

GCSE Religious Studies

Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

E- Revision Booklet



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PARKWOOD
E-ACT ACADEMY

Justice

This means fairness; making right a fair situation which has been unjust.



Why the big deal?

Religion is meant to bring justice to the world, and to fight injustice where it is seen.

Many wars are about, or include the abuse of justice, so many religious people feel duty-bound to fight against that.



Christians believe it is important that when a crime is committed there is justice, but this **means it needs to be fair.**



Buddhism

Buddhists believe in prevention and diffusing conflict (a pacifist approach). However, out of compassion, right speech and right action injustice must be challenged. It is important for justice to be found through negotiation. This is significant because war does not always bring peace and the threats of nuclear war/terrorism in the modern world environment are unacceptable for Buddhists. Justice is to understand the issues, respond with compassion and to know that violence only breeds a cycle of **retaliation**. Buddhists will not fight through greed, hatred or ignorance but for justice, Buddhists will act.



Christianity

Christians will fight for justice under the conditions of the **just war theory**, which is that war should be fought with justice too; the cause, weapons used, treatment of captured soldiers, should all be just. Whilst God desires peace, He also desires that humans should live in justice and freedom. However, some Christians believe that the conditions gained from war are never better than the injustice that started it. War does go against Jesus' teachings, but is necessary for the greater good.



Hinduism

Holy books teach that it is necessary to be able to morally justify war in order to preserve the dharma. Arjuna, as a kshatriya, is reminded of his duty to uphold a righteous cause and that in fact there is nothing better than a righteous war. If the cause is just Hindus will take up arms. Self-defence is justifiable; hence India has **nuclear weapons** to protect from aggressors. Some Hindus have turned to terrorism to protect Hindu beliefs. The Arthashastra scriptures state that governments must act with a suitable moral approach, which implies a just one.

Justice



Islam

Muslims believe in Jihad, 'the striving for justice', which can mean armed conflict to protect the common good. Radical Jihad is not acceptable and neither is terrorism. Islam condemns violence and indiscriminate killing, so wars have to be carried out in the right way and there are set rules for warfare. People have the right to freedom and to defend that freedom in the right way.



Judaism

Justice is a key issue in Judaism, for example, tzedekah is all about justice, even though people often think about it as charity. War in self-defence is justifiable where the Jewish nation is under attack, as this is about bringing justice. However, it must be carried out in a just way throughout. Even nuclear weapons are acceptable because they are there as self-protection rather than as an aggressive act.



Sikhism

Sikhs will fight for justice. Dharam yudh (a righteous war) is the idea that minimum force should be used; only enough to achieve an objective. Nuclear war and terrorism are never right as they indiscriminately take life, which is the highest expression of the Supreme Self, God. However, some Sikhs have used terrorist tactics claiming the actions as 'rightful force' against oppression.

This means fairness; making right a fair situation which has been unjust.

Christian Teachings on Forgiveness



- **Jesus died** on the cross **to bring forgiveness** and reconciliation.
- When Peter asked if he should forgive his brother up to seven times, Jesus told him that he should **forgive 7x7 times**.
- Jesus said **if people do not forgive** those who have sinned against them, **God will not forgive their sins**.
- The **Lord's prayer** states that Christians should **forgive others**.

Christianity is based on the concept of forgiveness, agape and reconciliation.

Christianity teaches that Christians should be committed to forgiveness and reconciliation when there are conflicts between family and friends.

Christians believe that the power of **forgiveness** and love (agape) can lead to reconciliation and the **ending of conflict**.

Violent Protest



Islam

Islam means peace and Muslims should act in a peaceful manner, but violence may be used in self-defence. Muslims have a duty to protest about anything unfair and in the UK we have seen protests over wars and issues in the Middle East, what is perceived as Islamophobia, terrorism and racism issues. Some have become violent in nature. For example, in 2015 in Palestine, Muslims threw missiles at the Israeli police/army in protest over the shooting dead of a 13-year-old boy.

Christianity

Christianity again teaches non-violence, as Jesus said 'Blessed are the peacemakers' and told his followers to turn the other cheek in the face of violence. Christians are told to love their enemies and love each other. However, God gave humans free will and choice and sometimes non-violent protest is ignored, so violence may be used to force change for the common good.

WAR: Armed conflict between two or more sides.



For war



- In the **Old Testament** it states on a few occasions that **God encouraged people to go to war** to defend themselves: this suggests that war is justified if it is to defend yourself. “**You shall destroy them!**”
- On one occasion **Jesus lost his temper** at the Temple and overturned a table: this shows that **sometimes violence is needed.**

Against War

- Jesus, was very clear in his teachings about **LOVE (agape) and PEACE**
- Jesus taught that people who followed peace would be **rewarded in Heaven** – “**blessed are the peacemakers**”
- **Do not kill** is one of the **10 commandments**



Old Testament Teachings supporting War

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



“ **There is a time for killing**, and a time for healing, a time for tearing down and a time for building up, a time for tearing and a time for mending, a time for love and the time for hate, **a time for war, and a time for peace.**”

Ecclesiastes 3:2-8

Reasons for war

Land – When groups of people want to be in charge of/own particular pieces of land.

Power- People want to rule and be in charge of the country/population.

Money – People want to get rich from the resources available e.g. gold mines, oil fields etc.

Religion – People may want to convert others to their religion or claim a certain piece of land in the name of their religion.

Civil wars – wars between people living **within** the same country. People fight for who has control or power of a particular country.

Examples of War

World War 1 and 2

The Vietnam War

The American civil war

The Syrian civil war

The Iraq war

The Boer War

The Crimean war

Greed

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

Greed comes from selfishness, which are both characteristics not approved of by religions. Considering the numbers of soldiers and casualties in war, greed could never be seen as a justifiable reason for it.

Self-defence

Religious holy books and texts describe wars, the Old Testament. The Qur'an, the Bhagavad Gita, the Guru Granth Sahib all suggest that war may be necessary in 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 against attack. The problem comes when the response is disproportionately large, and self-defence turns into aggression for its own gain.

Retaliation

At times, a country will be attacked in a way which provokes retaliation. For example, the First World War began as retaliation against a political assassination. The problem with retaliation is that it is often a spontaneous reaction which leads to the escalation of a situation, and hence war. Religions would all say that peaceful negotiation and discussions to resolve issues are better than simple retaliation because they diffuse rather than exacerbate issues.

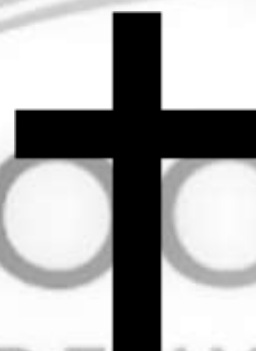
Christian views towards war and peace

The teachings of Christianity are peaceful. Jesus taught a message of love and Christianity has a strong pacifist tradition.

Christians do not actively **want** war. Peace will always be the preferred option. However Christians can and do accept war if it is **just**.

- **Put away your sword. Those who live by the sword die by the sword. – Jesus (Matthew 26:52)**
- **Blessed are the peacemakers. – Jesus (Sermon on the Mount)**
- **Love your enemies, and pray for them. – Jesus (Sermon on the Mount)**
- **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. – Jesus (John 14:27)**
- **Everyone must commit themselves to peace – Pope John Paul II**

All the earliest Christians were pacifists and most Christians today feel this way. The Quakers are a good example of this.



Just War

St Paul said Christians should **obey their rulers**, who have been given power by God. When those rulers demanded Christians be soldiers, a compromise had to be found.

St Augustine was the first to try to write a set of rules regarding this, and eventually the 'Just War' rules were written in detail by St Thomas Aquinas.

The message is clear: ***sometimes if you do not fight, you allow a greater evil to happen than a war would have caused, so you have to fight.***

St Thomas Aquinas, a 13th century monk and philosopher, drew up the theory of a just war **to help Christians know whether war was the right action to take.**



If it is the right action to take then, there must be a just cause for the war, it may not be aggression towards an enemy.

Christian Just War Theory



Must be started by a ruling authority

War must be started and controlled by a proper authority such as a government.

Must be fought to promote good over evil. The war must have a clear aim to promote good over evil for example to protect people.

Must have peace as it's goal.

There must be a good outcome and peace restored.

Must be the final resort after all other methods have been tried. War must be a last resort, every effort must have been made to resolve conflict peacefully.

Must be fought with a reasonable chance of winning. There must be a reasonable chance of success, it would be wrong to risk lives with no chance of success.

Must make every effort to avoid civilian deaths.

The force used must be no more than is necessary to win, and civilians or those not a threat (i.e. children) must not be targeted.

Islam, war and peace

One meaning of the word Islam is peace. Allah has 99 names known to Muslims. One of them is *As-salaam*, which means 'the source of peace'. It is said that if all people followed the Muslim way of life, there should only be peace. Muslims should work to keep the peace; **war should only occur when all peaceful means have been exhausted.** Only then do Muslims have a duty to fight in the defence of Allah and the weak and oppressed. Islam teaches:

- Greet others *salaam alaikum*, which means 'peace be upon you'.
- Greater jihad is every Muslim's personal struggle to follow Allah, the lesser jihad is holy war in defence of Islam.
- To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight. (Qur'an)
- Those who die in the name of Allah will be rewarded with paradise. (Qur'an)
- Hate your enemy mildly; for he may become your friend one day. (Hadith)

When Muhammad was alive, the Muslim community **had to defend themselves** by fighting. If they had not, they would all have been killed. Allah ordered Muslims to fight back when attacked, so **holy war became a duty for Muslims.** The Muslim religion realises that sometimes to defend people's rights or to change a terrible situation, we have to fight.

Holy War

Within Christian history there was once a strong concept of holy war. In the Old Testament there are many examples of wars fought in the name of God. The soldiers believed God was on their side and indeed had influence over the outcomes of battles. For example, Joshua's army followed God's commands to blow trumpets and bring down the walls of Jericho. The Crusades (1095–1291) were fought to capture control of the Holy Land. The Christian soldiers believed they were fighting for a sacred and noble cause. They believed God was with them and the Muslim Turks they were fighting against were the pagan enemies of God.

“and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and **you have defeated** them, then **you must destroy them totally**. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.”

– **Deuteronomy 7:2**

Jihad



'Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits... if they cease let there be no hostility.'

Qur'an

Do not go over the top

If they stop
being violent

fighting

Lesser Jihad

Lesser jihad means holy war. Remember the Qur'an uses the word jihad to describe a personal struggle against committing sin. Holy war is the **lesser** meaning of the term.

For Muslims a holy war is a **just war**. There are rules for how a Muslim should fight a war. These are written in the Qur'an.

How is the war fought?

- It may only begin when the enemy attacks and it ends when the enemy shows they want peace.
- Civilians must not be harmed, attacked or mistreated.
- Crops should be left alone. Holy buildings especially should not be damaged.
- Prisoners of war should be treated well. Money collected for *zakat* can be used to pay for food for them.

How does the war end?

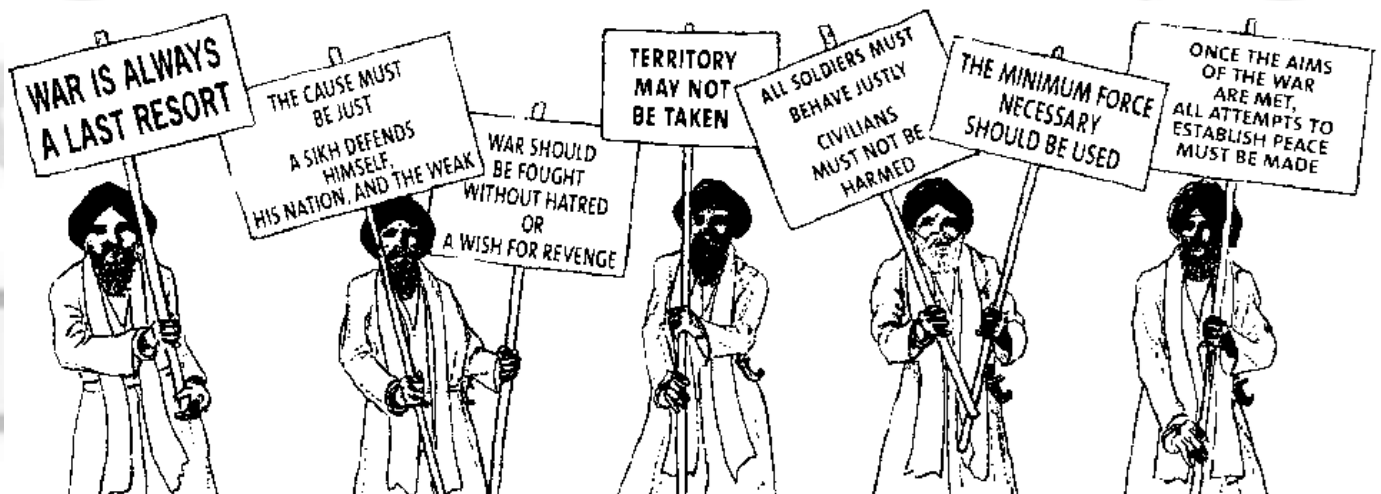
- When people regain their rights.
- When the enemy calls for peace.

Sikh Views: The Dharam Yudh



The Khanda is the Sikh symbol and has weapons within it all representing different aspects of fighting for what is right. Sikhism allows fighting in a **just war**.

When Guru Gobind Singh formed the Khalsa it was his intention to create an army of warrior saints committed to the cause of justice. Accepting the need for Sikhs to be prepared to fight, he outlined the teachings of a just war. In Sikhism this is called **dharam yudh**, which means in defence of justice.



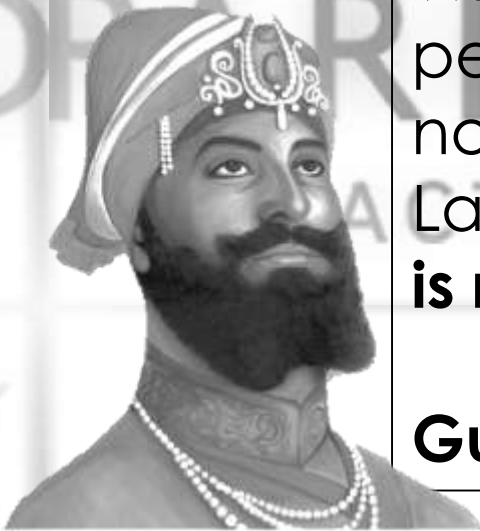
Dharam Yudh



- The war must be the last resort - all other ways of resolving the conflict must be tried first.
- The motive must not be revenge or enmity.
- The army must not include mercenaries.
- The army must be disciplined.
- Only the minimum force needed for success should be used.
- Civilians must not be harmed
- there must be no looting, territory must not be annexed, property taken must be returned



Sikh Teaching on violence

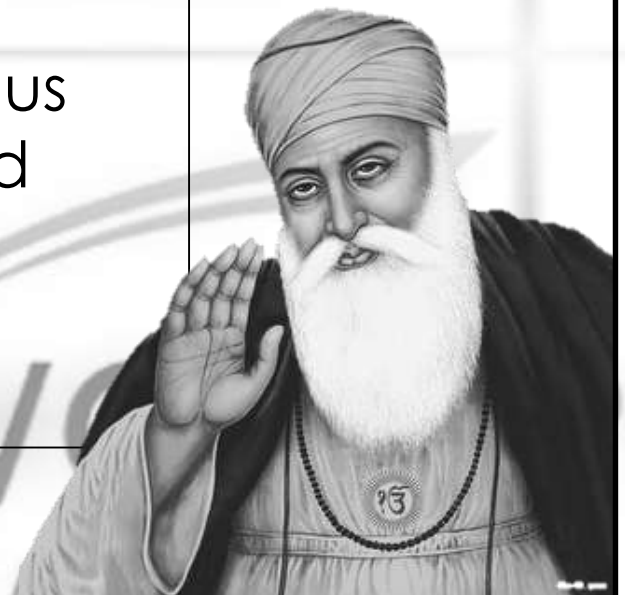


When all efforts to restore peace prove useless and no words avail,
Lawful is the flash of steel. **It is right to draw the sword.**

Guru Gobind Singh

No one is my enemy
No one is a foreigner
With all I am at peace
God within us renders us
Incapable of hate and
prejudice.

Guru Nanak



Support for victims of war



Helping the victims of war

There are many organisations which try to help the victims of war, both when war is happening and after it. Part of that is to try to bring about peace. It is part of all religions to help those in trouble and defend those who cannot defend themselves, so it is natural that religions will try to help the victims of war. To do so fits with the basic teaching of the Golden Rule 'Treat others as you would be done by' which every religion follows.

Christian Peacemaker Teams (www.cpt.org) – was founded in 1984 by three historic peace Churches, Mennonite, Church of the Brethren and Quaker, though now has support and membership from a wider range of Christian denominations. They send small teams to work on peace-making in conflict zones (third-party non-violent intervention) trying to end conflict between sides by peaceful means, and bring aid and support to the victims of war.



The Buddhist Peace Fellowship

(www.buddhistpeacefellowship.org) – was founded in 1978, and works by applying Buddhist principles to issues in the world, and Buddhist teachings to resolve them. It speaks publically to raise awareness of issues, tries to strengthen leadership in the areas where there are issues, and act with other groups to make change happen. This supports victims of war, by helping bring peace back to an area. They also do relief work for victims of war.



Khalsa Aid (www.khalsaaid.org) – was set up in 1999 as an international organisation. Its work is based on the Sikh principles of selfless service (sewa) and universal love. It has provided relief assistance to victims of war, funded through donations from Sikhs all over the world, as well as other disaster and relief work.



Weapons of Mass destruction

WMD are a phenomenon of **modern warfare**. They are capable of killing and maiming large numbers of people. They can also cause **massive levels of destruction** to both the natural landscape and human-made structures, such as cities. It is almost impossible to use such weapons solely to target military operations. They are **controlled from far away**, either in the form of missiles or as bombs dropped from planes. This means that whoever releases the weapon does not experience or see the weapon's effect directly.



There are several types of WMD weapons:

1 Nuclear weapons – also known as atomic bombs; they cause immediate destruction of all life and structures within their range. The radioactive 'fallout' has long-term effects.

2 Biological warfare – also known as germ warfare, uses living disease-causing bacterium or viruses such as anthrax, to bring about the death or serious illness in people.

3 Chemical warfare – uses non-living toxins such as nerve agents and mustard gas, to cause death, incapacity or illness in people.



4 Radiological weapons – also known as 'dirty bombs' are weapons that use **conventional** explosives to create bombs that can disperse radioactive material.

Religious Views on WMD

Roman Catholic

The Roman Catholic Church does not agree with the use of WMD but thinks they are acceptable as a deterrent.

Hinduism

Hinduism would argue that use of WMD goes against the teaching of **ahimsa**. It **is not possible to restrict the impact** of WMD, and they affect humans, animals and nature alike for very long periods of time. There is no justifiable reason for this destruction and the suffering caused.

Buddhism

The stance of Buddhism would be that **WMD bring death and suffering on a massive scale**, so their use **can never be justified** under the **Precept of not hurting other sentient beings**. Not only do these weapons impact now, they **would impact negatively on many generations in the future**.

Quaker

The Quaker Society **utterly condemn WMD**. They are pacifists, and no outward weapons are acceptable. WMD are **indiscriminate and beyond control**.

Christianity and pacifism

Peace is not just the absence of war, but is a state of harmony, where justice exists for all and freedoms are respected. All religions teach the importance of peace on Earth and encourage their followers to live peacefully. Throughout history there have always been people prepared to refuse to use violence or fight in wars, even if it meant they faced imprisonment for their beliefs.



Pacifists believe that all violence is morally wrong. They will not participate in any war, regardless of the reasons for that war.

Conscientious objectors are people who **refuse to participate** directly in fighting wars on the grounds of conscience. However, they will assist in non-military ways such as **medics, relief work and mediators**. Many believe they have a **peace-making role**.

The Quakers (Christian)

This is a pacifist group within Christianity. As a Church they believe they are following the true teaching of Jesus by maintaining a completely pacifist stance. Their Peace Testimony makes clear that they will not use violence under any circumstances. It says that they denounce all violence, whatever its form. They totally oppose all outward wars and strife, and fighting with outward weapons, for any end, or for any reason. They believe that all relationships should be loving ones, including those between countries. During wars they will take on peace-making roles, for example, mediate for peace between the warring nations. They also do non-combat work such as training to be, and acting as medics for any side, and doing work with refugees and victims of war.

“Blessed are the peacemakers”



Gandhi (Hindu)

For over 30 years, the Hindu leader of India, Mahatma Gandhi, used a policy of non-violence and civil disobedience to oppose British rule in India. His belief in the Hindu concept of **ahimsa** (non-violence) underpinned his leadership of the Hindus. Through actions such as protests, marches, speeches, sit-ins and hunger strikes, he eventually led his country to independence. He demonstrated that **pacifism** does not mean you have to just put up with violence and intimidation, when used effectively it can be as powerful as any physical force.

Methods of non-violent protest

Strikes
Marches
Hunger strike
Not following laws



Dalai Lama (Buddhist)



The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists. He is recognised around the world as a symbol of peace. When the Chinese invaded his country, Tibet, he was forced into exile.

However, despite this injustice he refuses to condone physical fighting against the Chinese. He says that hatred and violence will lead to more hatred and violence. He believes peace will only exist when everyone respects each other. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. Buddhist monks in Tibet have maintained peaceful protests against Chinese rule despite being subjected to threats and violence.

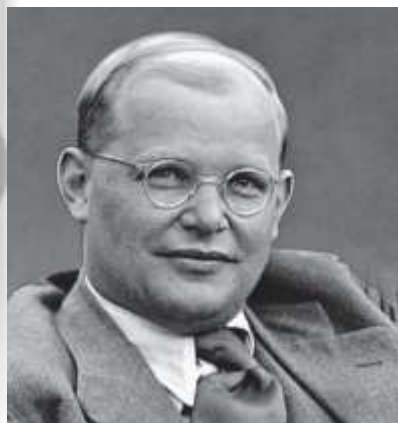
5 Buddhist Precepts

Buddhists will avoid (not do) the following:

- **harming living things.**
- **taking what is not given.**
- sexual misconduct.
- lying or gossip.
- taking intoxicating substances e.g. drugs or drink.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Christian)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a **Christian** living in Germany during the rise of the Nazi party. He believed in **Pacifism** and helped found the Confessing Church which spoke out against the human rights abuses of the ruling Nazis. As the war continued, he believed even more strongly that helping the oppressed was a test of faith. He defied Nazi rule by helping Jews escape the death camps and also worked to overthrow the Nazi party. Eventually, even though he opposed all killing, he felt that he had to be prepared to sacrifice his principles and even his life, and joined a group that planned to assassinate Hitler because he believed it was necessary for the greater good. He was eventually arrested and executed for treason by the Nazis.



Pacifism: The belief that all violence is wrong and never necessary.





Buddhism

'I will act towards others exactly as I would act towards myself.' *Udana-varqa*



Hinduism

'This is the sum of duty: do nothing to others which if done to you could cause the pain.' *Mahabharata*



Judaism

'What is harmful to yourself do not do to your fellow man.' *Rabbi Hillel*



Christianity

'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' *Jesus*



Islam

'None of you truly believe until he wishes for his brothers what he wishes for himself.' *Prophet Muhammad* ﷺ



Sikhism

'As you value yourself, so value others – cause suffering to no one.' *Guru Granth Sahib*

The Golden Rules

All religions follow a key teaching or 'golden rule' that tells them how to treat others.

It is useful to know these teachings as they can often apply to peace and conflict issues.

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Violence

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

Whilst Christianity follows Jesus' teachings of peace, there are those within the religion who will see it as **acceptable in given situations**. The Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican denominations accept the Just War Theory, which provides **conditions within which war may be fought**. Certain groups believe it is acceptable to chastise children physically ('**Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them**' Proverbs 13:24). Most Christians would accept the **use of violence in self-defence**. Some Christians agree with the **use of the death penalty** – in spite of it being the ultimate violence inflicted on a person – out of a sense of abhorrence for what that criminal had done.

Contrasting belief 1

The Quaker Society is **non-violent**. They **refuse to participate in any forms of violence** – even as soldiers in times of war. They will carry 'no outward weapon'. They claim the '**Spirit of Christ, which leads us in Truth, will never move us to fight.**' There is **something of God in every person**, and appealing to that can **resolve issues better than violence** can.

Contrasting belief 2

The Catholic Church stance is that there is **dignity to being human**, and **to inflict violence on them, or to receive it is a denial of that dignity**. Pope Francis has **spoken out against the death penalty**. Pope Benedict XVI spoke out **against sexual violence as a grave sin**.

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

The Roman Catholic Church does not agree with the use of weapons of mass destruction. However, it considers them to be currently necessary as a deterrent. 'In current conditions, **'deterrence' based on balance**, certainly not as an end in itself but as **a step along the way towards a progressive disarmament**, may still be judged morally acceptable' (Pope John Paul II). This is because by having these weapons, a country may be better protected against attack by others. The **weapons are seen to afford a safety and peace**. There should be no intention to use them against large populations (indiscriminate killing), and there should be no proliferation (having the biggest quantity). They consider the only legitimate purpose for nuclear weapons is **to prevent war** – so they should never need to be used.

Contrasting belief 1

The Quaker Society **utterly condemn weapons of mass destruction**. They are pacifists, and no outward weapons are acceptable. WMD are **indiscriminate and beyond control**, so taking life – military and non- – on a massive scale, and **destroying even the creation**, are forbidden.

Contrasting belief 2

The stance of Buddhism would be that **WMD bring death and suffering on a massive scale**, so their use **can never be justified** under the **Precept of not hurting other sentient beings**. Not only do these weapons impact now, they **would impact negatively on many generations in the future**.

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Pacifism

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

The Church of England is **not a consistently pacifist** church. Go into any cathedral and it is clear that **soldiers have been supported and are there honoured**. The Church accepts the **Just War Theory**, and **sees war as necessary** in certain conditions. Hence, whilst peace is the ideal, the Church **supports especially situations where war is waged to fight injustice**. It is seen that pacifism is the ideal to which we should strive, but given that others exploit and abuse, and **pacifist methods seem not to have made a difference, then war may be sanctioned**, for example against Nazi Germany in World War II, where **Anglican chaplains served in all the armed forces units** (and still do in the modern army).

Contrasting belief 1

The Quaker Society is pacifist, for the most part. They **do not join armies, and refuse to participate in any violence**. They are **committed to peace making**. Many Quakers work within mediation roles in conflict situations – they are trying to bring peace. As Jesus said '**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.**'

Contrasting belief 2

Buddhism is a pacifistic religion. The **Five Precepts** demand a pacifistic approach to life. The **Noble Eightfold Path** seeks positive (hence peaceful) ways to live. The belief in **ahimsa** is a statement of non-violence. The Dalai Lama said that '**Peace can exist if everyone respects all others.**'

Paper 2: Theme D - Peace and Conflict

This personalised learning checklist (PLC) is to help identify what and how to revise. The middle column asks how confident you feel about each topic.

Red – Help!

Amber – Not 100% but nearly there.

Green - Bring it on! I know this!

What you need to know	Red Amber Green	How can I revise this topic?
I can give religious views on justice (Christian and Muslim.)		Flashcards Poster
I can give religious perspectives on forgiveness (Christian and Muslim.)		Create a quote poster on forgiveness from each religion.
I can explain religious beliefs about violence (Christian and Muslim.)		Do a for and against table with quotes.
I can evaluate religious views on terrorism (Christian and Muslim.)		Mind map the effects of terrorism.
I can explain religious views about reasons for war (Christian and Muslim.)		List reasons and add symbols to help you remember.
I can explain in detail religious views on war and peace (Christian and Muslim.)		Create a for and against info poster.

What you need to know	Red Amber Green	How can I revise this topic?
I can give religious views that allow war- holy and just wars and explain the Christian view.		Mind map each keyword
I can suggest and give examples of how victims of war are helped.		Create a list, draw a stick person with how they can be helped.
I can give religious views on weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons (Christian and Muslim.)		Create an info poster on each type of WMD and say how it works
I can explain religious attitudes to peace and pacifism (Christian and Muslim.)		Write out key teachings from each religion about peace.
I can explain the Golden Rule for religions (Christian and Muslim.)		Create info poster.

GCSE Religious Studies

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