NUCLEAR WAR AND WMDs

Theme D Religion, peace & conflict

- 1. Which of the following weapons having living organisms that can lead to [1 mark] disease or death?
 - A) nuclear
- B) chemical
- C) biological
- D) AK47s
- 2. Name two countries that have access to nuclear weapons.

[2 marks]

UK, United States, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel

3. Explain two religious beliefs about weapons of mass destruction.

[4 marks]

They are evil> they cause mass death> mass destruction> they harm the environment (God's creation)

They are a necessary evil> their presence is a deterrent> longest time of world peace since WW2 due to their mere existence

4. Explain two religious beliefs about nuclear deterrents.

[5 marks]

They are a necessary evil> their presence is a deterrent> longest time of world peace since WW2 due to their mere existence

We should not have them an instead be a role model and unilaterally disarm "do not follow the crowd in doing wrong" Exodus 23:2

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5. 'It is acceptable to use a nuclear weapon if it ends a war early.'

[12 marks]

Some Christians agree:

It could be seen as the "lesser of two evils". You would be killing a potentially large group of people but with the intention of saving more lives in total> this is the justification given to America's bombing of Japan in WW2

The principle of utilitarianism is that you do the greatest good for the greatest number, this would be achieved here

God allowed scientists to develop the technology for nuclear weapons, perhaps this was with the intention of being able to end long, violent wars to a premature end

Some Christians disagree:

Nuclear weapons cannot be used proportionately and therefore cannot be used as part of a just war

They kill thousands of innocent people> this breaks the commandment "Do not kill" on a mass level therefore nuclear weapons are never acceptable

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The destruction to the environment, God's creation, means they go against responsible stewardship of the planet.

It is a big "if" – it may not end the war and vastly increase the number of casualties and deaths