

Y11 GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PEACE AND CONFLICT



The de Ferrers Trust

A ISLAM, PEACE AND PEACE MAKING	
1	Peace can be accepted as the absence of war and conflict; but for Muslims it is also the absence of oppression, corruption, injustice and tyranny.
2	Islam is a religion of peace and Muslims are keen to illustrate that it is not a religion of conflict. (Due to the actions of terrorists and the mass media)
3	Muslims believe that Allah created the world with the intention that his people would live by the moral code he set, which would instil ideas of love, compassion, peace and love.
4	<i>“And the Servants of (Allah) Most Gracious are those who walk on the earth in Humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, ‘Peace!’ (Surah. 25:63)</i>
5	Muslims work for justice, equality between people. Protecting human rights, peace and freedom are essential principles in Islam. This is a teaching seen within duties such as Khalifa .

B CONFLICT	
1	A clash, or serious disagreement or argument
2	Conflict is often caused by over resources, politics, culture or religious beliefs.
3	Conflict leads to a lack of unity and often poor treatment of some groups. Can lead to discrimination.
4	Muslims must avoid conflict if possible and work for peace. Sometimes conflict will be needed to resolve a problem.
5	<i>“Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loves not transgressors”</i>

C PACIFISM	
1	Pacifism is the belief that war and violence are unjustifiable and that conflict should be settled by peaceful means.
2	Islam, does support ideas of peace and peace making but it is not a pacifist religion; it accepts that way may be required in certain situations when all methods have been tried and have failed.
3	There are many examples within the history of Islam where Muhammad was forced to use violence in order to deal with challenged. Some have argued that initially Muhammad adopted pacifist tendencies.

D JUST WAR THEORY	
1	A theory found mainly in Christian thinking about how to make war acceptable or ‘just’. It provides a framework to decide whether it is acceptable to go to war in different circumstances
2	<p>Islam teaches that a war will be just provided that it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Is declared by a religious leader not a political leader</i> 2. <i>Has the support of the Muslim community and not declared by one individual</i> 3. <i>Is an act of defence not attack</i> 4. <i>Does not aim to win new land or power</i> 5. <i>Is not done to convert others to the religion of Islam</i> 6. <i>Is a last resort</i> 7. <i>Will not threaten or endanger civilian lives</i> 8. <i>Will not harm trees, crops or animals</i>

E HOLY WAR	
1	Harb al- Maqadis is the term for Holy War.
2	<p>The conditions for a holy war are that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a war in the name of Islam ONLY to defend the faith. Must not be started by Islam. 2. Has to be declared by a religious leader. 3. Has to be with the intention of doing good and bringing about peace. 4. No nuclear element or WMDs can be used 5. Has to be a last resort and never with the intention of hurting people. 6. Enemies should be treated with justice 7. Wounded enemies should be cared for 8. The war should stop as soon as the enemy asks for peace

F WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD's)	
1	Nuclear, biological or chemical weapons which can do huge damage if used
2	WMD can resolve a conflict quickly and decisively therefore preventing further lives to be lost.
3	They are a deterrent – nobody will be brave enough to use them.
4	They can do massive damage – kill millions and destroy land. They indiscriminate, they do not choose who they attack and who they avoid.
5	They are morally wrong because of the damage they can do.
6	The Qur'an was recorded centuries before these types of weapons existed so Muslims must interpret teachings and apply them to the use of WMD.