

**Theme D: Peace and Conflict – personal learning checklist**

Students should study religious teachings, and religious, philosophical and ethical arguments, relating to the issues that follow, and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues.

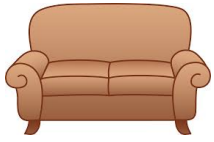
They must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the **main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) and one or more other religious traditions:**

Violence.	
Weapons of mass destruction.	
Pacifism.	
Religion, violence, terrorism and war	
The meaning and significance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peace</li> <li>• Justice</li> <li>• Forgiveness</li> <li>• Reconciliation</li> </ul>	
Violence, including violent protest.	
Terrorism.	
Reasons for war, including greed, self-defence and retaliation	
The just war theory, including the criteria for a just war.	
Holy war.	
Pacifism.	
Religion and belief in 21 <sup>st</sup> century conflict	
Religion and belief as a cause of war and violence in the contemporary world.	
Nuclear weapons, including nuclear deterrence.	
The use of weapons of mass destruction.	
Religion and peace-making in the contemporary world including the work of individuals influenced by religious teaching.	
Religious responses to the victims of war including the work of one present day religious organisation.	

**Command words** are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell you how you should answer the question.

<b>Evaluate</b>	Tests evaluation. It requires you to consider different viewpoints and arrive at a judgement.
<b>Explain</b>	Tests knowledge and understanding of beliefs, teachings and practices. It requires you to identify relevant points and demonstrate understanding by adding detail/development.
<b>Explain how X may influence Y</b>	Tests knowledge and understanding of (eg) how a religious belief or practice influences individuals or groups. This means how it would make them think feel or act.
<b>Give</b>	Tests recall of knowledge, eg two examples or two beliefs.

<b>AQA Theme D: Peace and Conflict glossary</b>	
<b>Causes of war</b>	Reasons why war happens; greed, self-defence, retaliation.
<b>Christian Aid</b>	A Christian organisation works to end poverty and this includes that helping victims of war and refugees.
<b>Christians Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament</b>	A group of Christians in England who work to eliminate (remove) all nuclear weapons from the world
<b>Conflict</b>	Dispute between sides, can be between individuals, groups or nations.
<b>Conscientious objector</b>	Someone who refuses to fight in a war due to their beliefs that violence/war is wrong e.g. Desmond Doss
<b>Crusades</b>	Battles between Christians and Muslims in the 11 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> centuries, both sides believed that God was supporting and helping them win.
<b>Forgiveness</b>	Pardoning/letting go of blame against a person for wrongs they have done; moving on.
<b>Greed</b>	Selfish desire for something.
<b>Holy War</b>	War that is believed to be supported by God.
<b>Justice</b>	Fairness in society and the world.
<b>Just War</b>	Set of rules for fighting a war in a way believed to be justified and acceptable to God.
<b>Nuclear deterrence</b>	Having nuclear weapons with the aim of deterring/preventing other states attacking for fear of retaliation and nuclear war (possibly leading to Mutually Assured Destruction).
<b>Nuclear weapons/war</b>	A weapon of mass destruction which causes widespread damage and loss of life. Nuclear war would be a war fought using these weapons.
<b>Pacifism</b>	Belief that all violence is wrong, which then affects all behaviours
<b>Peace</b>	The opposite of war; harmony between all in society.
<b>Peace-making</b>	Working to bring about peace and reconciliation.
<b>Protest</b>	A statement or action to express disagreement; can be an organised event to demonstrate disagreement with a policy or political action.
<b>Quakers</b>	A group of Christians who work for peace and equality. They believe in non-violence
<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>Riot</b>	A violent protest
<b>Self-defence</b>	Acting to prevent harm to yourself or others.
<b>Terrorism</b>	use of violence and threats to intimidate others; used for political purposes to build fear in the ordinary population and to secure demands from Government.
<b>Victims of war</b>	Those who are harmed during a war, for example those killed, injured or left homeless.
<b>Violence</b>	Behaviour involving physical force which intends to hurt, kill or cause damage.
<b>War</b>	Fighting/armed conflict between two or more sides
<b>Weapons of Mass Destruction</b>	Weapons which cause widespread, indiscriminate damage (eg nuclear,



## Theme D Peace and Conflict SofAs

### Old Testament

- “God created mankind in his image” Genesis 1:27
- “Thou shall not murder” Exodus 20:13 (in the 10 Commandments)
- “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
- “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
- “Attack the land of Merathain and those who live in Pekod. Pursue, kill and completely destroy them” declares the LORD. “Do everything I have commanded you” Jeremiah 50:21

### New Testament

- “Blessed are the peacemakers” Matthew 5:9 (Sermon on The Mount)
- “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
- “Forgive our sins as we forgive those that sin against us” Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lord’s Prayer)
- “Love thy Neighbour” Matthew 22:39
- The parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46
- “Those who live by the sword die by the sword” Matthew 26:52
- “Forgive them Father they know what not they do” Luke 23:24
- “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money; have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” 1 Timothy 6:10

### Other Christian SofAs

- Pope Benedict “Defending oneself and others is a duty”
- Quakers: The Peace Testimony "We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world." From "A Declaration to Charles II," 1661

### Muslim

- “Do not take life, which God has made sacred.” Qur’an 17:33
- “Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for God loves, those

**Key terms**

**War:** fighting between nations to resolve issues between them.

**Peace:** an absence of conflict, which leads to happiness and harmony.

**Justice:** bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law or making up for a wrong that has been committed.

**Forgiveness:** showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.

**Reconciliation:** a sacrament in the Catholic Church; also, when individuals or groups restore friendly relations after conflict or disagreement.

**Reasons for war:**

**Greed** is a selfish desire for something. War is often fought to gain land, territory or resources for example, oil. For example, the UK and America invaded Iraq to gain control of oil reserves.

**Self-defence** is acting to prevent harm to yourself or others. Most people consider fighting in self-defence to be morally acceptable. For example, during the second world war the UK fought to defend itself against Nazi invasion.

**Retaliation** is deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you. For example, America invaded Afghanistan as a response to the 911 terror attacks.

**WMDS (weapons of mass destruction)**

**Nuclear weapons** work by a nuclear reaction; they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people.

**Chemical weapons** use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyse humans and destroy the natural environment.

**Biological weapons** have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease or death.

**Christians** believe that all WMDs violate the sanctity of life and therefore condemn their use. However, some Christians might believe it is important for a country to hold nuclear weapons to prevent war. **Muslims** believe that WMDs should never be used due to the amount suffering and destruction they cause to God's creation.

**Pacifism** is the belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence. Some pacifists will join a war effort in a non-combative role such as a nurse or cook. A **peacemaker** is a person who works to establish peace in the world or in a certain part of it. Christian charities such as the **Christian Peacemaker Teams** work to end violence in many parts of the world through reconciliation between communities and countries. **Muslims** share the principles of pacifism. The Qur'an advises; that if peace is offered then it must not be refused.

**Responses to victims of war**

Casualties are an unavoidable 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. In the UK there are financial systems in place to support them but also many charitable organisations that offer help and support. Christians support these organisations because of their basic belief to "love thy neighbour". **Caritas** and **Christian Aid** are two Christian charities that support victims of war in many ways. For example, providing food and shelter for refugees who are fleeing war.

**Protest**

Protest is an expression of disapproval, often in a public group. Peaceful protest has played an important part of many historic changes in society such as the civil rights movement.

Sometimes, protest (especially unplanned) can turn **violent**. For example, in 2011 there were riots across London sparked by police shooting dead a local man. **Christians** and **Muslims** both condemn violence, they believe it should be avoided wherever possible. This is especially true when innocent people are the victims.

**Holy war** is fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader. It must:

1. Be declared by a religious leader
2. Be to defend the Christian faith from attack
3. And those who take part believe they will gain spiritual reward.

Most Christians would not approve of such attacks as Jesus taught that "murderers will be subject to judgement" however there have been examples of violence in the past. For example; the crusades were battles fought over The Holy Land between Muslims and Christians in the eleventh to fourteenth centuries.

**The Just War theory**

1. The war must have a just cause e.g. self defence
2. The war must be declared by the correct authority.
3. The intention of the war must be to defeat wrongdoing.
4. Fighting must be a last resort.
5. There must be a reasonable chance at success.
6. There must not be excessive force used.
7. The war must not target civilians

**Terrorism** is a much more serious form of violent protest where an individual or group use terror as part of their campaign. Their violence usually deliberately targets innocent civilians. For example, suicide bombers, car bombs or shooting into a crowd of people. **Christians** and **Muslims** both condemn all acts of terror. The **10 Commandments** clearly state, "Thou shalt not murder".

## How to write in Religious Studies – 12 Mark questions



→ Icing – turn the statement into a question

→ Layer 1 – Argument **for** the statement

→ Layer 2 – A **different** point of view

→ Layer 3 – which is the best argument? Why?

## How to write in Religious Studies – 4 Mark questions

