# War and Peace - Knowledge organiser

## Sub-topics

- Different perspectives on war
- Just war theory including jus ad bellum, jus in bello and jus post bellum
- An evaluation of the Just War theory against contemporary conflicts
- Biblical perspectives on war and peace
- Pacifism- different types and their movements
- Special issues arising from nuclear war
- Perceived benefits of war
- Appropriateness and value of employing religious perspectives in these debates

## Possible H/WK/Questions

**8 mark**

Explore the religious and ethical perspectives on pacifism
Explore the contribution of one religion to war and peace
Explore the ways in which a war can be ethically evaluated
Explore the concept of pacifism

**12 mark**

Assess the value of jus ad bellum (declaration of war) and jus in bello (conduct in war) in the Just War Theory
Assess the claim that pacifism is impractical

**30 mark**

Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Just War Theory as a means of assessing whether to go to war
Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of pacifism as an approach to war

## Stretch and challenge/Suggested further reading

Vardy, Peter and Charlotte. Ethics Matters(2013) Chapter 16

https://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com/edexcel-religious-studies/edexcel-ethics/war-and-peace/

https://philrsblog.com/liberation-theology/edexcel-detailed-course-notes-on-war-and-peace/

https://philrsblog.com/just-war-theory/revision-test-for-the-edexcel-syllabus-on-war-and-peace/

## Key words

Civil War- a war between citizens of the same country
Guerrilla warfare- engagement in or the activities involved in a war fought by small groups of irregular soldiers against typically larger regular forces
Militarism- the belief that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to defend or promote national interests
Realism- the belief that whilst it is better to avoid war, it is usually necessary
Pacificism- the belief that war and violence are unjustifiable and that all disputes should be settled by peaceful means
Just War theory- A Christian doctrine which argues that there are conditions which help decide if a war is just. It was developed by Augustine and Aquinas
Jus ad bellum- 'right to war' is a set of criteria to be consulted before engaging in war in order to determine whether entering into war is permissible
Jus in bello- the body of law regulating the conduct of combatants during war in order to minimise unnecessary damage and suffering
Jus post bello- 'justice after war' is a concept that deals with the morality of the termination phase of war, including the responsibility to rebuild
Holy war- A war declared or waged in support of a religious cause
Conscientious objectors- A person who for reasons of conscience objects to complying with war
Mutually assured destruction- the annihilation that would be caused by nuclear war

## Key scholars

Augustine

Aquinas

Walzer

Bacon

Pope Francis

## Starting point- Important key facts

- A war is the state of violence and fighting between two o more groups
- War is a serious ethical issue because there has hardly been a day in modern history when there has not been a war somewhere in the world. It is also important because of the huge amount of suffering and death that comes with it
- A religious approach to war has been the Just War theory developed by Augustine and Aquinas. It argues that there should a criteria which determines if a war is considered morally right. Just war theory is rooted in Christian thought and covers three areas: Jus ad bellum= criteria for when going to, or starting, a war can be considered just. Jus in bello = the conduct required during war in order for the war to be considered just. Jus post bellum = the conditions for ensuring justice after the war is over.
- Nuclear weaponry raises special concerns in the morality of warfare due to its destructive power. Campaigns for nuclear disarmament saw their heyday in the context of the Cold War. The deterrent for most is Mutually Assured Destruction, since nuclear war is likely to end human civilisation as we know it if both sides retaliate, the threat in and of itself prevents a war from occurring.
- Biblical arguments surrounding war link back to the Old Testament. There were many wars which were brutal in nature, and these wars were waged by God. The wars were ways for God to impose his judgement on populations. This suggests that wars are only just if they are waged by God, not if they are consistent with Just War theory.
- A different account of war and violence is arguably put forward by the New Testament, Jesus taught widely on peace which has led some Christians to support pacifism.
- Pacifism is the belief that all war and violence is wrong because it is wrong to harm or kill other people. There are different types of pacifism such as absolute, relative, nuclear and active. Non-religious reasons for pacifism could be for the environment, because of nuclear weapons, or humanitarianism.
- There is also Christian realism, which argues against pacifism on the basis that the corrupt nature of mankind means that war is inevitable and necessary in order to keep and maintain a just and ordered society.