8.1 The Causes of War: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about whether war can ever be justified. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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2 This question is about religious and non-religious perspectives on the causes of war. It is the AQA-style 24-mark, five-part question: parts (a) to (d) are worth 12 marks; part (e) is the 12-mark evaluation.

(a) State one non-religious reason why wars break out. **(1)**

(b) Give two reasons why greed might lead to war. **(2)**

(c) Explain two religious teachings that warn against pursuing revenge as a response to wrongdoing. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer. **(4)**

(d) Explain two contrasting views, religious and/or non-religious, about whether greed or self-defence is the more common real cause of war. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority or another source in your answer. **(5)**

(e) Evaluate this statement: 'Greed is a more common cause of war than self-defence.' In your answer you should: refer to religious teaching, refer to different points of view, reach a justified conclusion. **(12)**

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(Total for Question 2 is 24 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.1 The Causes of War: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

belief 1: some religious believers, such as many Quakers, teach that violence is never justified because all human life is sacred, oe **B1**

development: Jesus taught 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God' (Matthew 5:9), oe **B1**

belief 2: other religious believers accept that war can be justified in narrow circumstances, such as self-defence against an unjust attack, oe **B1**

development: the Qur'an permits fighting those who fight first, while adding 'do not transgress, indeed Allah does not like transgressors' (Qur'an 2:190), oe **B1**

reference to a source of wisdom and authority made accurately, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast: absolute pacifist rejection of all violence (Matthew 5:9) vs conditional acceptance of defensive war (Qur'an 2:190).

Question 2

(a) competition for scarce resources such as land, water or energy, or a struggle for political power, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: E.g. competition for scarce resources such as land, water or energy.

(b) a state or group may want to gain control of another territory's land, wealth or resources, oe **B1**

(b) a state or group may want to increase its own power or influence over others, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: E.g. wanting to gain control of another territory's resources; wanting to increase power or influence over others.

(c) point 1: many Christians teach that revenge should be left to God rather than pursued by individuals or nations, oe **B1**

(c) development: Paul writes 'Do not take revenge... It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord' (Romans 12:19), oe **B1**

(c) point 2: many Muslims teach that although self-defence is permitted, believers should prefer peace where the other side is willing, oe **B1**

(c) development: the Qur'an teaches 'if they incline to peace, then incline to it also, and rely upon Allah' (Qur'an 8:61), oe **B1**

(c) Answer: E.g. revenge left to God (Romans 12:19); preferring peace where the other side is willing (Qur'an 8:61).

(d) view 1: some religious believers argue that a war's stated religious or ideological cause often disguises a deeper, more selfish cause such as greed for land or wealth, oe **B1**

(d) development: many point to the New Testament warning that 'the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil' (1 Timothy 6:10) as capturing this deeper, hidden motive, oe **B1**

(d) view 2: many non-religious commentators argue that wars are caused primarily by states competing for power and security, not by religion or morality, oe **B1**

(d) development: this reflects the secular 'political realism' theory of international relations, which explains war mainly in terms of states pursuing power and security rather than any stated moral cause, oe **B1**

(d) reference to a source of wisdom and authority or another appropriate source made accurately, oe **B1**

(d) Answer: Contrast: religious view that stated causes mask underlying greed (1 Timothy 6:10) vs the secular political-realism view that war is about power and security, not morality.

(e) **L4** A well-argued, balanced answer that considers more than one point of view in a developed way, using accurate and detailed references to religious teaching and/or scripture to support each point, and reaches a clear, justified conclusion. **10-12**

(e) **L3** A clear and reasoned answer that considers more than one point of view, supported by relevant references to religious teaching and/or scripture, though the justification of the conclusion may be less developed. **7-9**

(e) **L2** A reasoned answer that considers at least one point of view, with some relevant supporting evidence, but with limited or no consideration of an alternative view. **4-6**

(e) **L1** One or more relevant points are made, but with little or no supporting evidence and no reasoned conclusion. **1-3**

(e) **L0** No relevant content. **0**

(e) Indicative content:

- Agree: many historians argue that even wars framed as religious or moral causes are, on closer examination, fought over land, trade routes or resources, which are forms of greed.
- Agree: some Humanists argue that religious or ideological language is often used by leaders to justify wars that are really driven by a desire for wealth or power.
- Agree: colonial-era wars are widely seen by historians as driven mainly by a desire for territory and resources rather than genuine self-defence.
- Agree: the secular theory of political realism explains most wars in terms of states competing for power and resources rather than defending against attack.
- Disagree: many religious believers argue that wars fought to defend the innocent from aggression, such as the Allied entry into the Second World War to resist invasion and occupation, show self-defence can be a primary and justifiable cause of war.
- Disagree: the Qur'an's teaching that fighting is only permitted against 'those who are being fought, because they were wronged' (Qur'an 22:39) shows that many Muslims see self-defence, not greed, as the legitimate basis for war.
- Disagree: Christian just war thinking has traditionally required a 'just cause', usually understood as defence against aggression, showing self-defence is treated as the core justification, not greed.
- A middle position: greed-driven and self-defensive wars are not always easy to tell apart at the time, since an aggressor often claims to be acting defensively.
- A balanced answer might conclude that both causes operate in most real conflicts, and that a war's stated cause does not always match its real cause, making a single general answer to the statement hard to defend with certainty.

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