8.4 Religious and Non-Religious Perspectives on Reconciliation After Conflict: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Give two differences between judicial punishment and restorative-justice approaches to wrongdoing after conflict.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 State two teachings from the Qur'an that encourage forgiveness or restraint after wrongdoing.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

3 Explain two reasons why religious believers think forgiveness is important after conflict, referring to general religious teaching about reconciliation.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Explain two reasons why some victims of conflict might refuse to forgive perpetrators, despite religious teachings that promote forgiveness.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Explain two contrasting beliefs about forgiveness, referring to a sacred text or another source of religious authority. Include the required reference to scripture or religious teaching.

(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)

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6 Explain two reasons why some Christians might support a restorative-justice approach like the TRC instead of a system focused only on punishment after conflict.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

7 Explain the importance of acknowledging the truth about past abuses in post-conflict reconciliation processes, using the South African TRC as context.

(Total for Question 7 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.4 Religious and Non-Religious Perspectives on Reconciliation After Conflict: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

difference 1: punishment focuses on retribution and deterrence, restorative justice focuses on repairing harm and restoring relationships, oe **B1**

difference 2: courts usually prioritise legal procedures and sentences, restorative processes prioritise truth-telling, apology and reparations, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. punishment aims at retribution/deterrence while restorative justice repairs harm; courts focus on legal sentences while restorative approaches focus on truth, apology and reparations.

Question 2

teaching 1: Surah 42:40 suggests that forgiveness and reconciliation are better responses than retaliation, oe **B1**

development: Surah 42:40 links forgiveness with showing restraint and achieving peace, oe **B1**

teaching 2: Surah 24:22 encourages pardoning and mutual forgiveness for the sake of community harmony and God's mercy, oe **B1**

development: Surah 24:22 promises that God is forgiving and encourages believers to emulate that mercy, oe **B1**

Answer: Examples: Surah 42:40 supports restraint and forgiveness rather than revenge; Surah 24:22 encourages pardoning and trusting in God's mercy.

Question 3

point 1: forgiveness restores relationships and allows communities to heal after harm, oe **B1**

development: many religions teach that holding on to hatred perpetuates suffering and blocks reconciliation, oe **B1**

point 2: forgiveness reflects obedience to divine commands or examples, oe **B1**

development: believers may forgive because scripture or religious leaders instruct them to do so, showing faith and moral commitment, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. restores relationships and allows healing; reflects obedience to religious teaching or example, with development for each.

Question 4

point 1: victims may feel that forgiveness would let perpetrators escape justice without proper punishment, oe **B1**

development: without legal accountability or reparations, forgiveness may feel like denial of justice, oe **B1**

point 2: the depth of personal trauma may make forgiveness psychologically impossible for some victims, oe **B1**

development: ongoing fear, grief or lack of apology can prevent the emotional conditions needed for genuine forgiveness, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. refusal due to need for justice and punishment; psychological trauma and lack of apology making forgiveness impossible.

Question 5

belief 1: many Christians believe they must forgive repeatedly because Jesus taught to forgive others, oe **B1**

development: reference to Matthew 18:21-22 where Jesus says forgive 'seventy times seven' as an example of repeated forgiveness, oe **B1**

belief 2: some people, including some religious believers, argue forgiveness may not be appropriate if justice is denied, oe **B1**

development: this view can be supported by the idea that moral responsibility and punishment are necessary before reconciliation, oe **B1**

the scriptural or authoritative reference is accurately stated and linked to the explanation, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. Christians following Matthew 18:21-22 teach repeated forgiveness; contrasted with views that insist on justice before forgiveness, with scripture referenced.

Question 6

point 1: restorative justice aims to restore relationships and community cohesion rather than simply punish, oe **B1**

development: this matches Christian concerns for reconciliation and loving one another, enabling societal healing, oe **B1**

point 2: restorative processes can allow victims to hear the truth and receive apologies, which some Christians believe is important for forgiveness, oe **B1**

development: truth-telling can promote repentance and spiritual healing, aligning with religious emphasis on confession and repentance, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. restores relationships and community cohesion; allows victims to hear truth and apologies that can lead to repentance and healing.

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Question 7

Level 3 A detailed and well-developed answer that explains several reasons why truth is important, with clear links to the South African TRC and consequences for reconciliation.	**5-6**
Level 2 An answer that explains some reasons why truth matters, with reference to the TRC, but with limited development or links.	**3-4**
Level 1 One or two simple points about truth and reconciliation with minimal development or TRC reference.	**1-2**
Level 0 No relevant content.	**0**

Indicative content:

- Truth provides recognition and validation for victims, acknowledging their suffering and dignity.
- Public truth-telling can prevent denial and rewrite of history, helping a society learn and avoid repeating abuses.
- Truth can be a basis for accountability and may encourage perpetrators to repent and seek forgiveness.
- In South Africa the TRC's public hearings allowed victims to tell their stories, which contributed to national awareness and historic record.
- Truth alone may not be sufficient without reparations and structural change, so its importance is linked to other measures.

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