

0 4 Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict

0 4 . 1 Which one of the following describes what is right and fair, as required by the law?

[1 mark]

- A Forgiveness
- B Greed
- C Justice
- D Selfishness

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

Answer: C Justice

0 4 . 2 Give two reasons why most religious people are against terrorism.

[2 marks]

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

1 mark for each of two correct points.

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

Terrorism is indiscriminate in causing suffering / innocent people and civilians are targeted / often results in death, which is against the sanctity of life / no religion promotes terrorism / goes against the first precept / caused by hatred – one of the three poisons in Buddhism / some are pacifists and do not believe in any violence / not loving your neighbour / concept of ahimsa / scaring and hurting people is the wrong way to resolve issues / it is against the law (illegal), etc.

0 4 . 3 Explain two contrasting religious beliefs in contemporary British society about pacifism.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other 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 contrast – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate contrast – 2 marks

Second contrasting belief

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

Students must refer explicitly to a belief from Christianity, so showing that they know and understand that the main religious tradition of Great Britain is Christian. The belief they choose to explain may vary according to the denomination or tradition they refer to.

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

If students do not refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain (Christianity) a maximum of 2 marks may be awarded.

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

Some people in Britain today believe that pacifism is right because killing can never be justified / religious believers support the idea of the sanctity of life / God gives life-only God should take it so it is wrong to fight in a war in which people will be killed / religions have laws such as 'do not kill' and so some will not fight, etc.

Some believe that war is the sometimes the best option and would not support being a pacifist / they would fight in a 'Just War' or to stop genocide taking place, etc.

Buddhism

Peace and non-violence are core beliefs in Buddhism / idea of ahimsa (not harming a living thing) / right action / first precept (not to harm any living thing) / karuna (compassion) / some Mahayana Buddhists believe killing is acceptable if it saves further lives, etc.

Christianity

Pacifist Christians believe they are following the example of Jesus / 'turn the other cheek' / 'do not kill' / some Christian pacifists assist the war effort in non-combat roles / Quakers are pacifists / Jesus taught 'Blessed are the peacemakers' / just war may justify fighting / sometimes it is better to fight to save lives and protect a country or way of life (eg WW2), etc.

Hinduism

Non-violence builds good karma / concept of ahimsa / life should be respected / pacifism follows example of Mahatma Gandhi / some Hindus believe in fighting under certain circumstances to protect life / in the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna advised Arjuna to fight / may be acting in self-defence, etc.

Islam

The root of word Islam means peace / peace features in main Muslim greeting (Salaam) / peace and reconciliation are better than fighting / wrong to return evil with evil / God forgives and expects people to do the same / no duty to be a pacifist because lesser jihad permits violence in defence of Muslims and Muslim countries / will fight in a Holy or Just War, etc.

Judaism

Shalom (Peace be upon you) is main Jewish greeting / truth, justice and peace keep the world safe / Jews look forward to time of peace because they have suffered greatly in history, eg the Holocaust / commandment 'do not kill' / Jews will fight if it promotes greater good and in self-defence, etc.

Sikhism

Peace is a gift from God / Sikhs believe in the principle of non-violence / believe it is important to work at preventing war and violence / Guru Nanak preached peace and the importance of finding the root cause of the conflict / later gurus permitted violence in self-defence and in defence of the faith, etc.

0 4 . 4 Explain two reasons why some religious people support the just war theory.

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

NB. Responses which only give an outline of a just war theory should receive no more than 2 marks.

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

Sometimes to do nothing would be to allow injustices to continue / it may be seen as the lesser of two evils / it may be seen as right for religious believers to fight if there is a just reason for a war / such as it has a just cause eg to defend their country / lawfully declared by proper authority like the government / has a good intention eg to overthrow an evil dictator / is the last resort eg after sanctions and diplomacy have failed / there is a reasonable chance of success – of winning the war / fought by just means, not by weapons which are banned eg chemical weapons / the good achieved will outweigh the evil and peace restored / avoidance where possible of injury to civilians / care is taken to protect trees, crops and animals / need to overthrow a cruel dictator / stop genocide or other atrocities / bring freedom to a country where the people are oppressed / defend faith and freedoms / in self-defence against an invading army / religious believers like St Augustine and Thomas Aquinas developed the criteria for the Just War theory, etc.

Buddhism

Most Buddhists do not believe in fighting but 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

Many Christians are prepared to fight for their country or religion against evil / many stories in the Old Testament of wars promote heroes in battles eg David against Goliath / 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, 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, 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, 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, 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, etc.

0 4 . 5 'It is wrong for any country to have weapons of mass destruction.'

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: AO2:1a and 1b Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including 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

- If used, weapons of mass destruction may kill thousands of innocent people and wildlife and cause immense suffering.
- If weapons of mass destruction are used, the conflict may escalate and destroy the planet so they should be destroyed.
- Weapons of mass destruction are hugely expensive and it is unlikely that they will ever be used so there is no point in having them.
- Accidents could occur which could have a devastating impact, etc.

Arguments in support of other views

- Weapons of mass destruction may serve as a deterrent and help to prevent war.
- Countries that possess weapons of mass destruction can be considered to be safer than those without.
- The existence of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction has kept the peace in Europe since end of WW2.
- As the technology to make them exists, the clock cannot be turned back to 'uninvent' them.
- Mutually Assured Destruction, etc.

Buddhism

Harming living things is wrong (1st precept) and weapons of mass destruction cause massive harm / weapons of mass destruction do not help to show compassion / deterrence is against Buddhism because it is based on fear / Buddhists are permitted to fight but nuclear weapons are disproportional / use of weapons of mass destruction is likely to involve selfishness and greed / money could be better spent on providing for the poor and disadvantaged / 'The mechanisation of war ...poses an increasing threat to peace.' (Dalai Lama), etc.

Christianity

Christians are encouraged to work towards peace / following the peaceful example of Jesus would rule out weapons of mass destruction / weapons of mass destruction disobey the just war criteria (proportionality) / potential for massive civilian casualties / against the sanctity of life / 'do not kill' / 'love your neighbour' (may be the more loving thing to do if it ends violence) / nuclear weapons have proved to be a deterrent and have helped to keep the peace / they could be used as a last resort in the most serious of circumstances, especially if they prevent further suffering, etc.

Hinduism

Weapons of mass destruction are against ahimsa / give bad karma / even if war is justified, it should not cause unnecessary suffering, especially to civilians which weapons of mass destruction does / nuclear weapons are aggressive not defensive / fighting is justified in self-defence and to protect the vulnerable if under threat but weapons of mass destruction are not proportional, etc.

Islam

Use of weapons of mass destruction is wrong because it could destroy the world God created for humankind / they don't reflect a belief in peace / war should be in defence but weapons of mass destruction are aggressive, not defensive / nuclear weapons do not fulfil lesser jihad / money could be used better on providing for the poor / some Muslim countries, eg Pakistan, have nuclear weapons as deterrence and for self-defence but have never used them, etc.

Judaism

Teachings on peace, justice and sanctity of life rule out the use of weapons of mass destruction / using weapons of mass destruction are contrary to stewardship of God's earth / mass destruction is unacceptable conduct in war / teachings such as 'do not kill' / peace should not be built on fear / Israel possesses nuclear weapons and relies on other countries with them / in Israel's history, there have been occasions where large numbers were killed in battle eg the conquest of Canaan, etc.

Sikhism

Only minimum force should be used in wars, weapons of mass destruction are maximum force / civilians should be protected but weapons of mass destruction kill thousands over a large area / everybody has an equal right to life so using such weapons is completely unacceptable / 'No one is my enemy and neither is he a stranger, because I am a friend of all.' (GGS) / nuclear weapons have kept the peace through fear (eg between India and Pakistan), etc.

[Plus SPaG 3 marks]