



Peace and Conflict through Islam - Key Knowledge Revision



4.1 Peace: being in harmony with oneself and others, the opposite of war

Muslim Teachings about peace: Believe peace is more than absence of war. Means to be in harmony with oneself and others. // Most important goal is to ensure the world is as peaceful as possible. // Islam aims to provide peace at an individual and global level. Peace lies in the heart of Islam and why it is important in everyday life.

Key Beliefs of Islam as a religion of peace: Islam means peace & one of Allah's characteristics is 'Source of Peace' // When Muslims greet each other they say al-salamu 'alaykum = 'peace be upon you'.
'Give food and greet everyone with peace.' – Prophet Muhammad (The Sahih Al-Bukhari book of Hadith) // 'When aggressive people address them, reply with words of peace.' (Surah 25:63)

4.2 Peacemaking: process of making peace by preventing and settling disputes

Teachings about peacemaking	Why is it important?	How are Muslims working for peace?
°'Be a community that calls for what is good' (Surah 3) // When inviting people to Islam do so peacefully. 'Argue with them in the most courteous way' (Q, S 16) // A Jew and Muslim argued about who the greatest prophet was: Moses or Muhammad. Pro Mo said: 'Do not give me superiority over Moses' (Hadith – Sahih Al-Bukhari)	°Justice = doing what is right and fair → If you treat someone wrongfully and unfairly you will never create peace. // Forgiveness = to pardon a person for a wrong they have done → Must heal any wrongdoing by forgiving so you can move on. // Reconciliation = restoring harmony after relationships have broken down → Two opposing sides must see through their differences to move forward // 'Good and evil cannot be equal, repel evil with what is better and your enemy will become as close as an old friend.' (Surah 41)	°Muslim Peace Fellowship – 'gathering of peace and justice-oriented Muslims of all backgrounds who are dedicated to making the beauty of Islam evident in the world.' MPF work against injustice & for peace at home, communities and nations °Reach out to people of other religions for mutual understanding and respect °Conferences → allows people of all faiths to meet and speak to one another.

4.3 Conflict: a serious disagreement that may lead to disunity and war

	Key ideas	STRETCH
Causes	1. Politics/ ideology – different views/policies e.g. Korean war // 2. Nationalism / ethnicity – one ethnic group is superior over the other e.g. Kosovo war, Rwanda genocide // 3. Religion – defending or when beliefs clash e.g. Sunni & Shia fighting in Iraq	The Arab-Israeli conflict: After WWII Israel was given to the Jews and Palestine was given to the Arabs. This has caused conflict as Israel is very special to both.
Muslim Views	1. Must avoid conflict 'do not kill' all life is sacred // 2. Must be peaceful but if all efforts have failed war is permissible. Only use the amount of force needed and must not be violent. // 3. Situation ethics – do whatever the most loving	'Fight in God's cause against those who fight you: God does not love those who overstep the limits.' (Qur'an, Surah 2)
Non-Religious Views	1. Religious wars should never happen as it challenges the idea of an all loving God. // 2. No war can ever be 'holy' or be fought on behalf of a belief in a supernatural being. // 3. BHA = After holocaust many questioned the existence of God	'The horrors of war have made many people question the existence of a benevolent and omnipotent deity.' (British Humanist Association)
Muslim responses	1. ProMo fought in self-defence to achieve peace. 2. Unfair to blame God for genocides as people misused their free will 3. Most wars have nothing to do with religion	'History simply does not support the hypothesis that religion is the major cause of conflict' (Rabbi Alan Lurie)

4.4 Pacifism: the belief that disputes should be settled peacefully and war and violence are always wrong.

Key Beliefs: Allah: Promotes sanctity of life // **Pro Moe** suffered persecution & injustice in Mekkah but did not retaliate // **Quran** 'If you raise your hand to kill me, I will not raise mine to kill you.' (Surah 5) Adam's sons Cain & Abel

Passive Resistance: non-violent opposition to authority

If government permits Muslims to practice Islam freely then they should be obeyed. Loyalty to your country is important. But if they take it away then passive resistance is allowed.

Example: The Arab Spring 2010 – civilian protests against corrupt governments and dictatorships. Led to overthrow of regimes in Libya, Egypt & Tunisia.

Types of pacifism: Absolute pacifism: never right even in self-defence // Conditional pacifism: war is wrong but fighting may be necessary as a last resort // Active pacifist: take part in non-violent protests // Selective pacifism: oppose use of nuclear, chemical, biological weapons

4.5 Just War Theory – set of conditions that need to be met in order for a war to be justified – *jus ad bellum*

<p>Criteria used by United Nations (Non-Muslim): <i>Just cause:</i> reasons to fight to uphold justice // <i>Legitimate authority:</i> recognised leader can sanction a war // <i>Last resort:</i> all efforts for peace have been tried & failed</p>	<p>Conditions of Just War in Islam: migration is the first option to escape // must fulfil criteria of lesser jihad – persecution, defend religious freedoms, authorised by Muslim leader // “fight in God’s way” (Surah 4)</p>
<p>Key Beliefs: <i>Allah</i> ‘Fight them until there is no more persecution.’ (Q,S 8) Do not start conflict but fight as a last resort. (Lesser jihad) // ProMo: Just War is very similar to rules of war in the Qur’an written by ProMo. // Qur’an ‘Why should you not fight in God’s cause and for those oppressed men, women and children?’ (Q, S 4) – Early Muslims were killed so migration is the first response. If it continues then Muslims may fight in self-defence. (Lesser jihad)</p>	<p>Is a just war possible today? Muslim views Yes – lesser jihad. ‘The Qur’an has saddled Muslims with a heavy responsibility of fighting tyranny, corruption, exploitation and colonialism and defending oppressed and exploited.’ (Ayatollah Ibrahim Amini) // Situation Ethics – do the most loving thing.</p>
<p>Sunni: authorised by a prophet or khalifah Shia: authorised by a prophet or 1 of 12 Imams. Both believe must be in self-defence and can support the government if fighting a common enemy e.g. WW1 and 2 // aim must be to restore peace.</p>	<p>No – disagreement on who legitimate authority is. Many reject ISIS Sunni leader – Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Terrorists and not Muslim // Conditions were given to Muhammad in 5th century Arabia. Not applicable in 2017 UK - outdated.</p>

4.6 Holy War – a war fought in support of a religious cause

<p>Key Beliefs of Peace in Islam: <i>Allah</i> Sanctity of Life – he is the creator // ProMo commanded to make peace “excellent model” // Qur’an Following battle Muslims must make a pact with non-believers to avoid further confrontations “honour the treaty you made with them... but if they break their oath fight these leaders” (Surah 9:4)</p> <p>ProMo & early Muslims were killed and persecuted. Were peaceful for 13 years but then fought in war. ‘Fight them until there is no more persecution’ (Q,S 2)</p>	<p>Harb al-Maqadis: holy war where conditions for lesser jihad are met // Conditions for holy war/ lesser jihad:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Persecution (suffering due to belief) 2. Freedom of belief is taken away 3. Self-defence when under attack 4. Authorised by a Muslim leader (prophet/ Khaliah) 5. Last resort *Forbidden to harm innocent civilians. Cannot initiate war, convert to Islam. Cannot kill fellow Muslims.*
<p>Different interpretations of Surah 8 – ‘And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah’ (q, S 8) Some interpret as message of peace. BUT others interpret to start holy wars to spread Islam and convert others.</p>	

4.7 Weapons of Mass Destruction – nuclear, biological or chemical weapons that cause widespread devastation and loss of life.

<p>Key Beliefs to reject: <i>Allah</i> Breaks sanctity of life ‘Do not kill’ ProMo commanded peace Qur’an ‘If anyone kills a person – it is as if he kills all mankind.’ (Q, S 5) Many references of WMD in Qur’an. Will bring devastation. ‘He will be thrust into the Crusher! It is God’s Fire, made to blaze.’ (Q,S 104)</p>	<p>Problems: 1. Scale of destruction is immeasurable & damage caused cannot be undone. 2. Civilian/ innocent deaths are inevitable. 3. Long-term ill-effects, which can extend to future generations 4. Using them could amount to a war crime.</p>	<p>Benefits: 1. Effective deterrent – nations are less likely to attack if there is a threat. 2. Losses suffered by the side that uses them is minimal 3. Quicker end to conflicts 4. Better course of action than invasion</p>
<p>Non-Religious Attitudes: Atheists and humanists are cautious. They accept some benefits but also agree there are problems. Some who follow utilitarianism believe in ‘the greatest good for the greatest number’ – may be a reason to use them.</p>		

4.8 Issues Surrounding Conflict: Terrorism: unlawful use of violence, including against innocent civilians, to achieve a political or religious goal. // “do not kill women or children or aged.. do not steal from the booty and do not be cowardly” (Malik Muwatta)

Terrorist	Peaceful	Non-Religious
<p>‘God is sure to help those who help His cause – God is strong and mighty.’ (Qur’an, Surah 22) ‘If anyone kills a person – unless in retribution for murder – it is as if he kills all mankind. (Qur’an, Surah 22)</p>	<p>No compulsion to religion and that Allah has made all life sacred. // ProMo and early Muslims opposed war & hated shedding human blood. Only did to resist further oppression. // Muslim Council of Britain consistent in saying terrorism must be challenged by Muslim communities.</p>	<p>Some atheists & humanists blame religions for violence and extremism. // But 94% terrorist attacks USA 1980-2005 non-Muslims (US Department of Justice) // 2009-2013, less than 2% of terrorist attacks in Europe were religiously motivated (ThinkProgress Organisation)</p>