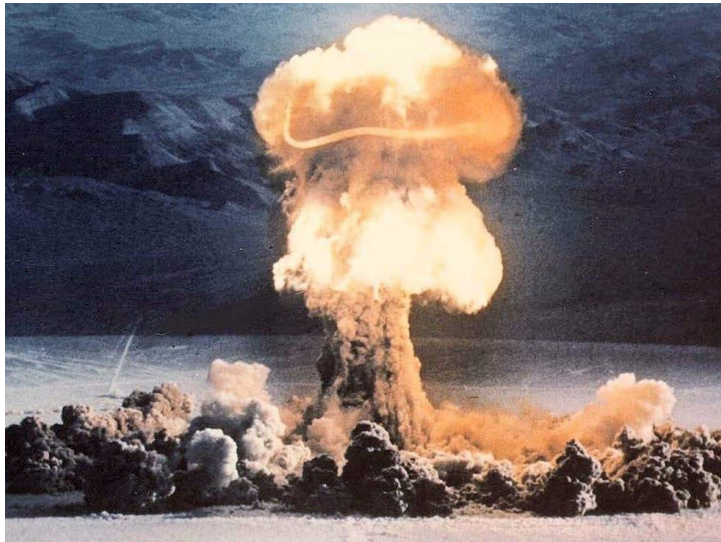


Year 11 RE

Religion, Peace & Conflict

NAME

TUTOR GROUP.....



THEME D: RELIGION, PEACE AND CONFLICT

1. Introduction to religion, peace and conflict

Essential information:

- Some Christians (such as Quakers) believe war is always wrong, while others believe war is acceptable under certain conditions.
- Most Jews are prepared to fight for their country and their faith; the Promised Land was conquered and protected through fighting.
- The concepts of peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation are important both in the aftermath of conflict and as tools to prevent war from happening in the first place.

Key terms

- **war:** fighting between nations to resolve issues between them
- **peace:** an absence of conflict, which leads to happiness and harmony
- **justice:** bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law or making up for a wrong that has been committed
- **forgiveness:** showing grace and mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong
- **reconciliation:** a sacrament in the Catholic Church; also, when individuals or groups restore friendly relations after conflict or disagreement

Cover the key terms and write their meaning:

War...

Peace...

Justice...

Forgiveness ...

Reconciliation ...

Jewish views on war: In the Torah, there are several examples of Jews fighting for their Promised Land at the time of Moses, Joshua, King Saul and King David.

In a war, soldiers are killed, but also those not fighting, like civilians, women and children. While countries have laws against murder, killing in a war is considered acceptable. Some Jews speak out against any kind of killing, but others will be prepared to fight for their country and their faith, even if they believe that war is fundamentally wrong.

Jewish views on peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation:

Peace... <i>'...nation shall not take up sword against nation; they shall never again know war.'</i> Isaiah 2:4 (Tenakh) • Jewish greeting is 'Shalom' = means complete peace and contentment • The commandments are to help bring about peace and harmony • God/the Messiah will bring peace	Justice... <i>'The Lord requires you to 'Only do justice, love goodness and walk modestly with your God.'</i> Micah 6:8 (Tenakh) • Many wars are fought to achieve justice • God as the ultimate judge will bring justice • God wants justice especially for the poor and oppressed • Justice is linked with equality - people must work for both
Forgiveness... • Jews believe forgiveness is important for living peacefully • After punishment or conflict, forgiveness must follow if peace and justice are to be restored • God sets the example by forgiving his people • The festival of Yom Kippur	Reconciliation ... • Reconciliation follows conflict • Palestinians and Israelis are constantly fighting • Some Jewish and Palestinian groups are working to reconcile the two groups. • God expects nations and peoples to reconcile and live in harmony.

From the above notes, according to Jews, how are peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation linked, especially in a context of war?



תצדק
Justice
Tze-Dek



Christian views on peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation:

Peace ...

Justice...

Forgiveness ...

Reconciliation ...

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus' death on the
cross

Jesus' forgiving his
crucifiers

'You must forgive
seventy times seven'

Explain why peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation important for Christians in the context of a war ...

2. Violent protest and terrorism

Essential information:

- In the UK, the right to **protest** is a fundamental democratic freedom, but it is illegal to protest violently
- **Terrorism** is a much more serious form of violent protest
- Judaism and Christianity are against violent protest and terrorism

Key terms

- **protest:** an expression of disapproval, often in a public group
- **violence:** using actions that threaten or harm others
- **terrorism:** the unlawful use of violence, usually against innocent civilians, to achieve a political goal

Give examples of:

Protests....

Violent protests...

Terrorism ...

You might be asked to compare beliefs on violence between Christianity (the main religious tradition in Great Britain) and another religious tradition

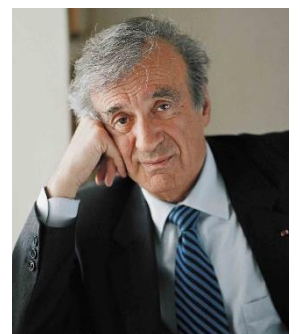
Jewish views on violence and protest

Some Jews believe that:

- Protest to bring about change, especially if against an injustice is good. To remain silent is a sin
- Not to protest would be to agree with the wrong being done
- Violence, especially towards the innocent is unacceptable



"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant." Elie Wiesel (Jewish Holocaust survivor and winner of 1986 Nobel Peace)



Explain Jewish views about violence and protest

Christian views on violence and protest

Explain Christian views about violence and protest

Religious views on terrorism

- The violence of **terrorism** is usually committed against innocent civilians
- It is usually in public places
- It can be in the form of suicide bombers, car bombs or gunmen shooting into crowds
- Terrorists believe that by killing people in this way, the rest of society will become more aware of their cause, will be scared of them and force their governments to give in to their demands

Jewish views on terrorism...

Christian views on terrorism...

3. Reasons for war

Essential information:

- Some reasons for war include greed, self-defence and retaliation.
- Christianity and Judaism teach that war should never be motivated by greed or retaliation, but most Christians and Jews believe that fighting in self-defence is morally acceptable
- Judaism teaches that war should not be motivated by greed, but that retaliation for an unprovoked attack or in self-defence may be justifiable

Key terms

- **greed:** selfish desire for something
- **self-defence:** acting to prevent harm to yourself or others
- **retaliation:** deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you

Of these three reasons for war, which one do you think is more acceptable? Justify your view:

Reasons for war

Greed...	Self-defence...	Retaliation...
• To control resources such as oil or minerals like gold • Acquire land Can you name examples?	• When attacked by another country • To protect borders and weak countries Can you name examples?	• To punish another country for a wrong they have committed Can you name examples?

"A greedy man provokes quarrels, But he who trust in God shall enjoy prosperity"
(Proverbs 28;25) [Tenakh]

"You shall not covet." (Exodus 14;17) [Torah]

Prophet Amos - spoke against the oppression of the poor and greed of the rich.

Prophet Jeremiah - spoke against the wealthy who exploited the poor. The Lord will punish them for their wickedness.

Using the information on the previous page, what would be the Jewish views on greed as a reason for war?

Self-defence as a reason for war: Many people believe it is acceptable to fight to defend other nations under threat. In 1948, after the Holocaust, the present day nation of Israel was set up and Israel has been keen to safeguard its territory, and protect its citizens from attack. Israel has been and continues to be involved in armed conflicts with its neighbours to protect itself.

Using the information above, what would be the Jewish views on self-defence as a reason for war?

Retaliation as a reason for war:

"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your countrymen. Love your neighbour as yourself." **Leviticus 19:18 (Torah)**

Maimonides, a great Jewish Rabbi, said that revenge was extremely bad and unworthy action in everyday life. Spiritual matters are more important than revenge based on material things.

Moses and Joshua led Israelites in fighting off the other tribes that attacked them as they made their way to the Promised Land.

King Saul and King David, fought with the tribes that tried to invade them. They were fighting to protect themselves as the people of God.

Using the information above, what would be the Jewish views on retaliation as a reason for war?

Christian views on
greed as a cause of
war...

Christian views on
retaliation as a cause
of war...

Christian views on
self-defence as a
cause of war...

“ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ”

Matthew 5:39 [NIV]

“ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. ”

1 Timothy 6:10 [NIV]

“ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. ... If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ”

Romans 12:17–19 [NIV]

Use these quotes from
the Bible to help you
answer this question:

Explain two religious
reasons why retaliation
is not a good reason for
starting a war. Refer to
sacred writings or
religious teaching.
(5marks)

REMEMBER: Retaliation is different from self-defence. It may sometimes be justifiable to defend your country in self-defence, but retaliation is a spiteful action to punish an enemy for something they have done.

4. Nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction

Essential information:

- Nuclear weapons devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people
- Other types of weapons of mass destruction include chemical and biological weapons

- No religion supports the use of these weapons, although some believers do support nuclear deterrence (stockpiling nuclear weapons to deter or prevent an enemy attack)

Key terms

- **nuclear weapons:** weapons that work by a nuclear reaction; they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people
- **weapons of mass destruction:** weapons that can kill large numbers of people and/or cause great damage
- **chemical weapons:** weapons that use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyse humans and destroy the natural environment
- **biological weapons:** weapons that have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease or death



▲ The Japanese city of Hiroshima shortly after an atom bomb was dropped on it on 6 August 1945

Why do some people think that it is not wrong to have nuclear weapons?

Jewish views on the use of nuclear weapons...

Christian views on the use of nuclear weapons...

What are the possible sacred writings that you could use to support these **Jewish** views?

What are the possible sacred writings that you could use to support these **Christian** views?

Jewish views on the use of weapons of mass destruction...	Christian views on the use of weapons of mass destruction ...
Sacred writings...	
Which sacred writings could you use to support these views?	Which sacred writings could you use to support these views?

“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

“We call on the whole world to recognise that violence begets violence; that nuclear proliferation (the spread of nuclear weapons and technology benefits no one.” **Rabbi David Saperstein**

5. The just war

Essential information:

- The just war theory gives the conditions that must apply to make a war justifiable, and rules on how the war must be fought to make sure it is ethical
- The just war theory was developed by Christians and is accepted by many Christians and Jews today, although most think it is much better to prevent war from happening at all
- Some Christians, such as Quakers, disagree with the just war theory because it defends the concept of war

A just war is a war which meets the internationally accepted criteria for fairness



▲ This sculpture is outside the United Nations building in New York City. What do you think its message is?

Syrian refugees escaping the war.

Name the criteria or conditions that must be met for starting a war to be called just

Name the criteria or conditions that must be met during a war to make it just

Jewish teachings about war - Judaism recognises three types of war:

Obligatory wars - that God commanded Jews to fight (e.g. the conquest of Canaan under Joshua)

Defensive wars - including pre-emptive strikes against a potential enemy. Jews are obliged to defend themselves if attacked.

Optional wars - fought for a good reason when all peaceful ways to prevent conflict have been tried first

Some passages from the Tenakh say;

"When in your war against a city... you must not destroy its trees... you may eat from them but you must not cut them down." **Deuteronomy 20;19 [Torah]**

"If your enemy is hungry, give them bread to eat, if he is thirsty, give him water to drink." **Proverbs 25;21 [Tenakh]**

Using the teaching on the previous page, explain the Jewish views on the idea of a just war

Examples of just wars...

Examples of unjust wars...

Give two reasons why some religious people believe it is right to fight in a war.

6. Holy war and religion as a cause of violence

Essential information:

- A **holy war** is fighting for a religious cause or God, controlled by a religious leader
- Although all religions generally promote peace and harmony, religion is sometimes seen as a cause of violence in the contemporary world

Christianity - Can you give examples of holy wars?

Judaism - Can you give examples of holy wars?

Religion as a cause of violence

Explain why some people would say that the Troubles in Northern Ireland were caused by religion...

Explain why some people would disagree and say that the Troubles in Northern Ireland were not caused by religion...

“ You have heard that it was said to the people long ago. ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgement. ”

Matthew 5:21–22 [NIV]

“ Put your sword back in its place,’ Jesus said, ‘for all who draw the sword die by the sword. ”

Matthew 26:52 [NIV]

Jews have suffered violence throughout their history, however, most believe that they should not respond with violence when their faith is attacked.

Activities

- 1 Explain the features of a holy war.
- 2 Why do you think many Christians do not agree with the idea of a holy war?
- 3 How far do you think Christians should go to defend their faith?
- 4 Do you think it is acceptable for people to offend Christians? Explain your answer.

Complete these activities to check that you have understood the key points of this section.

Tick them off when you have done them!

7. Pacifism and peacemaking

Essential information:

- **Pacifism** is the belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence
- **Peacemaking** is the action of trying to establish peace and a **peacemaker** is someone who works to establish peace in the world or a certain part of it



▲ A dove is a well-known symbol of peace

Pacifists believe that:

- War and violence can rarely or never be justified
- It is best to prevent war from becoming a possibility by promoting justice and peace
- Prayer and meditation can help people to be at peace with themselves and others

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9 [NIV]

"Shun evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it." Psalm 34:15 [Tenakh]

Prophet Isaiah taught that the Messiah would bring peace, justice and equity.

Prophet Micah said that when God's kingdom is established, war would not be necessary to settle disputes (Micah 4:3) [Tenakh]

Judaism teaches that peace is ideal, but that war is sometimes a necessary evil and a duty of the faith.

Christian views on pacifism...

Jewish views on pacifism...

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship (APF) is a Christian pacifist group linked to the Anglican Church. They have around 1400 members in over 40 countries, but most of them are in the UK. They believe that peace and justice should be brought about through non-violent means. As a Christian group they have three main pacifist beliefs:

- Jesus' teaching is incompatible with the waging of war
- the Christian Church should never support or justify war
- Christian witness should include opposing the waging or justifying of war.

APF founded the Week of Prayer for World Peace in 1974, and continues to have close ties with it. In addition, they produce regular newsletters, organise

and contribute to special peace-related events and religious services, and work to raise awareness of the issue of pacifism.

All members of APF have to be members of the Anglican Church and must agree with the following pledge:

“ We believe that as Christians we are called to follow the way of Jesus in loving our enemies and becoming peacemakers. We work to transform our Anglican Communion and the world to overcome those factors that lead to war within and between nations. ”

Modern-day peacemakers

■ A modern peacemaker

In 1976, Mairead Corrigan, a Catholic from Northern Ireland, together with Betty Williams and Ciaran McKeown, became **peacemakers** when they formed the 'Peace People' organisation. They organised peace marches throughout the UK that gave people the opportunity to show they wanted peace, rather than the violence and killings that were a tragic feature of Northern Ireland at that time. Mairead and Betty were awarded the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for their **peacemaking** activities. After the Northern Ireland Troubles were largely resolved and peace returned to the country, Mairead Corrigan became a tireless worker for world peace and human rights.



Betty and Mairead

Can you think of another modern-day peacemaker... explain what they have done to bring about peace in the world, or part of the world.

NOTE: You are expected to know of a person who is a modern peacemaker!

Using a highlighter, pick out who the persons were, what they did, where they worked and how their achievements were recognised

8. Religious responses to victims of war

Essential information:

- Victims of war include those directly involved in fighting, their families and dependents, and refugees whose homes and societies have been destroyed
- There are many organisations that offer help and care for victims of war (such as Caritas and Magen David Adom UK.) Christians and Jews support organisations such as these.

Providing help to victims of war

Who are the victims of war?

What kind of help might victims of war need?

Christian views on providing help to victims of war...

Jewish views on providing help to victims of war...

The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Luke 25;31-46)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10;25-37)

'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12;31)

The **Pikuach Nefesh** (saving a life) commandment

The **tikkum olam** (healing the world) commandment

Organisations that help victims of war



▲ This shelter in Greece, run by the Catholic organisation Caritas, feeds hundreds of refugees and migrants daily

How does Caritas help victims of war?

“ The need to address the root causes of refugee flows and the migration of the desperate – conflict, inequality, and the impacts of climate change, to name but three – has never been greater. ”

Christian Aid

How does **Christian Aid** help war victims?



Exam Practice Questions...

Give **two** conditions for a just war (2marks)

Give **two** reasons why many religious people do not support violent protest (2marks)

Explain **two** contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about whether countries should possess weapons of mass destruction. In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more religious traditions. (4marks)

Explain **two** contrasting 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 religious traditions. (4marks)

Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about forgiveness. In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. (4marks)

Explain **two** religious beliefs about helping the victims of war. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. (5marks)

Explain **two** reasons why some religious people believe it is right to fight in a war. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. (5marks)

Explain **two** religious beliefs about reconciliation. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. (5marks)

Evaluation questions (12marks)

"The just war theory is the best religious response to whether it is right to fight."

"Religion is the main cause of wars."

"Promoting justice and human rights is the best way of preventing conflict."

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