**\*\*\*\* GOLDEN RULE \*\*\*\*** This is a huge **biggie** and not just for CONFLICT topic \***APPLIES ALL RELIGIONS\***

**FUNDAMENTAL CORE BELIEF and CORE DUTY**

**and APPLIES TO LOADS OF SITUATIONS**

**Treat others as you want to be treated**

**USE IT!!!!!!!!**

**3. RELIGION and CONFLICT**

Is peace possible? Is it ever right to fight? Is non-violent protest effective? Why do people forgive? If God existed he would not allow suffering?

These are definitions relevant to CONFLICT topic Non-violent protest Showing disapproval without damaging property or causing threat Pacifism Believing any form of violence or war is unacceptable Reconciliation (means forgiveness) Making up after a quarrel or dispute and rebuilding relationships

These are definitions relevant to CONFLICT topic Conflict Clashes and breakdown of relationships e.g. war **\*\*\*Interfaith Dialogue\*\*\* Different faith groups talking to each other about their faith** Just War A war that is fought to prevent a worse catastrophe and as a last resort

EXAMINERS WANT TO SEE THESE IN ALL YOUR ANSWERS

Example of an **(a)** type question - **DEFINITION**  Explain what religious believers mean by ……… Conflict Non-violent protest Pacifism Reconciliation Just War **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE**

Have a go to know you can define them without peeking

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially **(d) PEACE** Need one in detail in case (d) asks only for one religion and another in less detail in case it asks for 2 as they share the questions marks \*\* **ALL RELIGIONS TEACH KINDNESS & COMPASSION & PEACE – not rocket science but important and easy thing to remember** ………..plus

**CHRISIANITY** Jesus taught love, kindness and compassion and **NEVER REVENGE - LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR** is 2nd CommandmentJesus asked people to be **peacemakers**

**JUDAISM**  The greeting ‘**SHALOM**’ means peace because it is desired in the World Peace is needed for well-being

You know how it works with questions now and facts are to be learned for all questions. Where you have to add general views regarding peace think of these:

* It needs to be worked at and all sides must be willing as it takes effort
* People need to put the religious teachings of their faith into practice
* **Interfaith dialogue** is vital to understand each other’s religions as many wars have started over religion. **They need to understand that they share some common views especially peace.** Think how many times you read ALL religions believe etc.
* People need to stop focussing on themselves and their own ideas and their own values all the time – this is selfish. It stops building relationships with others who are different.
* Religious communities important as can organise events involving different faiths within the community who can meet and talk about each other’s views. Some events could be non-religious to include a wider cross section of people.
* Visit each other’s places of worship and observe rituals to help break down barriers between religions

**(e)** ‘Religions cannot create peace’. Do you agree? Give reasons, showing more than one point of view and including religious beliefs. **F**or view general look at wars within + between religions e.g. Protestants + Catholics in Northern Ireland (see later). Religion will always cause wars as it divides people. **A**gainst view general – Religion can be the inspiration for believers to put their faith into practice and fight for injustices without violence e.g. Martin Luther King (see later) who campaigned for peace non-violently. Religious fact – all religions teach compassion, kindness and peace e.g. Jesus asked people to be peacemakers and the 2nd Commandment is ‘Love Thy Neighbour’. The Jewish greeting ‘shalom’ means peace. Religion is all about peace. Religious fact – religious groups and communities can use interfaith dialogue to sort out problems and try and resolve conflict e.g. Corry Meela in Northern Ireland working to bring peace between Protestants and Catholics because they are putting their **religion into practice which is what religious believers have a duty to do** My opinion – what do you think?? Do you think religion affects people’s lives positively and putting it into practice more would help the modern world? Imagine if everyone actually obeyed all Ten Commandments – values are being lost??

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially **(d)**  **RELIGIOUS INDIVIDUAL OR COMMUNITY WORKING FOR PEACE** Need one in detail in case (d) asks only for one example and another in less detail in case it asks for 2 as they share the questions marks

HOW CAN PEACE BE MADE AND KEPT?

* It has to be worked at as it takes effort from both sides
* Needs compromise and not selfishness
* Possible if people look to faith and put it into practice
* ‘Power of Prayer’
* Helping each other with problems
* Well we know interfaith dialogue is the biggie

**HINDUISM GHANDI He promoted peace NON- VIOLENTLY** through speeches worldwide. He never retaliated even when he was hurt and encouraged others to protest through disobedience rather than violence (**example of non-violent protest**) He was a Hindu but also referred to teachings of Jesus & Qur’an

**CHRISTIANITY - CORRY MEELA IT IS A COMMUNITY** in Northern Ireland where Protestants & Catholics can come together and talk and work together for peace (**THIS IS EXAMPLE OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE** – both faiths are Christian) It tries to **educate children especially** about the importance of peace and forgiveness as they are the future

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially **(d) CONFLICT AND WAR** Need one in detail in case (d) asks only for one religion and another in less detail in case it asks for 2 as they share the questions marks. **ALL RELIGIONS TEACH ABOUT WRONGS OF CONFLICT & WAR \*\* (GOLDEN RULE) \*\* some have teachings where it is acceptable to avoid greater tragedy & DO NOT FORGET’’ SANCTITY of LIFE’’ APPLIES ALL RELIGIONS & is BIGGIE**

You know how it works with questions now and facts are to be learned for all questions. Where you have to add other general views think of these:

* War causes suffering and must be wrong
* **Against the Golden Rule which is a universal and fundamental core belief for all religions**
* War has no real winners and every step should be taken to avoid it
* Weapons of mass destruction should never be used and there should be limits of what is acceptable
* Peaceful protests can be as effective e.g. Ghandi and Martin Luther King
* Is there any option? When justice or inequality is under threat as teaching also tell us to protect the innocent and keep justice
* Non- violent protest will never work with some situations, they will ignore it and think you are weak and a pushover
* Put religion into practice by communities leading interfaith dialogue
* **AVOID EXTREME RELIGIOUS VIEWS WITHIN RELIGION – DO NOT ACCEPT THEM OR TEACH THEM -**  really applicable at the moment

**JEHOVAH WITNESS** It is wrong to take up weapons even under rules of government

They are usually **CONSCIENTOUS OBJECTORS**

**CHRISTIANITY THOU SHALT NOT KILL is 6th Commandment** Christians are therefore mostly against war + also because of **GOLDEN RULE** and **LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR** Commandment **BUT** under certain circumstances they see war as justified **‘JUST WAR’** i.e. if it is for the right reason and a last resort.If the allies had not fought Hitler we would have left the Jews to die.

JUST A THING…..BIG NO NO…. NEVER say ‘all’ when referring to religious believers personal beliefs e.g. ‘all Christians believe’ ….or ‘all Jews believe’ etc. Religious believers (especially over more controversial issues) will formulate their own individual opinions It is okay though to say Christianity teaches ….or Judaism teaches ….or probably even Catholics believe etc. …. but not ‘all’ Catholics believe…. or ‘all’ Protestants believe as some are less orthodox than others (less strict) and interpret teachings differently. There is argument between religious scholars over interpretation of some sacred texts – what does it mean for believers today? – this leads to varied opinions even within even same same religion. \*\*\*\*And say **might** agree or **might** disagree and **NOT would**\*\*\*\*

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially **(d) NON-VIOLENT PROTEST** (opposite of conflict and war) Non-violence is based on the religious teachings of Jesus in the Bible **‘turn the other cheek’** (remember it has an opposite‘an eye for an eye’ because this is how the Bible works - full of contradictions and some who have fought for injustice with violence still think they are obeying the Bible!!) It is also based on **‘Love Thy Neighbour’** which is the 2nd Commandment in Christianity It is also based on the **Golden Rule** which all religions have a version of in their teachings

REALLY SEEMS THE RIGHT THING TO DO WITH ALL THESE TEACHINGS BACKING IT UP!!

You have to know a couple of real life followers of non-violent protest for **(d)** question as it is asked a lot but they are really useful to throw in to answers for a lot of other topics e.g. anything to do with peace, injustice, suffering, inequality etc.

**(e)** ‘It is never right to fight. Do you agree? Give reasons, showing more than one point of view and including religious beliefs. **F**or view general – violence leads to more violence and where will it end? Reconciliation is difficult when both sides have fought and lives have been lost – it is better to avoid wars as the innocent get hurt **A**gainst view general – Without violence the people causing the suffering and injustices will not take notice. You become a bystander and it looks as if you agree. Religious fact – a Jehovah Witness might agree as they believe it wrong to take up weapons even government rules and they are usually conscientious objectors Religious fact – Christians might agree or disagree as the 6th Commandment says ‘Thou shalt not kill’ but under certain circumstances they believe in Just War to avoid greater tragedy. Martin Luther King used peaceful methods + were effective My opinion – what do you think?? Weapons of mass destruction like nuclear bombs used against Japan in the 2nd World War should never be used but do you think sometimes war is justified and disagree with argument or do you think war is never justified and agree with the statement? Do you think non-violent protests are weak or do you think they gain media attention and show strength of opinion

**Christianity - Martin Luther King**  He was a black Christian who wanted **equal rights for black people in America** He followed Jesus’ teachings and used peaceful methods of protests such as bus boycotts and sit-ins (refused to leave restaurants which served only whites) He organised thousands of protestors to march on Washington for jobs and freedom and made the great speech **‘I have a dream’**

**HINDUISM - GHANDI He promoted peace and equality NON- VIOLENTLY** through speeches worldwide. He never retaliated even when he was hurt and encouraged others to protest through disobedience rather than violence (**example of non-violent protest**) He was a Hindu but also referred to teachings of Jesus & Qur’an

This is a funny (b) question which has not come up and parts of it could be really useful for other questions. How does having a religious faith encourage good relationships?

* **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE** is always a biggie
* Religious peace organisations like Christian Aid
* Following the teachings of your beliefs and putting them into practice e.g. ‘Love your Neighbour’ 2nd great Commandment
* Take inspiration from parable such as ‘The Good Samaritan’
* Take inspiration from famous religious figures such as Martin Luther King and Ghandi
* Pray for others – who you may not even know – ‘The Power of Prayer’

**WHAT IS THE POWER OF PRAYER?**

Prayers must mean something to you to mean something to God

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially **(d) FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION** Need one in detail in case (d) asks only for one religion and another in less detail in case it asks for 2 as they share the questions marks. **ALL RELIGIONS TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS and \*\* (GOLDEN RULE) \*\***

**HINDUISM** Ghandi had special sayings such as

It takes strength not weakness to forgive and

Where love is also God is

**CHRISTIANITY** Jesus taught **forgiveness not revenge** - when he was dying on the cross he asked for forgiveness from God for those who had placed him there The **Lord’s prayer** says ‘forgive those who trespass against us’ Christian religious leaders like **Martin Luther King** showed forgiveness which inspired others Christian communities like **Corry Meela** educate importance of forgiveness especially to children

You know how it works with questions now and facts are to be learned for all questions. Where you have to add other views think of these:

* If no one forgave, evils would continue
* Does it appear as weakness to the bully?
* It must come from the heart or it is pretending
* Some things are unforgiveable
* In Judaism you cannot forgive on someone else’s behalf because the wrong was done to them
* It is up to God to forgive and not humans
* You need to forgive to move on with your life
* Without forgiveness there would only ever be bitterness
* Need to experience forgiveness ourselves for example when growing up to be able to forgive others because you know how important it is
* You can forgive but you may never forget

**(e)** ‘It is impossible to forgive’. Do you agree? Give reasons, showing more than one point of view and including religious beliefs. **F**or view general – Revenge is natural and some things cannot be forgiven because if it doesn’t come from the heart it is not true forgiveness. **A**gainst view general – it takes strength to forgive but you need to experience it yourself to see how important it is. You may forgive but it does not mean you forget Religious fact – A Christian might disagree because Jesus taught forgiveness even when he was dying on the cross and the Lord’s Prayer says ‘forgive those who trespass against us and because they feel inspired by leaders such as Martin Luther King who put his faith into practice and demonstrated forgiveness Religious fact – a believer might disagree because all religions teach forgiveness and have their own version of the Golden Rule which is a core religious belief Religious fact – a believer might disagree because they have seen forgiveness in practice e.g. Corry Meela in Northern Ireland who work to bring peace and forgiveness between Protestants and Catholics My opinion – what do you think?? Sometimes forgiveness is needed for people to move on with their lives and not be bitter but what do you think?

**ALL** QUESTIONS WANT FACTS especially **(d) PURPOSE OF SUFFERING** Need one in detail in case (d) asks only for one religion and another in less detail in case it asks for 2 as they share the questions marks. **ALL RELIGIONS RECOGNISE SUFFERING IN THE WORLD BUT BELIEVE GOOD THINGS CAN COME FROM IT AND THAT WE SHOULD HELP THOSE THAT SUFFER**

You know how it works with questions now and facts are to be learned for all questions. Where you have to add other views think of these:

* If God existed he would not allow the innocent to suffer
* There is no just reason why the innocent should suffer
* Many religions have charities that help those suffering e.g. Christian Aid and the Salvation Army are Christian charities
* All religious believers should regard it as a duty to help those suffering
* Suffering is caused by people
* Ghandi and Mother Theresa are famous religious believers who spoke out against suffering and represented those who could not speak for themselves e.g. children and the poor
* Suffering needs practical help and medicines not praying
* Many religious believers who are suffering are supported through prayer ‘Power of Prayer’ –is it because they have no other hope?

**JUDAISM** Also believe it is due to ‘free will’ from God

It is a test and a way of returning to God

**CHRISTIAN** Suffering is a result of the ‘free will’ God gave us, because of this we sin + get punished but because God is kind + loving than it will lead to good things - it brings out the strength in people and makes them better!!!!!

**(e)** ‘Religious beliefs cannot help those suffering’. Do you agree? Give reasons, showing more than one point of view and including religious beliefs. **F**or view general – they need practical help and medicines not praying, suffering is caused by people and religion will not change that. Why would a loving God allow it? **A**gainst view general – many organisations and individuals who help suffering are religious based. They have been inspired by their religious beliefs to do good Religious fact – believers might disagree because all religions recognise suffering but believe good things can come from it and we should all support those suffering Religious fact – might disagree because many religions have charities that help those suffering throughout the World and make a big difference e.g. Christian Aid Religious fact – might disagree because religion can inspire people to put their faith into practice and fight for injustices and suffering e.g. Ghandi and Mother Theresa who represented people who could not speak for themselves e.g. children + poor My opinion – what do you think?? I believe it is putting religious beliefs into action that truly helps those su ffering as it is practical help. I therefore agree with the statement. Also people who are in the midst of suffering can feel supported through community prayer perhaps though because they have no other hope than God.