

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TOPIC 1

PEACE AND CONFLICT

1

CAUSES OF WAR

Justice
Getting what you deserve. Most people agree that everyone deserves basic things like life, freedom, and safety from harm.

Injustice is when you are **unfairly** denied these basic rights. During the Holocaust, Jews were denied the basic rights to freedom and life – this was **unjust**.



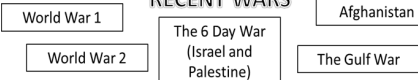
Peace
Peace is a shared state of mind that normally flows in societies which have justice. Peace is being able to enjoy basic human rights without fear.

Under Taliban rule in Afghanistan, women were not allowed to be educated, part of restoring peace was to allow women to access this basic human right.



CAUSES OF WAR		
	CAUSE	EXAMPLE
	To defend their country against attack	Polish army during the invasion of Nazi Germany during World War 2
	To defend their beliefs or impose them on others	Christian crusades to wipe out Muslims from Jerusalem in the Middle Ages
	To defend an ally or protect a weaker country that has been unfairly invaded	Allied forces during World War 2
	To remove their own leader or government – this is known as a civil war as both sides are from the same country	Rebel soldiers fighting to overthrow Colonel Gaddafi and his army in Libya
	To gain more land or regain territory lost in a previous war	The 6-day war of 1967 when the Israeli army took control of the Gaza strip and the West Bank, land that had been given to the Palestinians by the original United Nations agreement
	To gain wealth, power or important resources such as oil	Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in the early 1990's
	To stop atrocities such as genocide (mass murder, eg the Holocaust)	Allied forces during World War 2

RECENT WARS



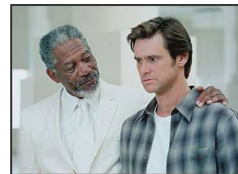
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HOLY WAR

The Christian Crusades from the Middle Ages are an example of a 'holy war', the Pope believed that God would want Christians to reclaim the Holy Land (Jerusalem etc) from the Muslims who had been living there.

Many Christian soldiers brutally murdered Muslim men, women and children in the name of God.

WHAT IS IT?
A war that is fought for God, those who are fighting believe that God is on their side.



RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

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C	CAUSE – There must be a just cause, eg in self defence or support of a weaker country, eg Britain's involvement in World War 2 to help Poland.
R	RESORT – Other methods of conflict resolution must have been tried first.
A	AUTHORITY – Must be declared by a rightful ruler, eg Prime Minister.
P	PROPORTIONALITY – Armed forces must only use as much force as is necessary.
P	PEACE – The aim of the war must be to restore peace in the long term.

JUST WAR



WHAT IS IT?
A theory that attempts to justify and limit war.
Mainly accredited to St Thomas Aquinas, a Christian philosopher.

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES



The conflict between Israel and Palestine has been called a 'holy war' as both sides believe that the disputed land has religious importance to them. The Jews believe that God promised Jacob the land and the Muslims believe it is the site of Muhammad's ascension to Paradise. For these reasons, both sides believe that God would want them to defend their claim to the land.

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that...	This suggests...	A quote to show this would be...
It is wrong to kill people. BIBLE	That God would not want people to fight in wars for Him as this usually means people being killed.	'Do not kill'
God will reward those who work for peace. BIBLE	That God might approve of a Holy War if it is about restoring peace.	'Blessed are the peacemakers'
It is wrong to kill people. QUR'AN	That God would not want people to fight in wars for Him as this usually means people being killed.	'Do not take life which Allah has made sacred'
It is acceptable to fight back if you have been attacked. QUR'AN	That God would approve of a Holy War if it was in retaliation for a previous attack.	'Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms'



Many people would describe Britain's involvement in World War 2 as a 'Just War' as we were defending Poland (cause), we had tried other methods of resolution first (resort), it was declared by the Prime Minister (authority), we only used as much force as we needed to (proportionality) and we did it stop Hitler taking over Europe (peace).

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that...	This suggests...	A quote to show this would be...
It is wrong to kill people. BIBLE	That some Christians would not support the Just War theory because it still allows war under certain circumstances and wars kill people.	'Do not kill'
God will reward those who work for peace. BIBLE	That some Christians would support the Just War theory because it only allows wars if the long term aim is peace.	'Blessed are the peacemakers'
It is wrong to kill people. QUR'AN	That some Muslims would not support the Just War theory because it still allows war under certain circumstances and wars kill people.	'Do not take life which Allah has made sacred'
It is acceptable to fight back if you have been attacked. QUR'AN	That some Muslims would support the Just War theory because they would consider fighting back after an attack as a good cause to go to war.	'Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms'

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WHAT IS IT?
The idea that all violence is wrong. As war involves violence, this therefore means that war is wrong too.

PACIFISM



BERT BROCKLESBY

A Christian who believed that we should live our lives as Jesus would have done. He said that he could not imagine Jesus fighting and killing in a war and so believed it was wrong to do so. He also strongly believed in the Commandment 'Do not kill'.



Some pacifists during World War 1 were willing to serve in the army but not as soldiers, these men were often used as ambulance drivers, stretcher bearers and nurses

IS IT RIGHT?

YES
If everyone was a pacifist then there would be no more wars

NO
Sometimes violence is the only way to bring peace

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that...	This suggests...	A quote to show this would be...
It is wrong to kill people. BIBLE	Some Christians would support pacifism as it would mean no one being killed in war.	'Do not kill'
God will reward those who work for peace. BIBLE	Some Christians would not support pacifism as they may believe that violence is the only way to bring peace.	'Blessed are the peacemakers'
It is wrong to kill people. QURAN	Some Muslims would support pacifism as it would mean no one being killed in war.	'Do not take life which Allah has made sacred'
It is acceptable to fight back if you have been attacked. QURAN	Some Muslims would not support pacifism as they may see it as acceptable to use violence if they have been the victim of an attack.	'Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms'



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WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES



Hiroshima survivor
AGAINST – they harm and kill innocent civilians



American Soldier from 1945
FOR – they can be used to end a war quickly and prevent loss of life in the future

What would these people/groups say about WMD?



David Cameron
FOR – having them will put other countries off attacking us, if we get rid of ours we will be an easy target for attack



AGAINST – they can destroy and contaminate the environment for decades



AGAINST – they can cause serious birth defects for generations, babies in Hiroshima are still being born with serious defects

KEY TERMS

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)	Proliferation	Nuclear Weapons	Chemical Weapons	Biological Weapons
A weapon that can kill many people in one go. Many also severely damage the environment	To spread and become more numerous, eg more countries getting more weapons	Work by nuclear reaction, the radioactive fallout often kills more people than the original explosion	Gases that cause choking, burning, paralysis and death. They were banned by Britain and Germany in World War 1 but some countries still use them	Weapons that spread bacteria and viruses. They were banned by the Geneva Convention but many countries continue to develop them

TERRORISM AND VIOLENT PROTEST



TERRORIST

Someone who uses or threaten to use violence to bring about change through causing fear.



IS IT RIGHT?

NO
It is never alright to hurt and kill the innocent

YES
When fighting against a bigger evil enemy, it can be the only way to bring change

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FREEDOM FIGHTER

Someone who stands up against evil to protect the rights of either themselves or others



NELSON MANDELA

FREEDOM FIGHTER
Had tried peaceful methods but they did not work

Was standing up against an evil system that was taking away people's human rights

TERRORIST
Used violence to get what he wanted

Responsible for the injury and death of hundreds of innocent people

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES

The Bible/Qur'an teaches that...	This suggests...	A quote to show this would be...
It is wrong to kill people. BIBLE	Some Christians would not support terrorism and violent protest as they potentially kill people.	'Do not kill'
God will reward those who work for peace. BIBLE	Some Christians may accept terrorism and violent protest as a very last resort to bring peace.	'Blessed are the peacemakers'
It is wrong to kill people. QUR'AN	Some Muslims would not support terrorism and violent protest as they potentially kill people.	'Do not take life which Allah has made sacred'
It is acceptable to fight back if you have been attacked. QUR'AN	Some Muslims may accept terrorism and violent protest if they are in response to a previous attack.	'Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms'

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WORKING FOR PEACE



DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

Christian minister who tried to kill Hitler to end the Holocaust. Bonhoeffer had tried peaceful resistance methods first but none of these worked.

The assassination attempt failed and Bonhoeffer was arrested and executed.



CHRISTIAN AID AND MUSLIM AID

Religious organisations that helps victims of war by:
1, Providing shelter for refugees
2, Campaigning for governments to end wars
3, Providing medical care for victims of war

Reconciliation

This is all about rebuilding relationships so that peace has a chance of lasting. This can be especially important after a war as often there are atrocities committed by both sides and people need help to move on from what has happened.



Forgiveness

This is the belief that when someone has done something wrong and apologises, we should accept their apology and move on from the situation.

