



Topic 1: Is religion a power for peace or a cause of conflict in the world today?

The RE skill we are focussing on in this topic:
Personal Opinion & Debate

Discussion questions for at home:

In your opinion can war ever be justified? Why/why not?

Do you think it is every necessary to involve the military to promote peace and stability in the world?

Can religion play a role in promoting peace and understanding between different groups of people? Why/why not?

What do you think are the main causes of conflict/war?

What can individuals do to promote peace and reduce conflict in their daily lives?

How do you think social media and technological impact conflicts and the potential for peace?

What are some examples of conflicts that have been successfully resolved through nonviolent means?

Useful resources:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zrndpg8/revision/1	Resource looking at the ethical issues of modern warfare,
https://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/war/just/what.shtml	Explains the criteria associated with a just war.
https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/is-peace-possible/ AND https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/id-do-it-for-peace/	Two videos exploring a variety of viewpoints on peace, if it can be achieved and if war is ever justifiable.
https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/what-is-jihad/	Resource explaining the meaning of jihad from the perspective of an imam, a Muslim youth worker and a journalist.
https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/god-religion-or-queen-country/	A Muslim who has been in the RAF for 7 years talks about the issues surrounding the practice of Islam in the military.
https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/freedom-vs-responsibility/	Can all religions live together in peace? This video details the opinions of students and MPs regarding this issue.
https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/war-is-good-for-some/	Viewpoints on the positive and negative aspects of wars.
https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/planet-war/ AND https://www.truetube.co.uk/resource/weapons-of-war/	Resources exploring the environmental impact of war.

Keywords for this topic:

Keyword



Peace—An absence of conflict.

Justice—When the right and fair thing is done.

War—When countries or other large groups of people use weapons to fight each other, the fight is called a war.

Holy war—A war believed to be supported by God.

Just war—A war fought on certain philosophical and religious principles.

Pacifism—The belief of people who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence.

Weapons of mass destruction— Weapons, like nuclear bombs, that cause a lot of damage and kill many people.

Violence—Using actions that threaten or harm others.

Terrorism—An action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Self-defence—acting to prevent harm to yourself or others.

Jihad—Literally means to strive or struggle. Lesser jihad refers to personal individual struggle against evil while following the way of Allah. Greater jihad refers to collective defence of the Muslim community.