**Knowledge organiser: AQA Religious Studies A – Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict**

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| **Key Words** |
| Forgiveness | Pardoning someone for wrongdoing. | Peace-making | Working toward bringing about an end to war and a state of peace. |
| Greed | Going to war to gain land or natural resources such as oil. | Protest | A public expression of disapproval, often in a big group, can be peaceful or violent. |
| Holy War | A war that is fought for religious reasons, usually backed by a religious leader. | Quakers | A Christian denomination who worship in silence and are well known pacifists. |
| Just War | A Christian theory that asks whether a war is fought justly. | Reconciliation | Restoring friendly relationships after a war or conflict. |
| Justice | Bringing about what is right and fair, according to the law or God’s will. | Retaliation | Deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you. |
| Nuclear Weapon | A weapon using a nuclear reaction to cause massive damage. | Self-Defence | Protecting yourself or others from harm. |
| Pacifism | A belief that all forms of violence are wrong, commonly held by Quakers. | Terrorism | Using violence to further a political or religious message. |
| Peace | A state of happiness and harmony, an absence of war. | WMD | Weapons of mass destruction: chemical, nuclear or biological weapons. |
| Lesser Jihad | The outward struggle to defend one’s faith, family, and country from threat. | Sanctity of Life | The belief that all life is special/ sacred as because it was created by God/ Allah. |

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| **Key Ideas, Quotes and Stories- Christianity** |
| **Protests****Terrorism** | **Protests**The right to gather together and protest is a fundamental democratic **freedom**.UK law allows for peaceful public protest but sometimes protects can turn violent and become a **riot**.Christians often **protest unjust** **laws** or for other forms of justice. E.g. Martin Luther King Jr protesting inequality using peaceful methods in 1960s USA. | **Terrorism**Examples of terrorism include suicide bombing, mass shootings or using vehicles to injure pedestrians.The aim of terrorism is to make society aware of a cause or issue and to make people frightened to go about their business.Christians do not promote political violence + believe terrorism is wrong as it targets innocent people and goes against the Sanctity of Life. |
| **Reasons for War** | **Greed**To gain more **land** or to control important **resources** such as oil or gas.e.g. The UK and US invading **Iraq** to control oil resources.**“The love of money is the root of all evil.”** So, acting out of greed is wrong. | **Self-Defence**To **defend** one’s country against invasion or attack or to protect allies who are under attack.e.g. UK threatened by Nazi invasion in **WWII.**Christians accept this reason if you have tried peace first.  | **Retaliation**To fight against a country that has done something very wrong or to fight against a country that has attacked you.e.g. US invading **Afghanistan** in retaliation for 9/11.Jesus taught that retaliation was wrong by saying “**turn the other check.”** |
| **Nuclear War and WMD** | Nuclear weapons work by a nuclear reaction and devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people. They are a type of WMD (**weapons of mass destruction**) which also includes **chemical** and **biological** weapons. All these weapons are not allowed under the Christian Just War Theory and would therefore be rejected by most Christians.Nuclear weapons were used at the end of WWII in **Japan** to force the Japanese to surrender. Some Utilitarian’s say their use was justified as it prevented more suffering even though 140,000 people died.Although some Christians justify war with ‘**an eye for an eye’**, this **cannot** be used to justify the use of weapons of mass destruction as they are not a **proportionate** response.  |
| **Holy War**  | A **Holy War** is a war which is fought for religious reasons, often with the backing of religious leaders. An example of this was the **Crusades** fought from the 11th-14th Century by Christians, backed by the Pope. Religion can still be a cause for war today such as in **Northern Ireland** where Protestant and Catholic Christians fought a civil war between 1968-98.  |
| **Just War Theory** | Just War Theory is a Christian moral theory for working out if a war meets criteria for fairness. These are some of the conditions that must be met in order for a war to be just:* Just Cause – fought in self-defence or to protect others
* Just Intention – fought to promote good and defeat wrongdoing
* Last Resort – only going to war if all other methods have been tried first
* Proportional – excessive force should not be used, and innocent civilians must not be killed
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| **Pacifism and Christian Responses to War** | **Pacifism** is the idea that **all forms of violence are wrong**. Pacifists such as Quakers refuse to take part in war and often choose to be a **conscientious objector** because they believe that you should **‘love your enemies.’**Christians try to follow Jesus’ teaching that “**blessed are the peacemakers”** | Christians try to show **mercy** and **agape** to victims of war and provide them with assistance.This can be through charity or through welcoming them into their churches. It can be victims in their own country or **refugees** such as people fleeing from Syria or Yemen.Christians are inspired by teachings such as: ‘**love your neighbour’, ‘faith without action… is dead.’** |

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| **Key Ideas, Quotes and Stories- Islam** |
| **Protests****Terrorism** | **Protests**The right to gather together and protest is a fundamental democratic **freedom**.UK law allows for peaceful public protest but sometimes protects can turn violent and become a **riot**.Muslims disagree with violent protest because Shariah Law is God’s law and how could you protest what Allah has said is true law? | **Terrorism**Examples of terrorism include suicide bombing, mass shootings or using vehicles to injure pedestrians.Muslims completely disagree with terrorism as it breaks the Sanctity of life.The Qur’an says: “**do not kill each other, for God is merciful to you.”** This teaches that killing in an unjust way is always wrong. |
| **Reasons for War** | **Greed**To gain more **land** or to control important **resources** such as oil or gas.e.g. The UK and US invading **Iraq** to control oil resources.The Qur’an warns against people being greedy as it says: **“God does not like people who… hide the bounty God has given them.”** | **Self-Defence**To **defend** one’s country against invasion or attack or to protect allies who are under attack.**Lesser Jihad** teaches that Muslims should protect Islam if it is threatened. E.g. when the **Prophet Muhammad led the Muslims** against the persecutors of Makkah. | **Retaliation**To fight against a country that has done something very wrong or to fight against a country that has attacked you.Islam teaches “**eye for eye**” and says that retaliation must be fair, and you cannot go too far. |
| **Nuclear War and WMD** | Nuclear weapons work by a nuclear reaction and devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people. They are a type of WMD (**weapons of mass destruction**) which also includes **chemical** and **biological** weapons. All these weapons are not allowed under **Lesser Jihad** and **Abu Bakr’s rules of war.** As WMD eliminate life it goes against the Commandment “do not kill” and the **Sanctity of life**.The Qur’an advises to “…do not contribute towards your own destruction with your own hands…”. WMD kill all life and would contribute to the destruction that the Qur’an warns Muslims against. |
| **Holy War and Lesser Jihad**  | A **Holy War** is a war which is fought for religious reasons, often with the backing of religious leaders. An example of this is when the Prophet Muhammad led the Muslims to attack Makkah. However, holy wars in Islam must follow strict rules:* Must be started by a religious authority.
* Not to gain territory.
* Do not forcefully convert those who are captured.
* It must be in self-defence
* It must be a last resort.

The Qur’an says, **“fight in Gods cause those who fight you, but do not overstep the limit.”** Therefore, in order for a war to be holy, a Muslim must keep to the rules. |
| **Pacifism and Muslim Responses to War** | There is no such thing as pacifism in Islam, but Muslims do try to spread peace. In the UK, the **Muslim Peace Fellowship** works against global injustice and spreads Islamic messages of peace from the Qur’an, such as: **“If they incline towards peace, you must also incline towards it.”** | Islamic charities such as **Islamic Relief** and **Islamic Aid** help victims of war though medical care, giving food water etc.Muslims are taught that compassion towards other humans will be rewarded by Allah. **“Whoever saves the life of one man, it would be as if they have saved the life of all mankind.”** |