

0 4

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

0 4 . 1

Which one of the following gives the meaning of pacifism?

[1 mark]

- A To take revenge**
- B To gain power**
- C To convert people to religion**
- D To be against violence**

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

Answer: D: To be against violence

0 4 . 2

Give two ways that religious believers can work for peace.

[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.

Accept peace on a personal level between individuals eg no hatred, no discrimination, no retaliation / living in a peaceful way, etc

Join a religious organisation that campaigns for peace eg The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Religions for Peace, The Muslim Peace Fellowship / follow the example of those who have worked for peace / pray for peace / teach or preach that peace is the better way / take part in a peaceful march / start a petition / write to MPs / write letters to the press / campaign using social media eg Facebook / campaign to change the law / make speeches / educate people about the injustice / fight (campaign) for justice / work for the UN / be a mediator / fight a war to bring peace , etc.

0 4 . 3 Explain two similar religious beliefs about reconciliation.

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 similar belief

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

Second similar belief

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

Note: to be a detailed explanation the response must be linked to **reconciliation**

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

Detailed explanations will reflect one or more religious traditions.

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

Religions believe in the rebuilding of relationships after conflicts / concept of forgiveness / support the idea of restoring of harmony after relationships have broken down, etc.

Buddhism

Buddhist teachings stress the importance of letting go of blame and resentment because these attitudes prevent a person developing a more harmonious relationship with others and contribute to the person's own suffering / encouraged to forgive the past and appreciate and accept each other for what they are / forgiveness can be developed from meditation so reconciliation can take place / it is better to develop compassion than hatred or resentment, etc.

Christianity

The mission of the Church is to proclaim that Jesus came so that the relationship between God and people can be restored / Catholics have a sacrament of reconciliation – the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation / 2 Corinthians 5:18–19 and Matthew 5:23–24 state that Christians should be reconciled to God and one another / Coventry Cathedral has become a world centre for reconciliation and forgiveness / the Community of the Cross of Nails works in many countries to bring peace and harmony / Christians set up the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland to bring reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics, etc.

Hinduism

Hindus believe that for reconciliation to take place both parties need to realise what they may have done to cause the breakdown of relationships / this can then lead to the seeking of forgiveness / Hindus may ask for help from God, a priest or a counsellor / Hindu scriptures teach that forgiveness

leading to reconciliation is the best way of keeping the world peaceful and in harmony eg Hymn to Forgiveness in the Mahabharata, etc.

Islam

Making up for conflict requires more than just words / it involves a conscious effort to rebuild a relationship and work to ensure there is no more conflict / an important message of Islam is that there should be peace and harmony / Muslims believe that God created everything and humankind has the responsibility to ensure that everybody lives correctly, etc.

Judaism

Some Jews are working for peace between Jews and Palestinians because they believe in the importance of building harmony and reconciliation / the Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF) has brought together more than 600 Palestinian and Israeli families who have lost an immediate family member in the conflict to show how reconciliation between individuals and nations is possible / they believe that this is the way to bring about lasting peace, etc.

Sikhism

Sikhs believe that reconciliation involves more than just apologising / it involves a conscious effort to rebuild a relationship that had broken down / sometimes much work is needed to ensure that there is no more conflict but if it is achieved it makes war and conflict less likely / 'Guru Arjan said, "No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger. I get along with everyone." ' – Guru Granth Sahib 1299, etc.

0 4 . 4 Explain two reasons why religious people help victims of war.

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 reason

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

Second reason

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

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

Note: to be a detailed explanation, the response must be linked to victims of war

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

Religions are about compassion and helping people in need / many victims of war are in a state of absolute need, eg no home / the Golden Rule of ‘Treat others as you would be done by’ / because many victims of war are unable to find employment because of their injuries / because many victims of war may need specialist medical care / because many victims of war have emotional wounds and long term problems / a moral imperative to help those who are victims of war / a sense of needing justice for those who are victims of war / because they may have a job which involves helping victims of war, eg nurse / personal experience, etc

Buddhism

Buddhists believe in working to prevent suffering / believe in helping refugees overcome anger, bitterness and hatred towards the aggressors / victims are likely to need help in letting go of these feelings / Dhammapada states: ‘Hatred does not stop hatred. Only love stops it.’ / ‘To conquer oneself is a greater victory than to conquer thousands in battle.’ / encourages Right Conduct and Right Occupation – two of the Noble Eightfold Path / the Tzu Chi Foundation’s mission is ‘expressing great kindness to all sentient beings, and taking their suffering as our own’ / helping victims brings good kamma and helps all beings become free of suffering and ultimately reach enlightenment, etc.

Christianity

Jesus had compassion for those in need / Matthew 22v39: ‘Love your neighbour’ / the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) / Parable of the Sheep and Goats encourages Christians to provide food and shelter for those in need / Christians organisations like Caritas and Christian Aid help victims of war / Christian Aid operates under the slogan ‘We believe in life before death’ / many

believe that it is their Christian duty to raise funds to help those suffering the consequences of war, including the families of those who are killed, etc.

Hinduism

Hindus are taught to respect life and to practise ahimsa and be compassionate when others are in pain / many support the Indian Red Cross providing help through money or in refugee camps / The Mahabharata: "This is the sum of duty. Do naught to others, which, if done to thee, could cause thee pain." / good karma is gained by helping victims of war overcome their difficulties / Hinduism teaches to help those who are in need, etc.

Islam

Muslims believe that it is their duty to give assistance and support to those injured in war through the local community and mosques / this includes help and care for victims wherever they live and whichever side they or their family member was fighting for / "Whoever saved a life, it would be as if they saved the life of all mankind" Qur'an 5:32 / organisations that help victims of war, like Islamic relief and Muslim Aid, are governed by principles such as compassion, empathy, generosity and helping those in need, etc.

Judaism

The work of some Jewish organisations is based on the Jewish principles of pikuach nefesh, saving a life, and tikkun olam, healing the world / Proverbs 25v21: '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" / the mission of Magen David Adom UK includes providing medical care and treatment for people of any nationality, race, religion, ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or political affiliation, including all victims of conflict, etc.

Sikhism

Guru Granth Sahib: "As thou deemest thyself, so deem others. Cause suffering to no one." / in the Ardas (prayer), the Sikhs pray for the welfare of everyone / Khalsa Aid was founded on the Sikh principles of selfless service and universal love, inspired by the teaching of Guru Gobind Singh and this has led to helping victims of war / includes assisting refugees made homeless by fighting / the Gurus taught Sikhs to help humanity and treat everybody with love and compassion / helping victims brings the reward of good karma, etc.

0 4 . 5 ‘Religious believers should never fight in a war.’

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]
[SPaG 3 marks]

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

Level	Criteria	Marks
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. References to religion applied to the issue.	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. Clear reference to religion.	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. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.	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

- Religions teach that war is an evil which should be avoided as it kills innocent civilians and ruins the environment.
- Religions teach their followers to work for peace so it is hypocritical to fight in war.
- Wars are fought because of motives like greed and wanting more power or land or to impose beliefs on other people which is not what religions teach.
- Disputes should be settled in other ways eg negotiations, through the United Nations, trade sanctions. / There have to be better ways of solving a dispute as war creates more problems than it solves.
- Goes against the religions’ golden rules and peace is priceless.

- Religions teach forgiveness and overcoming evil with goodness / examples of believers who have advocated overcoming injustice in peaceful ways include Martin Luther King, The Dalai Lama, Gandhi, etc.

Arguments in support of other views

- Sometimes it is seen as right for religious believers to fight if there is a just reason for a war / accept Just War conditions eg just cause / lawfully declared by proper authority / good intention / last resort / reasonable chance of success / fought by just means / the good achieved will outweigh the evil / avoidance where possible of injury to civilians / protect trees, crops and animals / need to overthrow a cruel dictator / stop genocide or other atrocities / bring freedom to a country / defend faith / self-defence.
- May be classified as a Holy War eg fighting to protect their religion.
- May be seen as the only way to bring peace in the end.
- Could be seen as the lesser of two evils such as the only way to destroy weapons of mass destruction and / or stop genocide or an aggressive regime, etc.

Buddhism

Buddhism is a religion of peace and generally teaches that there are no justifiable reasons for war / Buddhism teaches that people cannot relieve their own suffering through making others suffer / the Buddha taught that if people have peaceful minds, this will lead to peaceful speech and peaceful actions / Mahayana Buddhists may agree to fight to save innocent lives or in self-defence / the Dalai Lama has said, "If someone has a gun and is trying to kill you, it would be reasonable to shoot back with your own gun", etc.

Christianity

While the Christian Church may speak out against killing and Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers", many Christians are prepared to fight for their country or religion against evil / St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas developed the criteria for the Just War theory / Jesus used violence in the Temple to throw out those who were exploiting the pilgrims / other Christians are pacifists eg The Quakers (Society of Friends) and will not fight under any circumstances / the Ten Commandments include 'Do not kill' / many in the early Church were against fighting, etc.

Hinduism

Hindus believe war is justified if it is in self-defence or fighting for freedom from oppression or the establishment or restoration of good government / have a warrior caste (Kshatriyas) / 'For a warrior, nothing is higher than a war against evil' – Bhagavad Gita 2:31 / Krishna gave Arjuna four reasons for fighting which included the duty of his varna required him to act as a warrior / prepared to fight if war achieves more good than the evil it is trying to destroy / Hindus believe that they should build up good karma by working for peace and following ahimsa, etc.

Islam

Muslims believe in the lesser jihad – a military struggle in defence of Islam, self-defence and justice / if a country is mistreating its Islamic citizens, it is permissible to fight in support of fellow Muslims / Muslims believe that those who fight for Islam will receive the favour and reward of God – Qur'an 4:74 / although believing in the Just War principles, Muslims believe that it is much better if war can be avoided / the word 'Islam' comes from the root word 'salaam' meaning 'peace' / '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, etc.

Judaism

Many Jewish believers do join the armed forces / many Jews believe in pre-emptive strikes to overcome evil / many stories of war heroes in the Tenakh eg Joshua, Samson, King David and Gideon / some wars are regarded as obligatory, others defensive wars and others optional wars / no specific Just War theory in Judaism but many accept the Just War theory criteria / many suffered during the Holocaust and many Jews believe it right to stand up against evil wherever it occurs / 'Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in His image did God make man – Genesis 9:6 / The Ten Commandments – 'Do not kill.' / Jews hope for peace in the future – Micah 4:3, Isaiah 9:6–7 / promote peace-making where possible, etc.

Sikhism

The Sikhs' kirpan symbolizes the willingness to defend people's religious freedom, dignity and self-defence / will fight against injustice but not for revenge / many Sikhs fought with the allied troops in the First and Second World Wars / Sikhs have developed a Just War theory called dharam yudh (war in defence of righteousness) / war has to be morally justified and everything else tried first / 'When matters pass all other means, it is allowed to take up arms' – Guru Gobind Singh / Guru Nanak stressed the important of working to transform people who were harming others / Sikhs believe in working for justice and peace, etc.

[Plus SPaG 3 marks]