

Islam and peace

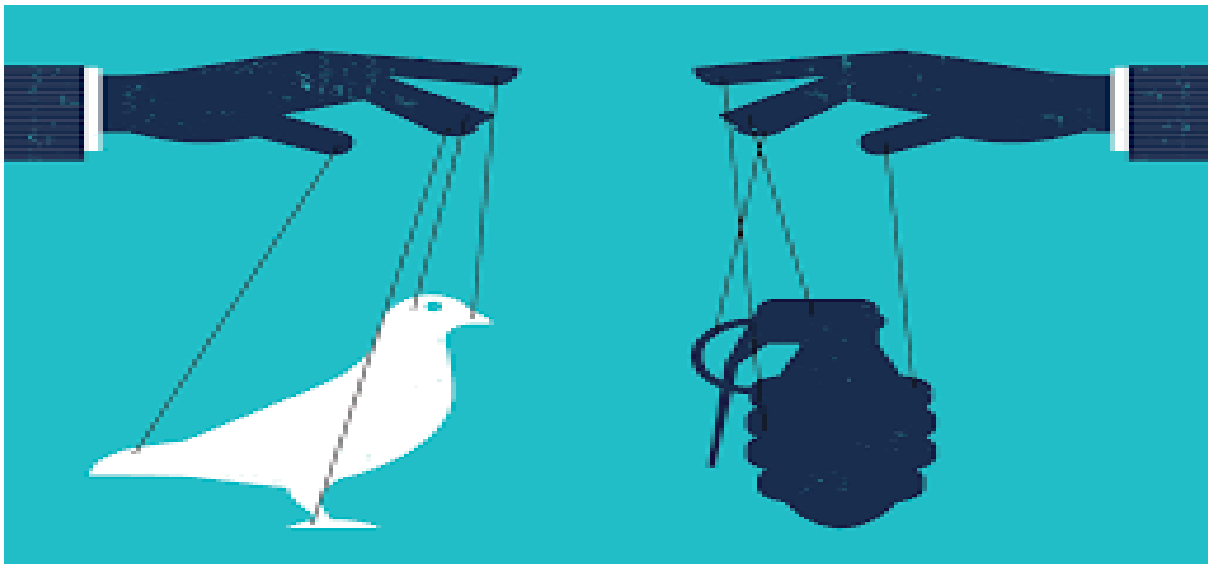
Islam and peace
making

Attitudes to
conflict

Pacifism

Name:

Peace and conflict



Just war theory

Issues
surrounding
conflict

Holy war

Weapons of
mass destruction

Peace and conflict key terminology.

Key word	Definition
Salaam	Peace
Salaam alaykum	The Muslim equivalent of hello which means peace be with you.
Divine guidance	Being shown what to do by God.
Dar as Salaam	The house of peace.
Ahmadiyya	A Muslim sect founded in Pakistan that is against war.
Prophetic jihad	Jihad as understood and practised by the Prophet Muhammad.
Internally displaced	Being forced to move your home because of conflict, but staying in the same country.
Repatriate	To return refugees to their place of origin.
Inter-religious dialogue	Discussions between different religions.
Nationalism	A strong feeling or belief in the rightness of one's native country.
Patriotism	Love for, or devotion to, one's country.
Pacifism	Opposition to war.
Militarism	Belief that a country should have strong armed forces and be prepared to use them aggressively.
Sermon on the mount	Jesus' description of Christian living
Humanist	A follower of the non-religious philosophy based on liberal human values.
Passive resistance	Non-violent opposition to authority.
Genocide	The deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group.
Proportional methods	Using weapons of the same factor as those used against you.
Crusade	A war for a religious or moral purpose.
Harb al Muqadis	Muslim Holy War.
Biological weapons	Weapons that make use of some kind of virus or disease to infect millions of people.
Nuclear weapons	Devices that explode through nuclear reaction releasing a huge amount of energy.
Intercontinental ballistic missiles	Rockets that carry nuclear warheads over vast distances.
Chemical weapon	A weapon that uses chemicals such as nerve and blood agents to kill or disable enemies.
MAD	Mutually assured destruction.
Domestic violence	Violence in the home, mainly men attacking their partners.
9/11	The attacks in the USA on 11 September 2001.
7/7	The London bombings of 7 July 2005.

Lesson one – Muslim attitudes towards peace.

Recap:

List three causes of crime.

List a Muslim organisation that works to help rehabilitate criminals.

Task 1: What are Muslim teachings about the nature and importance of peace?

1. The Qur'an teaches Muslims they should never respond to violence with violence. For example, the holy book states 'When aggressive people address them, reply, with words of peace.' (Qur'an, Surah 25:63) This shows Muslims how they should respond to being provoked in a peaceful way. Therefore violence is unacceptable if you are a Muslim.
2. The meaning of Islam is 'peace' and one of Allah's characteristics is as a 'Source of Peace'. This illustrates how Islam does not have any connection to provoking violence.
3. Muslims greet each other by saying 'al-salamu'alaykum. This means 'peace be upon you' and is also recited at the end of each daily prayer when Muslims turn their heads to each side.
4. The Qur'an discourages Muslims from doing anything that threatens peace. This means their holy book, the word of Allah teaches if you act in a superior manner, spreading suspicion and have friends that mock other religions you are going against Islam. In the Qur'an it states 'God does not love arrogant or boastful people.' (Qur'an, Surah 31)

Task 2: What are Muslim teachings about peace making?

1. All humans were created by Allah therefore everyone should be treated with respect so the world is harmonious. Allah dislikes anything that interrupts peace therefore Muslims are taught to be peacemakers and build a better society.
2. 'Be a community that calls for what is good, urges what is right and forbids what is wrong.' (Qur'an, Surah 3)
3. The Qur'an records that Allah commanded the Prophet to maintain positive relationships with followers of other faiths.
4. The Prophet did not want to be seen as superior to the prophet Moses as he is a very important prophet which freed the Jews from slavery. This shows how the Prophet respected other religions. He stated 'do not give me superiority over Moses.' (Hadith)

What does the former President Obama think of Islam as a religion of peace?



What do these 3 verses teach Muslims? Choice: you can either bullet point or mind map.

STRETCH! Explain the link between forgiveness and reconciliation.

Task 3: Explain the importance of justice, forgiveness and reconciliation in peacemaking.

Muslims believe that anything that endangers peaceful relations such as disagreements between countries should be resolved. This is important so that justice, forgiveness and reconciliation may succeed.

1. 'If two groups of believers fight, you should try to reconcile them.' (Qur'an, Surah 49)
2. 'God is most forgiving and merciful.' (Qur'an, Surah 60)
3. 'Good and evil cannot be equal. Repel evil with what is better and your enemy will become as close as an old and valued friend.' (Qur'an, Surah 41)
4. The prophet Muhammad was required to settle disputes between Muslims and Non-Muslims as he was the leader in Medina. Many verdicts he gave were in favour of non-Muslims, which gave him a reputation for being fair when trying to make peace.

'God commands justice, doing good, and generosity towards relatives and He forbids what is shameful, blameworthy and oppressive.' (Qur'an, Surah 16)

When the Prophet returned to Makkah to liberate the city, his enemies – who had persecuted and exiled him and the early Muslims – feared for their lives. They were worried the Prophet would slaughter them in revenge. Instead, Muhammad forgave them in the name of peace. This has been described as one of the greatest examples of peacemaking.

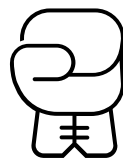
How are Muslims working for peace today?

Mind map how Muslims are working for peace, then watch the clip and add more to your mind map.

Lesson two – Conflict.

List two teachings on peace.

What causes conflict?



What does conflict mean?

What are four of the main causes of conflict? Give an example with each.

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-
-
-

Describe Muslim teachings about the nature and causes of conflict.

Explain how Muslims respond to problems conflict causes within society.

Go back to last lesson and find 2 teachings that reject Muslims to react to violence.

2. Read the teachings below and explain what they mean... How is this different to last lesson?

‘Fight in God’s cause against those who fought you, but do not overstep the limits: God does not love those who overstep the limits.’ (Qur’an, Surah 2)

‘If you have to respond to an attack, make your response proportionate.’ (Qur’an, Surah 16)

Identify three things a Muslim can do and three things a Muslim cannot do during war.

How can a benevolent and omnipotent God allow conflict to happen?

What would a Muslim argue?



Lesson three – pacifism.

Recap:

List two causes of conflict.

Explain two ways that Muslims try to prevent conflict.

Identify examples of people who believe in pacifism.



What is Pacifism?

- Adam's two sons believed to be Qabil (Cain) and Habil (Abel) had a disagreement. Both offered a sacrifice to God but only Habil's offer was accepted, a slaughtered lamb, due to his righteousness.
- This angered Qabil who then killed Habil.
- The Qur'an teaches 'if anyone kills a person – unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land – it is as if he kills all mankind.' (Qur'an, Surah 5)
- Some have interpreted this in favour of pacifism. Killing is not okay when it is without a just cause. Taking a life for murder or treason is acceptable.

1) Explain how this story is interpreted to reflect pacifism.

2) Explain how Surah 5 supports pacifism.

Types of Pacifists

1. Absolute pacifists

2. Conditional pacifists

3. Selective pacifists

4. Active pacifists

Muslim teachings of passive resistance

What was the Arab spring?

Lesson four & five – Just war theory.

Decide whether you would class the following acts as morally **RIGHT** or **WRONG**.

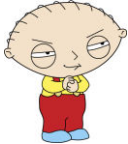






Theft –

Adultery –

Murder -



What is Just war theory?

Acronym to help me remember this...	Criteria of a 'JUST WAR'	What I think this is...	What it actually is...	Right to go to war	Conduct during war
					
					
					
					
					
					
					

Why is just war theory important?

What are the issues with just war theory? Use the images below to work out each issue.



Do you think ALL wars are JUST?

What would you fight for?

Would you fight for PEACE?

Is it ever right to fight?



Lesson six – Muslim attitudes to war

Recap:

Based on your knowledge of Christianity, how do you think Christians would respond to war?

Using page 346 and 347 summarise the Muslim attitudes.



Explain how the quotes influence Muslim belief regarding just war.

Surah 2 Keep on fighting against them until mischief ends and the way prescribed by God prevails. But if they desist, then know that hostility is only against the wrong-doers.

Surah 2 Kill them whenever you confront them and drive them out from where they drove you out.

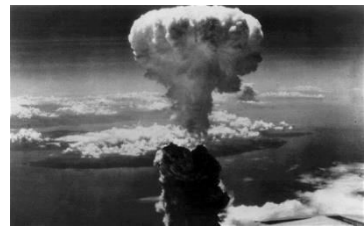
Surah 2 Fight against those who fight against you in the way of God, but do not transgress, for God does not love transgressors.

Lesson seven & eight – Weapons of mass destruction

Starter: Give 2 reasons why some Muslims fight in wars.



What are weapons of mass destruction?



What are Long Term Effects of Radiation?

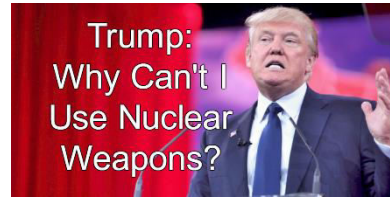
Strengths and weaknesses of using Weapons of mass destruction?

Benefits	Problems

Muslim **teachings** on WMD

Do you think WMD should be used?

Non-religious attitudes towards WMD



Lesson nine – Issues surrounding conflict.

Recap:

Explain what a holy war is.

What are the positives and negatives of weapons of mass destruction.

Title: Issues Surrounding Conflict

Topic: Peace & Conflict



Starter - What do these flags represent?

STRETCH: What issues are there surrounding conflict?

'God is sure to help those who help His cause – God is strong and mighty.' (Qur'an, Surah 22)

How would a pacifist interpret this?

How would an Islamic State terrorist interpret this?

'If anyone kills a person – unless in retribution for murder – it is as if he kills all mankind.' (Qur'an, Surah 22)

How would a pacifist interpret this?

How would an Islamic State terrorist interpret this?

Most Muslims reject any form of terrorism and any quotes that seem to promote conflict were given to Muhammad when Islam was under threat. It is not to be used now.

The Qur'an teaches that there should be **no compulsion to religion** and that **Allah has made life sacred**.

It shows how Prophet Muhammad and early Muslims were opposed to war and hated shedding human blood and only did so to resist further oppression.

Aby Bakr, the first khalifah stated in Muwatta of Imam Malik:

'Do not kill women or children or an aged, infirm person. Do not cut down fruit bearing trees. Do not destroy an inhabited place. Do not slaughter sheep or camels expect for food.'

Question: When have militant groups such as IS, Taliban ignored these rules?

How have Muslims worked to overcome issues of conflict?



Resolutions from ‘Terrorism and Extremism: How Should British Muslims Respond?’ conference 12 November 2015 –

British Muslims condemn terrorism. We have, and will continue to speak out against the terrorism that is carried out wrongly in our name.

As parents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, we are concerned that a minority of our young people are susceptible to poisonous propaganda, primarily from social media and the internet, that will lead them astray and into the arms of terrorists. We therefore support reasonable and proportionate evidence-based policies to combat the real scourge of terrorism.

There are many pathways to lead someone to becoming a terrorist, they include alienation, socio-economic drivers, objection to foreign policy and a warped grasp of ideology. We believe that the small minority of young people who are radicalised, is outside the mosque, and on the fringes of society. We must tackle youth alienation and give our young people a stake in society, not treat them or their faith as pariahs.

Religious belief or practice should not be considered a sign of radicalisation. There is no evidence to suggest that our religious institutions, be they mosques or madrassas, foster extremism. We are concerned that the faith institutions of British Muslims are being unfairly targeted.

What is the message of this speech? Do you think it is successful in keeping peace?

Non-religious views towards issues surrounding conflict.

- Some atheists and humanists blame religions such as Islam for violence and extremism.
- Let's look at the statistics:
- **94%** of terrorist attacks carried out in the USA between 1980-2005 have been by **non-Muslims** (US Department of Justice).
- Between 2009-2013, less than 2% of terrorist attacks in Europe were religiously motivated (ThinkProgress Organisation)

Q: What do these statistics suggest about Islam as a cause of violence?



Watch the clip and note down different views.

Topic content	Revised?	Confidence rating R,A,G
Muslim attitudes towards peace		
The role of Muslims in peace making		
Attitudes to conflict		
Pacifism		
Just war theory		
Holy war		
Weapons of mass destruction		
Issues surrounding conflict		

Revision questions:

A questions – ‘Outline questions’. These are three-mark questions which require you state three points. You must write in full sentences, or you will only be awarded one mark.

- Outline three facts which show Islam is a religion of peace.
- Outline three ways in which a Muslim group works for peace.
- Outline three problems caused by war.
- Outline three features from the history of pacifism.
- Outline three conditions necessary for a war to be called a just war.
- Outline three requirements for a war to be a holy war.
- Outline three ways in which Muslims fight terrorism.

B questions – ‘Explain questions’. These are four-mark questions which require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence.

- Explain two reasons why Muslims believe that Islam is a religion of peace.
- Explain two reasons why forgiveness and reconciliation are important for Muslims.
- Explain two reasons why some Muslims are pacifists.
- Explain two reasons why Muslims might be against possessing weapons of mass destruction.

C questions – ‘Explain questions’. These are five-mark questions which are almost identical to B questions – they require you to give to explanations, both points must be developed with examples or evidence. You must also use a source of wisdom and authority to support one of your points.

- Explain two Muslim responses to war. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom.
- Explain two reasons why Muslims will fight in a just war. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom.
- Explain two reasons why Muslims might regard a war as a holy war. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom.
- Explain two reasons why Muslims oppose terrorism. In your answer you must refer to a source of wisdom.

D questions – Evaluation questions – These are twelve-mark questions (two of your four will be 15 due to SPaG marks. You are required to give three points in agreement with the statement and three points against the statement. You should try to alternate your arguments, giving a flow of debate and showing chains of reasoning. You should try to include three sources of authority (you may include more). You must not give your opinion, the question expects you to give Christian viewpoints, if it requires atheist or humanist there will be bullet point stating so under the questions. You must include a conclusion, or you will be capped at nine marks. Give a justified conclusion, weighing up the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.

- Islam is the house of peace.
- There can be no peace without justice.
- Religion is the main cause of wars.
- Pacifism and religion should go hand in hand.
- Religious people should never fight in wars.
- No war should ever be called holy.
- Weapons of mass destruction might be dreadful, but having them keeps the peace.
- Religion should do more to stop violence and terrorism.

