

**Paper 2: Thematic Studies**

**D: Religion, peace and conflict**

**Vocabulary**

Topic target words	
<b>Conflict</b>	Dispute between sides, can be between individuals, groups or nations
<b>Forgiveness</b>	Letting go of blame against a person for wrongs they have done
<b>Holy War</b>	War that is believed to be sanctioned by God
<b>Justice</b>	Bringing fairness back to a situation
<b>Just War</b>	Set of rules for fighting a war in a way believed to be justified and acceptable to God
<b>Pacifism</b>	Belief that all violence is wrong, which then affects all behaviours
<b>Peace</b>	Harmony between all in society
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Making up and rebuilding relationships between two groups/sides after disagreement
<b>Retaliation</b>	To pay someone back for their harmful actions
<b>Terrorism</b>	Use of violence and threats to intimidate others
<b>Violence</b>	Behaviour involving physical force which intends to hurt, kill or cause damage

Useful words	
<b>Anglican</b>	A member of the Church of England (a Protestant Church)
<b>Catholic</b>	The tradition within the Christian Church which is led by the Pope
<b>Diplomacy</b>	Managing relationships between countries
<b>Duty</b>	A responsibility

Useful words	
<b>Lesser jihad</b>	The outward struggle to defend faith, family and country from threat
<b>Mission</b>	'sent out'; the duty of Christians to spread the gospel
<b>Mutually Assured Destruction</b>	A nuclear attack would be met with an overwhelming nuclear counterattack such that both the attacker and the defender would be destroyed
<b>Negotiation</b>	Discussion aimed at reaching an agreement
<b>Nuclear deterrence</b>	Having nuclear weapons with the aim of deterring/preventing other states attacking for fear of retaliation and nuclear war
<b>Nuclear reaction</b>	Colliding atomic particles to create a reaction which creates energy
<b>Nuclear weapons</b>	A weapon of mass destruction which causes widespread damage and loss of life
<b>Peace-making</b>	Working to bring about peace and reconciliation
<b>Protest</b>	A statement or action to express disagreement
<b>Quakers</b>	A protestant faith group
<b>Sanctity of life</b>	Belief that life is sacred/special because it was created by God
<b>Tyranny</b>	Cruel and oppressive government or rule
<b>United Nations</b>	An international government organisation
<b>Victims of war</b>	Those who are harmed during a war
<b>War</b>	Armed conflict between two or more sides
<b>Weapons of Mass Destruction</b>	Weapons which cause widespread, indiscriminate damage

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**Reasons for war**

Causes of war	
<b>Greed</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The selfish desire for something, such as land or resources.</li> <li>2. <b>Christians</b> are against war caused by <b>greed</b>.</li> <li>3. <b>Muslims</b> are against war caused by <b>greed</b>.</li> </ol>
<b>Retaliation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deliberately invading a country because they have harmed you.</li> <li>2. <b>Christians</b> are against war for <b>retaliation</b>.</li> <li>3. <b>Muslims</b> may accept war in <b>retaliation</b> if it is to protect the innocent and prevent the repetition of wrong doing.</li> </ol>
<b>Self-defence</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acting to prevent harm to yourself or others.</li> <li>2. Some <b>Christians</b> accept it as long as the war is a <b>last resort</b>.</li> <li>3. Muslims will accept it as long as it is a <b>last resort</b>.</li> </ol>

Examples of conflicts
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>The Crusades</b> (1095 -1291): Christians and Muslims fought for control of Jerusalem and the Holy Land.</li> <li>2. <b>The Northern Irish Troubles</b> (Late 1960s - 1998): A civil war between nationalists and unionists over whether NI should remain part of the UK or become part of Ireland.</li> </ol>

Attitudes to holy war	
<b>Christian</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some <b>Christians</b> accept it. The <b>Old Testament</b> has examples of <b>holy war</b>.</li> <li>2. The <b>Just War</b> criteria were written to allow <b>Christians</b> to fight in the <b>Crusades</b>.</li> <li>3. Other <b>Christians</b> do not accept it because violence is never justified.</li> </ol>
<b>Muslim</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Muslims</b> accept <b>holy war</b> if it is to defend <b>Islam</b> and the rights of <b>Muslims</b>.</li> <li>2. <b>Holy war</b> can only be declared if it follows the rules of <b>lesser jihad</b>.</li> <li>3. It cannot be declared to force conversions to <b>Islam</b>, to colonise countries, or for financial gain.</li> </ol>

Religion as a cause of war
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Differing religious views have led to <b>conflict</b>, such as the <b>Crusades</b> or the <b>Northern Irish Troubles</b>.</li> <li>2. These conflicts have also been about <b>power</b>, <b>land</b>, and <b>self-defence</b>.</li> <li>3. Often <b>religion</b> is exploited to further support.</li> <li>4. Some groups, such as Islamic State (IS) have used belief in <b>holy war</b> to justify acts of <b>violence</b> and <b>terrorism</b>.</li> </ol>

Christian sources of belief
<p>"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." (1 Timothy 6:10)</p>
<p>"Do not repay anyone evil for evil... if it is possible... live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:17-21)</p>
<p>"All who draw the sword die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52)</p>

Muslim sources of belief
<p>"God does not like arrogant, boastful people, who are miserly and order other people to be the same, hiding the bounty God has given them." (Qur'an 4:36-37)</p>
<p>"If you [believers] have to respond to an attack, make your response proportionate, but it is best to stand fast." (Qur'an 16:126)</p>
<p>"Those who have been attacked are permitted to take up arms because they have been wronged." (Qur'an 22:39)</p>

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## Just War and Lesser jihad

### The Just War theory

1. A **Christian** idea about whether a war is **fair**.
2. **Last resort**: only going to war if all other methods have been tried first.
3. It must be declared by the **correct authority**, such as the government.
4. **Just cause**: fought in self defence or to protect others.
5. **Just intention**: fought to promote good and defeat wrongdoing.
6. There should be a **reasonable chance of success**.
7. **Proportional force** should be used to achieve success, and excessive force should not be used.
8. **Just means**: Innocent people and civilians must not be targeted or harmed.
9. These rules have become the basis for international agreements on the conduct of war.
10. Many **Christians** accept the **Just War theory** because it provides rules to make wars **fair**.
11. Some **Christians** argue that modern warfare and weapons make a just war impossible.

### Lesser jihad

1. A **code of conduct** to justify when it is right to fight and what is allowed during fighting.
2. **Last resort**: fighting must be last option when **diplomacy** and **negotiation** have failed.
3. **Self-defence**: Initial aggression should come from the other side.
4. The decision to fight should be made by a **state or religious leader**.
5. **Just cause**: to protect territory from an outside aggressor or rebel groups in the state.
6. An **Islamic** country has been attacked.
7. Another state has **tyrannised** its Muslims citizens.
8. Armies must not commit torture.
9. Children, women, and old men must not be killed.
10. Animals and crops must not be harmed.
11. Only the **necessary amount of force** should be used in fighting.

### Christian sources of belief

"It is impossible to conceive of a just war in a nuclear age." (Pope John Paul II)

"Defending oneself and others is a duty." (Pope Benedict XVI)

"Defend the rights of the poor and orphans; be fair to the needy and helpless. Rescue them from the power of evil men." (Psalm 82:3-4)

### Muslim sources of belief

"Let those of you who are willing to trade the life of this world for the life to come, fight in God's way. To anyone who fights in God's way, whether killed or victorious, We shall give a great reward." (Qur'an 4:74)

"Do you know what is better than charity and fasting and prayer? It is keeping peace and good relations between people, as quarrels and bad feelings destroy mankind." (Hadith)

"Fight in God's cause against those who fight you, but do not overstep the limits: God does not love those who overstep the limits." (Qur'an 2:190)

"If the enemy inclines towards peace, then you should also incline towards peace and trust in Allah, for He is the One that hears and knows all." (Qur'an 8:61)

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**Violence and terrorism**

Christian attitudes	
<b>Using violence to achieve aims</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generally against <b>war</b>.</li> <li>2. Some accept conflict can be necessary but only as a <b>last resort</b> and if the <b>Just War criteria</b> are met.</li> </ol>
<b>Violent protest</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is important to use peaceful ways to solve problems.</li> <li>2. <b>Violent protests</b> can be used to force change if peaceful protest has been ignored.</li> </ol>
<b>Terrorist attacks</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Terrorism</b> is wrong.</li> <li>2. It does not meet the <b>Just War criteria</b>.</li> <li>3. Innocent people are deliberately harmed.</li> <li>4. More <b>peaceful</b> ways of solving issues should be used instead.</li> </ol>

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)	
<b>Biological</b>	Using living organisms (such as bacteria or viruses) to cause disease or death.
<b>Chemical</b>	Using chemicals to harm humans and destroy the natural environment.
<b>Nuclear</b>	Using a <b>nuclear reaction</b> to create an explosion that devastates huge areas and kills large numbers of people.

Muslim attitudes	
<b>Using violence to achieve aims</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fighting is only allowed in self-<b>defence</b> and only against those who actively fight against you.</li> </ol>
<b>Violent protest</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Muslims have a duty to protest about anything unfair.</li> <li>2. <b>Violent protests</b> can be used to force change if peaceful protest has been ignored.</li> </ol>
<b>Terrorist attacks</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Terrorism</b> is wrong.</li> <li>2. They go against the wishes of <b>God</b>.</li> <li>3. Innocent people are deliberately harmed.</li> </ol>

Attitudes to nuclear weapons	
<b>Christians</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some accept <b>possession</b> but only if they are to act as a <b>deterrence</b>.</li> <li>2. If they are used it should only be in <b>retaliation</b>.</li> <li>3. <b>Anglicans</b> believe their use would violate the <b>sanctity of life</b>.</li> </ol>
<b>Muslims</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Muslims</b> have a <b>duty</b> to care for the planet and everything on it.</li> <li>2. Using weapons that deliberately kill millions of innocent people is wrong.</li> </ol>

Christian sources of belief
"All who draw the sword die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52)
"Blessed are the peacemakers." (Matthew 5:9)
"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 2:15)
"If there is a serious injury you are to take life for life..." (Exodus 21:23)

Muslim sources of belief
"Do not kill each other, for God is merciful to you. If any of you does these things, out of hostility and injustice, We shall make him suffer Fire." (Qur'an 4:29-30)
"Fight in God's cause against those who fight you, but do not overstep the limits: God does not love those who overstep the limits." (Qur'an 2:190)
"Do not take life, which God has made sacred." (Qur'an 17:33)
"Do not contribute to your own destruction with your own hands." (Qur'an 2:195)

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**Making peace**

Key ideas	
<b>Peace</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The absence of war and the creation of harmony after war.</li> <li>2. <b>Christians: God</b> will bring <b>peace</b>.</li> <li>3. <b>Peace</b> is emphasised in the <b>Qur'an</b>.</li> </ol>
<b>Justice</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bring about what is right and fair and making up for a wrong that has been committed.</li> <li>2. Some <b>wars</b> are fought to bring <b>justice</b>.</li> <li>3. <b>Muslims: God</b> is called 'the Just'.</li> </ol>
<b>Forgiveness</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Showing <b>mercy</b> and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.</li> <li>2. <b>Forgiveness</b> after <b>war</b> brings <b>reconciliation</b>.</li> <li>3. <b>Christians: forgive</b> others.</li> <li>4. <b>Muslims: Forgiveness</b> is important to leave peacefully.</li> </ol>
<b>Reconciliation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trying to restore a friendly relationship after conflict or disagreement.</li> <li>2. Successful <b>reconciliation</b> can ensure that fighting does not resume.</li> <li>3. <b>Christians: those</b> who bring about <b>reconciliation</b> are blessed by God.</li> </ol>

Pacifism	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The belief that <b>war</b> and <b>violence</b> can never be <b>justified</b> and that <b>conflicts</b> should be settled in a peaceful way.</li> <li>2. <b>Jesus</b> taught his followers to be peaceful. All the earliest <b>Christians</b> were <b>pacifists</b>, as are many today.</li> <li>3. <b>Quakers</b> are a pacifist group within Christianity.</li> <li>4. They refuse to participate in <b>violence</b> and oppose all <b>wars</b> and fighting.</li> <li>5. They have an office at the <b>United Nations (UN)</b> where they mediate between countries</li> </ol>	

Working for peace	
<b>Individuals working for peace</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Peace People:</b> Founded by Mairead Corrigan (a <b>Catholic</b>), Betty Williams and Ciaran McKeown.</li> <li>2. It showed that people wanted <b>peace</b> in <b>Northern Ireland</b>.</li> <li>3. Since 1998 Corrigan campaigned for word peace</li> </ol>
<b>Supporting victims of war</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Caritas:</b> A <b>Catholic</b> charity with the <b>mission</b> to serve the poor and promote charity and <b>justice</b> across the world.</li> <li>2. Since 2015 they have provided food and shelter for refugees feeling civil war in Syria.</li> </ol>

Christian sources of belief	
"He will settle disputes for many people." (Isiah 2:4)	
"Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21)	
"Blessed are the peacemakers." (Matthew 5:9)	
"Everyone must commit themselves to peace." (Pope John Paul II)	
"Love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:31)	

Muslim sources of belief	
"The servants of the Lord of Mercy are those who walk humbly on the earth, and who, when aggressive people address them, reply, with words of peace." (Qur'an 25:63)	