

1. Which of these theologians first talked about a just war? [1 mark]
A) John Calvin B) Augustine C) Martin Luther D) CS Lewis
2. What are the two aspects of Just War theory as described by Thomas Aquinas? [2 marks]
When it is permissible to go to war & How to fight justly in a war
3. Explain two elements of the Just War criteria. [4 marks]
Just cause: e.g. self defence. Correct authority> lawful ruler decides. Good intention> the outcome must outweigh the cost. Last resort> all other diplomacy attempted first. Chance of success> can't fight a losing battle. Proportional use of weapons> no excessive force
4. Explain two contrasting religious responses to the Just War theory. [5 marks]
No war is acceptable. Pacifism is the correct stance for religious people. "turn the other cheek"
War is a necessary evil. Just War theory provides Christians an ethical way of doing war. War must sometimes be fought to obtain peace "blessed are the peacemakers"

5. 'Wars are never just.'

[12 marks]

Some Christians agree:

Christians should be pacifists> Jesus was a pacifist> he didn't fight his arrest and told his disciple to "Put away his sword".

Jesus taught "love your neighbour" "turn the other cheek" "love your enemies" these are incompatible sentiments with war

Even if a country follows the just war theory, civilians will die, people will be displaced, families will be harmed, people will lose jobs, land and infrastructure> just because someone deems a war "just" does not make it so

Some Christians disagree:

The Just War Theory has a stringent criteria that allows governments to know when it is just to go to war.

The criteria includes: Just cause: e.g. self defence. Correct authority> lawful ruler decides. Good intention> the outcome must outweigh the cost. Last resort> all other diplomacy attempted first. Chance of success> can't fight a losing battle. Proportional use of weapons> no excessive force

If a country follows this criteria, the war will be just

In the Bible, God sanctions specific wars and battles, these must be just because God is just