UNIT 8 - RELIGION: PEACE AND CONFLICT

PAST PAPER QUESTIONS
2011-2014

PEACE AND CONFLICT

UNIT 8: SECTION 3
UNIT 8 - RELIGION: PEACE AND CONFLICT

2014 - Question 5

(a) What does exploitation mean?  

(b) Do you think religious organisations do enough to promote world peace?  
Give two reasons for your point of view.  

*(c) Explain why the just war theory is important.  

(d) “Bullies should be forgiven not punished.”  
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.  

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion.  
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you.  

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

2014 - Question 6

(a) What is conflict resolution?  

(b) Do you think some actions are unforgivable?  
Give two reasons for your point of view.  

*(c) Choose one religion other than Christianity and explain why some of its followers are against war and some are not.  

(d) “There will always be conflict in religious families.”  
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.  

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion.  
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you.  

(Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)
UNIT 8 - RELIGION: PEACE AND CONFLICT

2013 - Question 5

(a) What is world peace? (2)

(b) Do you think religious people do enough to stop bullying? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain why some Christians will not fight in wars. (8)

(d) “Some things are unforgivable.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

2013 - Question 6

(a) What is forgiveness? (2)

(b) Do you think religion causes conflict in families? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain how the United Nations works for world peace. (8)

(d) “If everyone believed in the same religion there would be no war.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)
2012 - Question 5

(a) What does aggression mean? (2)

(b) Do you think some wars are worth fighting?  
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain how a religious organisation tries to promote world peace. (8)

(d) “There should never be conflict in a religious family.”  
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion. (Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)  
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

2012 - Question 6

(a) What is reconciliation? (2)

(b) Do you think everyone deserves to be forgiven?  
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

*(c) Explain why Christians are against bullying. (8)

(d) “Religious people should never go to war.”  
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion other than Christianity. (Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)  
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)
UNIT 8 - RELIGION: PEACE AND CONFLICT

2011 - Question 5

(a) What does the word respect mean? (2)

(b) Do you think bullies should always be excluded from school? 
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain why wars happen, using examples from at least one current 
conflict. (8)
(d) “The United Nations has done more to encourage world peace than religion 
has.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

2011 - Question 6

(a) What is meant by weapons of mass destruction? (2)

(b) Do you think there can ever be a just war? 
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

* (c) Explain why Christians believe forgiveness is important. (8)

(d) “Religion causes more harm than good in families.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3)
(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3)

(Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)
(a) What does exploitation mean? (2)

Taking advantage of a weaker group
- using another person or group for selfish purposes
- using something to the greatest possible advantage

(b) Do you think religious organisations do enough to promote world peace? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think religious organisations do enough to promote world peace are likely to use such reasons as:

- religious groups mediate in conflicts
- religious organisations work to educate people
- religious organisations protest against war

Answers which do not think religious organisations do enough to promote world peace are likely to use such reasons as:

- there is still war in the world today
- they have not got enough power
- they only have influence within their own religion

*(c) Explain why the just war theory is important. (8)

The main reasons are:

- it allows religious people to fight in wars
- Islam teaches people should fight in the right way
- it protects innocent civilians
- it promotes fair treatment of prisoners
(d) “Bullies should be forgiven not punished.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

• bullies are often victims themselves
• Christianity teaches forgiveness
• they need help and understanding to change their behaviour

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:

• without punishment they will continue to bully
• it gives justice to the victim
• otherwise they may not realise the seriousness of their actions

2014 – Question 6

(a) What is conflict resolution? (2)

Bringing a fight or struggle to a peaceful conclusion
• peaceful methods of eliminating sources of conflict
• peaceful end to fights

(b) Do you think some actions are unforgivable? (4)

Give two reasons for your point of view.

Answers which think some actions are unforgiveable are likely to use such reasons as:
• some crimes are too extreme
• actions which contradict the Bible’s teachings
• Muslims cannot forgive apostasy

Answers which do not think some actions are unforgiveable are likely to use such reasons as:
• you need to forgive to restore your relationship
• everybody makes mistakes
• religions teach forgiveness
*(c) Choose one religion other than Christianity and explain why some of its followers are against war and some are not. (8)*

**ISLAM**

The main reasons some Muslims are against war include:

- all modern wars involve the death of innocent civilians
- the risk that war will escalate to involve the use of WMD
- society no longer fights wars against a religion

The main reasons some Muslims are not against war include:

- the Qur’an encourages Muslims to fight in just wars
- Muslims are expected to fight in defence of Islam
- there is no concept of pacifism in the Qur’an

(d) “There will always be conflict in religious families.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

- differences over moral questions
- disapproval of lifestyle choices
- problems of maintaining the religion in the children

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:

- the Bible tells children to “honour your mother and your father”
- the Qur’an encourages parents not to anger their children
- a common faith leads to shared experiences
(a) What is world peace?

The ending of war throughout the whole world
- No wars (anywhere)
- No conflict in the world

(b) Do you think religious people do enough to stop bullying?

Give two reasons for your point of view.

Answers which think religious people do enough to stop bullying are likely to use such reasons as:

- Churches work to stop bullying.
- Many religious people volunteer at organisations such as Kidscape
- Religious people intervene to prevent bullying.

Answers which think religious people do not do enough to stop bullying are likely to use such reasons as:

- There is still bullying so they cannot be doing enough
- They have limited impact in a secular society
- Bullying happens in places where religion has no influence.

*(c) Explain why some Christians will not fight in wars.

The main reasons include:

- The 10 Commandments ban killing
- Jesus told Christians they should love their enemies
- Jesus stopped Peter using violence at his arrest
- War causes suffering to innocent people
- No war can be a just war
(d) “Some things are unforgivable.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:
• if a conflict is over a religious issue there should be no forgiveness
• Some crimes are too awful to forgive
• A specific example of a heinous crime

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:
• Forgiveness allows people to move on
• If you do not forgive people how can you ask God to forgive you?
• “Forgive your brother seventy times seven” (accept 77 times).

2013 – Question 6

(a) What is forgiveness? (2)

Stopping blaming someone for what they have done wrong
• Pardoning someone for what they have done wrong
• When God takes your sins away

(b) Do you think religion causes conflict in families? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think religion causes conflict in families are likely to use such reasons as:
• Children may rebel against the religious rules of the family
• Jesus said, “unless you leave your mother and father you cannot be my disciple”
• Parents may be disappointed by their children’s lifestyle choices

Answers which think religion does not cause conflict in families are likely to use such reasons as:

• The Ten Commandments teach that children should honour their parents
• Jesus commanded people to love one another
• Religious families have a shared interest so are less likely to come into conflict
*(c) Explain how the United Nations works for world peace. (8)

The main features includes:

· Organising peace talks between opposing sides
· Applying economic sanctions
· Sending in peacekeeping forces
· Direct military action
· Ensuring justice through War Crimes Tribunal.

(d) “If everyone believed in the same religion there would be no war.” In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

· A religious teaching on the importance of peace
· They would have a shared vision and the same views
· Religious teaching on sharing goods and resources

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:
· People would still come into conflict over scarce resources
· There will still be conflict over land
· Within existing world religions there are already divisions

2012 – Question 5

(a) What does aggression mean? (2)

Attacking without being provoked / being violent for no reason
(b) Do you think some wars are worth fighting?
Give two reasons for your point of view. \[(4)\]

Answers which think some wars are worth fighting are likely to use such reasons as:
- Some wars are fought for “just causes”
- If a country is attacked it has the right to defend itself
- It is a Muslim’s duty to fight if Islam is attacked

Answers which think wars are never worth fighting are likely to use such reasons as:
- “Do not kill”
- Innocent civilians suffer
- People cannot know if a war is just.

*(c) Explain how a religious organisation tries to promote world peace. \[(8)\]

The main ways include:
- Education
- Political lobbying
- Mediation
- Reconciliation
- Addressing the causes of war

(d) “There should never be conflict in a religious family.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:
- the Bible teaches Christians to love one another
- the 10 Commandments says children should honour their father and mother
- Parents should not provoke their children to anger

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:
- It is human nature to have conflict in a family
- The conflict may be over issues of faith or conscience
- Jesus said he came to divide families
(a) What is reconciliation? (2)

Bringing together people who were opposed to each other
• Healing divisions between people

(b) Do you think everyone deserves to be forgiven?
Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think everyone deserves to be forgiven are likely to use such reasons as:

• Jesus told Christians to forgive
• Jesus said that if people don't forgive, God will not forgive them
• Jesus forgave those who crucified him

Answers which do not think everyone deserves to be forgiven are likely to use such reasons as:

• An example of a situation where people cannot be forgiven
• People who are not sorry should not be forgiven
• Some situations are unforgiveable

*(c) Explain why Christians are against bullying. (8)

The main reasons include:

• Jesus taught people to love one another
• Jesus taught people to look after the weak
• People are made in God’s image so bullying disrespects God
• Bullying reduces people’s ability to contribute to society

Accept valid non-religious reasons a Christian might use.
(d) “Religious people should never go to war.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion other than Christianity.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

- Gandhi taught that peace will only come if people refuse to fight in wars
- the commandments teach ‘do not kill’
- unjustifiable things happen to civilians in wars

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:

- if Islam is attacked Muslims are expected to fight
- religious people should obey the orders of the government
- if the war is just, any religious person can fight

2011 – Question 5

(a) What does the word respect mean? (2)

Treating a person or their feelings with consideration / to show esteem/honour for someone / treating someone the way you would like to be treated

(b) Do you think bullies should always be excluded from school? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think school bullies should always be excluded are likely to use such reasons as:

- bullies deserve to be punished harshly
- it will protect the victims
- it acts as a deterrent to other potential bullies

Answers which do not think school bullies should always be excluded are likely to use such reasons as:

- some pupils may lie to have someone excluded
- they would be better having counselling
- exclusion is more of a reward than a punishment for some pupils
* (c) Explain why wars happen, using examples from at least one current conflict. (8)

The main causes of war include:

- religious differences
- economics (competition for natural resources)
- racial or ethnic hatred
- ideological/political differences
- to defend against injustice or aggression
- territory

Use Afghanistan, Iraq or Libya

(d) “The United Nations has done more to encourage world peace than religion has.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

- U.N. peace keeping forces prevent conflict taking place
- U.N. sanctions encourage nations to behave properly
- religion has contributed to conflict rather than encouraging peace

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:

- many conflicts have taken place in spite of UN involvement
- religious groups such as Pax Christi or Islamic Relief do more
- religious teaching on peace and reconciliation
2011 - Question 6

(a) What is meant by weapons of mass destruction? (2)

Weapons that can destroy large areas (and numbers of people)

(b) Do you think there can ever be a just war? Give two reasons for your point of view. (4)

Answers which think there can be a just war are likely to use such reasons as:

• some wars are fought to defend a country against aggression
• some wars are fought in support of oppressed people
• Muslims are required to go to war if Islam is attacked

Answers which do not think there can be a just war are likely to use such reasons as:

• innocent civilians will always die in war
• some people have more powerful weapons
• wars are fought for economic reasons which cannot be just

* (c) Explain why Christians believe forgiveness is important. (8)

The main reasons include:

• Jesus died on the cross to bring forgiveness
• Jesus told Peter to forgive his brother seventy times seven/seventyseven times
• Jesus said to be forgiven we have to forgive
• The Church teaches the importance of forgiveness
• The example of Jesus
(d) “Religion causes more harm than good in families.”
In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

Reasons for supporting this statement could be:

- parents may pressurise their children to practice the family faith
- inter-faith relationships may cause conflict
- children deciding to join a faith or change religion may cause conflict

Reasons for not supporting this statement could be:

- religions teaches respect within the family
- the role of the place of worship in supporting family life
- shared faith allows families to spend time together