avoidable part of war. In addition to the harm that is caused to those directly involved in the fighting, harm is also caused to their families and friends. For example, if the main wage earner dies in a war, their family may struggle financially without them. If a place of work is destroyed in a war, nobody can earn a wage there. If crops are destroyed or water supplied polluted, starvation could follow for those who live in the surrounding area.

In the UK if a member of the military is killed or injured, financial systems are in place to look after those left behind. Injured military personnel receive free healthcare, with some specialized care being provided by charities such as Help for Heroes. However, injury or death still has devastating effects on friends and families and can cause long-term emotional wounds.

There are many organizations that offer help and care for victims of war, where they live and whichever side of the conflict they fought on. These organizations believe that the life and welfare of human beings is all that matters.

Many Christians support organizations because a basic and important Christian belief is to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (Mark 12:31). Jesus explained this to his followers by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). The meaning he was conveying is that everybody is everybody else's neighbor, regardless of race, age, gender, religion or political beliefs.

Task:

1. Explain the possible effects war can have on a country that is involved and the people who live there
2. What support do you think volunteer groups can offer victims of war?

Challenge: 'The point of war is to kill the enemy, not help them to survive' Write 2 arguments for and against this statement.

Christian reasons for helping

- Jesus taught 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:31)
- Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) taught that everyone is everybody else's neighbour, regardless of race, age, gender, religion or political beliefs.

Christian organisations that help

- **Caritas**, a Catholic charity that serves the poor and promotes charity and justice worldwide, provided food, shelter, translators and legal services to Syrian refugees who escaped to Greece in 2015.
- **Christian Aid** works to end poverty and promotes peace, justice and human rights so that war is prevented. It raises money to support local organisations that help refugees from places such as Gaza, Afghanistan and Syria.

Task:

1. In your own words explain why Christians try and help victims of war



They are the largest Christian organizations that helps victims of war , which was set up in 1940. They aim to bring aid to end poverty, whatever the cause or circumstance.

War and conflict often causes poverty and so Christian aid's work with victims of war, including refugees, is an important part of what they do. They operate the slogan **'we believe in life before death'**

As a Christian organisation, they believe everyone is created in the image of God and deserves respect and care, and the opportunity to live a life of peace, dignity and worth.

Christian Aid are based in countries affected by disasters so they can be there before, during and after an emergency to save lives and support people long term. Through their work with local organisations in these countries, they can talk directly to the people affected to provide the most useful emergency response.

Their main fundraising activity is Christian Aid Week – this occurs in may each year. Special envelopes are distributed to homes in the UK and then collected with a donation inside. Christian Aid also receive regular or one-off donations from the public.

Task:

1. Explain how Christian Aid helps victims of war
2. Do you think organizations like the 2 above should help anyone who needs it or should they only help Christians? Explain your answer

Caritas International is an organisation inspired by Catholic faith. Caritas is the helping hand of the Church – reaching out to the poor, vulnerable and excluded, regardless of race or religion, to build a world based on justice and fraternal love. They responds to emergencies across the globe, leads peacebuilding efforts in violence-ridden areas and helps local organisations prepare for potential disasters of all kinds.

They are inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the Church, providing a practical response to those suffering through conflict by saving lives and relieving suffering.

Example: 2015 – provided food and shelter for refugees fleeing war in Syria. As well as food and shelter Caritas provided translators and legal services for the refugees, so they would know their rights and options in order to make informed decisions about their futures.

TIP

Be careful to choose a religious organisation that helps victims of war, rather than secular charities like Help for Heroes or the Red Cross which do good work but which are not required for your examination. You will only need to know about one organisation.

Task: How many marks would you give the answer out of 5? What is good about this answer? How would you improve it?

Next: write your answer to the question below in your book

Explain **two** religious beliefs about helping victims of war.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

● Explain one belief.	One Christian belief about helping victims of war is that Christians should treat everyone as if they were a neighbour to them, as Jesus commanded.
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	Victims of war may be suffering because they have lost everything including people they love, so even if Christians do not know them, they should not ignore their suffering but offer to help them in whatever way they can.
● Explain a second belief.	Muslims believe that they should help those in need, particularly those injured in war, out of compassion for others.
● Develop your explanation with more detail/an example.	Giving to those in need is one of the five pillars of Islam.
● Add a reference to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching. If you prefer, you can add this reference to your first belief instead.	They follow the teaching in the Qur'an that says, 'Whoever saved a life, it would be as if they saved the life of all mankind.'

Task:

1. Complete the grid below in your book for both Christian Aid and International Caritas

Name of Christian organisation:	
Three things the organisation does to support victims of war:	1
	2
	3
A quotation from a source of religions belief and teaching that supports their aims	

Exam skills task/homework task

Evaluating arguments about war and violence. Decide whether you think the following arguments about war and violence are strong or weak and explain why.

Argument	Is this a strong or weak argument? Why?
Jesus never fought in a war so Christians should not fight in wars today	
Jesus taught ‘but I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right check, turn to them the other check also’ (Matthew 5:39). This means Christians should not fight even in self-defence	
The concept of holy war means that Christians today should be allowed to use violence to defend their faith	

1. Which of the following most accurately means a violent protest? [1 mark]

A) Demonstration B) Riot C) Strike D) March
2. Give two reasons for war. [2 marks]
3. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about whether countries should possess weapons of mass destruction. In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions. [4 marks]
4. Explain two reasons why Christians should help victims of war. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. [5 marks]
5. 'The just war theory is the best religious response to whether it is right to fight.'
 Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:
 - Should give detailed arguments in support of this statement
 - Should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
 - Should refer to religious arguments
 - May refer to non-religious arguments
 - Should reach a justified conclusion [12 marks]



Did you complete everything? Do you know everything? Have you revised everything?

The learning audit – the lesson check list

1. Go through the list which shows the titles of all the lessons we have done on this topic
2. Go through your exercise book and tick to say whether you were here for this lesson and the date the lesson took place.
3. Put a cross if you were not in the lesson – this will help us understand any gaps in your learning

<u>Title of lesson</u>	<u>Date of lesson</u>	<u>Tick/cross</u>
Introduction to religion, peace and conflict		
Why are forgiveness and reconciliation important?		
What are violent protests?		
What is terrorism?		
Why do people go to war?		
What is a nuclear war?		
The Just War Theory		
What is a holy war?		
What is pacifism?		
Religion and peace-making in the 21 st century		
Religious response to victims of war		

Task: Go through this list of questions and RAG rate yourself – Red (no clue) / Amber (some clue) / Green (Got this):

<u>Question:</u>	<u>RAG</u>
What does pacifism mean?	
What do Quakers believe about pacifism?	
What does forgiveness mean?	
What does weapons of mass destruction mean?	
What are the different criteria for a Just War?	
What is meant by the term reconciliation?	
What does the term 'sin' mean in Christianity?	
What does a holy war mean?	
Can you identify three reasons people go to war?	
What is the 'golden rule' in Christianity and who taught it?	
Can you define what justice means?	
Can you explain which Christian charities help those suffering from war?	
Can you explain why many people think that weapons of mass destruction should not be used?	
Can you give examples of how Christian Aid supports victims of war?	
Can you identify and explain the reasons some people think weapons of mass destruction should be used?	
Can you identify three Christian responses to the use of violence	
What are two quotes that teach about forgiveness?	
Can you explain what violent protests are?	
Can you explain why greed is a reason for going to war?	
Can you explain how retaliation can be given as a reason for war?	
Can you identify a quote used to support greed as a reason for war?	
Can you identify one war you can use to apply the Just War Theory to?	
Can you explain why some Christians	
Can you explain why some Christians	
Can you identify and explain the quote that Jesus	
Can you explain the importance of forgiveness in Christianity with supporting quotes and teachings?	
Can you explain why self- defence is used as a reason for war?	
Can you explain what APF stands?	
Can you identify three arguments to support the importance of peace-making?	
Can you identify three arguments against using weapons of mass destruction?	
Can you fully explain why some Christians would support the Just War Theory criteria?	
Can you fully explain why some Christians would be against violence?	