

**0 4** Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

**0 4 . 1** Religions teach that people should live together in peace and harmony.

Which one of the following means to become friends again after a relationship has broken down?

[1 mark]

- A To reform
- B To be reconciled
- C To have justice
- D To retaliate

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority**

Answer: B: To be reconciled.

**0 4 . 2** Give two reasons why many religious believers are against violent protest.

[2 marks]

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority**

One mark for each of two correct points.

Students may include two of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

No religion promotes violence and generally agree that conflict should be avoided if possible / love thy neighbour / violent protest is against the law and religious believers are encouraged to uphold the law / violent protest is likely to provoke retaliation and not solve the problem / may lead to extremism and entrenched attitudes / could lead to suffering and fatalities / more can often be achieved by peaceful protest eg the American Civil Rights Movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr or Gandhi in India / pacifists / many religious teachings reflect this eg. Ahimsa / First Moral Precept / Right Action / 'Blessed are the peacemakers,' etc.

**0 4 . 3** Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about nuclear weapons.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

**Target: AO1:3 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs**

**First contrasting belief**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark  
 Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

**Second contrasting belief**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark  
 Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

The contrast may refer to either the religious belief (s) used or the issue.

If similar beliefs are given only **one** of them may be credited up to 2 marks max.

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

All religions recognise that nuclear weapons are always a danger/ if they exist that they could be used/ might get into the hands of terrorists or an unstable leader/ concern about rogue states like North Korea/ if used would cause terrible destruction/ long term effects eg Hiroshima and Nagasaki/ there are enough nuclear weapons to destroy the whole world/ very expensive to make and maintain/ there is a need to pray for peace and campaign for disarmament/ countries who get rid of them will be setting an example for others to follow/ nuclear weapons are immoral.  
 Religions recognise the need for protection/ possessing nuclear weapons acts as a deterrent/ actually prevents wars if the other side knows that they will be hit by nuclear weapons in retaliation/ has kept relative peace in Europe since World War 2/ if others have them they may be needed for defence to maintain a balance of power/ self-defence/ they are no problem if they are not used, etc.

**Buddhism**

Many Buddhists believe that nuclear weapons should be abolished as there is a risk that they will be used / they kill indiscriminately which is against the 1<sup>st</sup> Precept (ahimsa)/ others say that the problem is not the weapons themselves but rather human attitudes / Thich Nhat Hanh said, 'For peace, the basic thing to do is not to remove nuclear weapons but to remove the fear, anger and suspicion in us. If we reduce them, reconciliation is easy.' / Japanese Buddhist Daisaku Ikeda has said, 'The real enemy that we must confront is the ways of thinking that justify nuclear weapons; the readiness to annihilate others when they are seen as a threat or as a hindrance to the realisation of our objectives.', etc.

**Christianity**

Some Christians believe that the problem with nuclear weapons is not the weapons themselves but their use / they can act as a deterrent and result in peace.  
 A fundamental Christian belief is that only God has the right to end life that he has created / the Ten

Commandments says, 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13) / using nuclear weapons would not be supported by the Just War theory as innocent people are killed indiscriminately / 'Faith groups in the UK are united in their conviction that any use of nuclear weapons would violate the sanctity of life and the principle of dignity core to our faith traditions.' (Steve Hucklesby) / many Christians have campaigned for nuclear disarmament (CCND), etc.

### **Hinduism**

The Laws of Manu state that women, children, the elderly and those who have turned their backs or dropped their weapons should not be attacked, so Hindus are opposed to using nuclear weapons as they kill indiscriminately/ The Rig Veda states that a warrior should not poison the tip of an arrow or attack the sick or old, children or women or it leads a warrior to hell even if he wins/ belief in ahimsa/ India does, however, have nuclear weapons but has pledged only to use them as a deterrent and never use them first, etc.

### **Islam**

Muslims believe that as God created all life that they have a duty and responsibility to care for people and to work for peace/ as life is sacred using weapons which could kill millions of people and even destroy the world is wrong/ innocent people should be protected/ 'Fight in God's cause against those who fight you, but do not overstep the limits; God does not love those who overlap the limits – Qur'an 2 : 190/ 'Do not contribute to your own destruction with your own hands, but do good, for God loves those who do good' – Qur'an 2 : 195/ some Muslims argue that as nuclear weapons are so destructive no one will dare to use them and so they help to keep the peace eg. Pakistan, etc.

### **Judaism**

Jewish scientists Albert Einstein and J. Robert Oppenheimer were involved with others in developing atom bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and brought World War 2 to an end / later they opposed nuclear weapons / Israel has nuclear weapons for defence purposes but many Jews are totally against their use / the Ten Commandments says, 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13) / belief that it can never be justified to kill large numbers of innocent civilians / Rabbi David Saperstein said, 'We join to call on the world to recognise that violence begets violence; that nuclear proliferation benefits no one; that we can, we will, and we must find other ways to protect ourselves, our nations and our future.', etc.

### **Sikhism**

Many Sikhs live in the Punjab (north India) and are concerned that they could become a target if hostilities arose between India and Pakistan as both have nuclear weapons / some have campaigned for nuclear disarmament as using them is totally unacceptable as so many innocent people would be annihilated / 'No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger. I get along with everyone' GGS 1299 / some Sikhs are in favour of keeping nuclear weapons as a deterrent as it stops the outbreak of war because of fear of the consequences, etc.

**0 4 . 4 Explain two religious beliefs which show that all acts of terrorism are wrong.**

**Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.**

**[5 marks]**

**Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority**

**First belief**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

**Second belief**

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark  
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Relevant and accurate reference to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching – 1 mark

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

Religions teach peace / belief in ‘love your neighbour’ or similar (golden rules) / ahimsa / First Precept / morally wrong to kill indiscriminately / innocent civilians – men, women and killed get killed or injured / wrong to scare people / should work with government (see Romans 13) / terrorism is illegal, religious believers should follow the law / reference to just war and/or holy war criteria that interprets terrorism as wrong, etc.

**Buddhism**

Buddhists do not believe in any form of violence / believe in ahimsa – respect for life / not hurting others / first moral precept – to abstain from taking life / harming others against the Noble Eightfold Path – Right Action / Golden Rule – ‘Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful’ - Udanavaga 5:18 / terrorism creates bad kamma, etc.

**Christianity**

Love your neighbour / treat others as you wish to be treated / do not murder / work with the government – ‘Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God’ Romans 13:1 / Love one another/love your enemies / ‘Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good’ Romans 12: 21, etc.

**Hinduism**

Hindus believe in the principle of ahimsa – respect for life / not hurting others / example of Gandhi who protested through non-violent resistance / ‘One should never do that to another which one regards as injurious to one’s own self. This, in brief, is the rule of dharma. Other behaviour is due to selfish desires’ -Brihaspati, Mahabharata (Anusasana Parva, Section CXIII, Verse 8) ‘This is the

sum of duty; do naught onto others what you would not have them do unto you' - Mahabharata 5,1517 (Golden Rule), etc.

### **Islam**

Islam means peace and Muslims should act in a peaceful manner / Surah 3.134: 'Paradise is for ... those who curb their anger and forgive their fellow men.' / Golden Rule principle of '*do unto others as you would have them do unto you*' / '*Be kind to your neighbour and you will be a believer; love for the people what you love for yourself and you will be a Muslim.*' [Sunan At-Tirmidhi, Book of Asceticism, Number 2305, Sahih] / 'No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself' -.Sunnah, etc.

### **Judaism**

The Torah contains several versions of the Golden Rule /Leviticus 19:18 – 'You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself' / 'What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary' - Talmud, Shabbat 31d, etc.

### **Sikhism**

Sikhs consider acts of terrorism as wrong as innocent people are targeted / people should live in peace and harmony and be tolerant of others beliefs / 'Precious like jewels are the minds of all. To hurt them is not at all good. If thou desirest thy Beloved, then hurt thou not anyone's heart' - Guru Arjan Dev Ji 259, Guru Granth Sahib / 'Cruelty, material attachment, greed and anger are the four rivers of fire.' Falling into them, one is burned. O Nanak! One is saved only by holding tight to good deeds' Guru Granth Sahib 147, etc.

**0 4 . 5** 'War is the best way to solve problems between countries.'

**Evaluate this statement.**

**In your answer you:**

- **should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement**
- **should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view**
- **should refer to religious arguments**
- **may refer to non-religious arguments**
- **should reach a justified conclusion.**

**[12 marks]**  
**[Plus SPaG 3 marks]**

**Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Marks</b>
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>References to religion applied to the issue.</b>	10–12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. <b>Clear reference to religion.</b>	7–9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. <b>Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.</b>	4–6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1–3
0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0

Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited:

**Arguments in support**

- War can be the lesser of two evils: It can be justified if its purpose is to stop atrocities and may be a reason to go to war to solve problems between countries.
- It is the best way if it is sanctioned by God, eg Holy War.
- It is if you are abiding by rules of Just / Holy War.
- It might be the only war a particular country (leader) might respond / listen to international pressure.
- War can be quicker than diplomacy.

### **Arguments in support of other views**

- There are many other methods of resolving conflicts eg. negotiations, through UN, through sanctions or use of peace keeping forces.
- War ignores the sanctity of life by taking lives and ruining others. War creates refugees and brings terrible destruction.
- There has to be a better way of resolving problems between countries that doesn't cause so much destruction and harm.
- War wastes a country's resources etc.

### **Buddhism**

Dhammapada 270: 'A man is not a great man because he is warrior and kills other men, but because he hurts not any living being he is in truth called a great man.' / the first precept not to take life, oppose warfare / concept of Ahimsa (non. violence) / will defend their lands if it is seen as having the right motivation / Buddhists have fought in war eg in the 14th century Buddhist fighters led the uprising that evicted the Mongols from China, etc.

### **Christianity**

Matthew 5:9: 'Happy are those who work for peace.' / Matthew 5:44: 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' / Matthew 5:38-48 –do not take revenge, if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek...Matthew 22:39: 'Love your neighbour' / Romans 12:17-21 Jesus taught peace, forgiveness and overcoming evil with goodness but he did overturn tables in the temple because it had become 'a den of thieves.' Matthew 10:34, etc.

### **Hinduism**

Hindus believe in the principle of Ahimsa (non-violence) / good Karma would not involve violence, but work towards peace / The Mahabharata: 'This is the sum of duty. Do naught to others, which, if done to thee, could cause thee pain.' / the Upanishads teach non-violence / example of Gandhi. Hindus have had the Kshatriyas (warrior caste) and believe war is justified if their country is invaded or if the people are oppressed or exploited / 'There is no greater good for a warrior than to fight in a righteous war.' Bhagavad Gita 2:31, etc.

### **Islam**

Surah 49:9: 'If two parties of believers take up arms ... make peace between them.' Surah 3:134: 'Paradise is for ... those who curb their anger and forgive their fellow men.' Islam seeks peace within the community / in the daily prayers peace is promoted: 'peace be unto you.' / the Qur'an teaches that revenge is wrong / Islam has the idea of the lesser jihad and those killed in jihad being rewarded in paradise./Surah 4:74 / Fight for Allah -Surah 2 :190 / Surah 4:76 / will fight in a Just War, etc.

### **Judaism**

Exodus 20:13: 'Do not kill' / Micah 4:3 'Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.' / Proverbs 25:21: 'If your enemy is hungry, give him something to eat; if thirsty, something to drink.' / the Talmud: 'What is harmful to yourself do not to your fellow men'. Judaism portrays God as a warrior and see some wars as obligatory – a necessary last resort / these may be fought in self-defence or a pre-emptive strike against an enemy about to invade, or by God's command / Deuteronomy 20:1-4 / Exodus 15:3, etc.

### **Sikhism**

Peace is a gift of God / believe in non-violence / Guru Nanak taught that if someone hurts you, you should put up with it three times; on the fourth time God would defend you / GGS teaches Sikhs to cause no one any suffering / the kirpan symbolise the willingness of Sikhs to defend people's religious freedom, dignity and self-respect / concept of the Just War (Dharam Yudh) / 'When all efforts to restore peace prove useless and no words avail, lawful is the flash of steel. It is right to draw the sword.' Guru Gobind Singh, etc.

**[Plus SPaG 3 marks]**