

Religion, Peace and Conflict: Revision Activities A

Why do people go to war?

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Consequences of war:

| Positive | Negative |
|----------|----------|
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| | |
| | |

Definition of Peace:

Pacifism: Christian teaching against War:

Three religious teachings supporting Pacifism are:

1)

2)

3)

Conscientious objector:

_____ : wrong to use violence. There is no situation in which the use of violence can be morally justified.

_____ Before the actual fighting starts, there is conflict - disagreement; armed conflict the actual fighting.

Sanctity of Life:

Justice: sense of fairness applied, making right a situation which has been unjust. Religion is meant to bring justice to the world, and to fight injustice. Many wars are about, or include the abuse of, justice, so many religious people feel duty – bound to fight against this. **Sacred writings/Scripture:** Christianity - [Proverbs 31:8-9](#)

“

_____!” [Isaiah 58:6-9](#) “This is the kind of fast day I’m after: to break the chains of injustice,”

Christian teaching FOR War:

| Teaching | Explanation |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Jesus came into contact with soldiers | |
| <u>Jesus got angry</u> | |

| | |
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| | |
| <u>Way of showing love-agape</u> | |
| <u>Sanctity of life</u> | |
| <u>Just War</u> <u>'Prepare for War' Joel</u> <u>'A time for war and a time for Peace'</u> | |

Holy War: (Christian)

Definition:

Example:

Justification:

Quote:

Victims of War: War has many victims besides soldiers. Survivors can have long-lasting physical and mental injuries. Cities are destroyed, homes lost, families and friends separated and children orphaned. Refugees

How can a religious believer help victims of war?

Why they do it?

Weapons of Mass Destruction or WMD's are weapons that can kill large amounts of people at once cause huge destruction and death. These include biological (living-disease-causing bacterium or viruses), chemical (non-living toxins) and nuclear weapons (atomic bombs – nuclear reaction).

Name three types of WMD:

1)

2)

3)

Nuclear Weapons: cause huge devastation. Afterwards, radioactive fallout kills more than the original explosion. The weapons today could, if used, destroy life on Earth. *For:* Act as a deterrent. Cannot dis-invent them. Ended WWII quickly. *Against:* pose an unacceptable risk to humanity. The proliferation of nuclear weapons makes the chances greater that an irresponsible government or terrorists might obtain them. The destruction they would cause cannot be justified for any reason. All religions oppose the use of nuclear weapons and support disarmament. Go against Just war theory as they are not proportional and are indiscriminate and so are unjust

CCND: The Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CCND) are Christians attached to the CND. The CCND campaign against the use and development of WMD and for peace. Organise conferences (local and National), acts of protest, letter writing, lobbying MP's and educating others for peace and disarmament.

Q: Explain the impact that WMD can have

Q: Who are the CCND?

Q: Why as Christians do they oppose WMD?

Q:

| Arguments for WMD | Arguments against WMD |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
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Outline 6 of the conditions of Just War theory: Explain each one or give an example

| | |
|-----------|--|
| <u>1.</u> | |
| <u>2.</u> | |
| <u>3.</u> | |

| | |
|----|--|
| 4. | |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |

Exam Questions:

- Which of the following is not a reason for war?
a) Greed b) Terrorism c) Self- defence d) Gain Land (1)

- What does WMD mean?
a) Weapons of mass devastation b) weapons of mass destruction c) weapons of death d) weapons of major destruction

- Give two effects of conflict (2)
- Name two reasons for a country to keep weapons of Mass destruction (2)
- Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about violence in contemporary British society. In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious (4)
- Explain two similar religious beliefs about peace. In your answer you should refer to one or more religious traditions. (4)

“War can never bring Peace!” Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- Give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- Give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- Refer to religious arguments
- Refer to no- religious argument
- Justified conclusion

“Greed is the greatest cause of War” Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- Give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- Give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- Refer to religious arguments
- Refer to no- religious argument
- Justified conclusion

War and Peace: Revision Activities Set B

TASK 1: Write down the key quotes filling in the gaps of the key Christian teachings we have studied on Pacifism:

1. 'Blessed are the _____' Jesus.
2. Life is _____ and a _____ from God.
3. All are made in the '_____ of God'. Genesis (Bible)
4. '_____ your neighbour' Jesus.
5. 'Do not _____' One of the 10 Commandments.

TASK 2: Just War: A Just War is a Christian approach that argues that sometimes a war can be morally right to fight. It is a necessary evil. It's not that they believe in war, just sometimes it is needed to stop a greater evil. (the lesser of two evils). A Just War could be needed to protect the sanctity of life - this could be to stop a genocide. (the mass killing of a people group) It could be self-defence when the country has been invaded. WWII is considered to be a Just War. Just War Theory is a Christian concept and has strict criteria that has to be fulfilled. It is not a Just War unless it fulfils the criteria for a Just War. E.g. Last resort, Started by a legal authority, for a Just Cause. There is also a Muslim concept that is similar to Just War theory – this is the lesser Jihad.

1. What is a Just War? Give a definition with 2 points in it.
2. What could be a reason justifying a Just War?
3. Which war is considered a Just War?
4. Name two of the criteria or rules of a Just War.

TASK 3: Just war theory. Use the starters to remind you of all the rules of the theory. Write each one up in full – the first one is done for you. Use the revision guide if you get stuck.

- Started by a legal authority – e.g. our democratically elected government.
- Last.....
- For a
- With a
- Weapons are.....
- Peace is.....
- Good achieved....

Key teachings for Just War: ".....a time for war, and a time for peace." [Ecclesiastes 3:8](#) (Good for Supporting last resort) "Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war!" Joel 3 v9 (Good for supporting Just Cause – i.e. may need to fight for justice)

TASK 4: Explain two religious beliefs about war. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer (5 marks)

For this question you need to: Write about a named religious belief or teaching concerning war e.g. Just War (The criteria for Just war would count as teachings) You then need to explain the quote or teaching. Then expand it. The second religious belief could be a Pacifist view. Explain a Christian Pacifist quote or teaching from the Bible. Explain the teaching. Expand your point.

Sentence starters: One religious believe about war is Christian Just War theory. A Just War is a war that is

The Bible teaches.....

This means that

A second religious belief about war is Christian Pacifism. Christian Pacifists believe.....

They follow the teachings of Jesus who said.....

This means that.....

WMD: Weapons of Mass Destruction

Knowledge Check: Answer as many of the following as you can or fill in the missing key words. Use your book/revision guide once you get stuck.

| |
|---|
| 1. What is a conscientious objector? |
| 2. Who's image do Christians believe everyone is made in? |
| 3. The Story of the _____ explains that Christians should help anyone in need. |
| 4. Jesus taught his followers to _____ your neighbour. The neighbour is _____ who is in need. |
| 5. Christian _____ is a Christian charity that helps victims of _____. |
| 6. What is a Just War? |
| 7. In a Just war the weapons must be in _____. |
| 8. Which religious group are Pacifists? |
| 9. What is the sanctity of life? |

Highlight what you think are the two key arguments on each side of the debate:

| <u>AGAINST</u> | <u>FOR</u> |
|---|---|
| They are too extreme and uncontrollable. | Deterrent – help to keep peace. It makes others less enthusiastic about starting a war because we possess these weapons. They are not kept to be used but kept to stop a war starting. |
| They are unjust – They maim civilians and effects can harm future innocent people. They also harm children. | Impossible to dis-invent WMD and so they are needed to prevent us from becoming vulnerable. |
| Money is better spent elsewhere e.g. paying for vaccinations, providing schooling etc. | Needed to protect innocent civilians and protect their sanctity of life. |
| The manufacture of the weapons can cause polluting waste that can get into food supplies. When used they also damage the environment. | The use of nuclear weapons in error is practically impossible these days because of the careful checks. |
| Terrorists and people who doesn't understand/ care about the consequences might get hold of WMD and use them. | |
| Long term effects - Sick children cause an even heavier burden for the poorest in the world who can't afford medical care. | |

So what are the Christian attitudes towards the use of WMD and why?.....

- Only one reason is FOR allowing Nuclear weapons for Christians - Deterrent – help to keep peace.

There are lots of arguments against using WMD for Christians

- Too extreme and uncontrollable
- Effects can be long term and affect innocent people who were not even alive at the time of the war.
- Unjust – Maim civilians – Saddam Hussein used them on his people.
- Money spent better elsewhere.
- Immoral - goes against Sanctity of life, that life is sacred and a gift from God.

- The 10 Commandments teach 'Do not murder' (Exodus) WMD kill innocent civilians who may not even be involved in fighting the war at all but are just in the wrong place at the wrong time.
- WMDs go against the concept of stewardship found within Christianity (caring about the environment.)
- For Christians, they go against religious teachings such as '*loving your neighbour*', '*love one another*', '*love your enemy*' as taught by Jesus.
- WMD go against Just War in Christianity as they are not proportional and Jihad in Islam because they do not keep innocent suffering to a minimum and harm the environment. A 'Just War' is fought to gain justice for people, WMDs are *considered unjust because they arbitrarily kill* and maim civilians. WMD's also go against religious teachings such as '*loving your neighbour*'. They are indiscriminate.

1. What is a deterrent?

2. Why do some Christians accept deterrent as a reason for having WMD?

3. What would a Pacifist argue about using WMD?

4. Give two teachings to explain why they are against the use of WMD.

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5. What are is the fundamental Christian belief about who can take life and what does it mean?

6. What do the 10 Commandments teach about taking life?

7. Can WMD ever be used in a Just War? Explain 3 reasons why?

