8.7 Weapons of Mass Destruction: 10-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 This question checks key vocabulary used when discussing weapons of mass destruction.

(a) State what is meant by a weapon of mass destruction. **(1)**

(b) State what is meant by deterrence. **(1)**

(c) State what is meant by indiscriminate, as applied to a weapon. **(1)**

(d) State what is meant by a nuclear weapon. **(1)**

(e) State what is meant by disarmament. **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 Give three facts about weapons of mass destruction as an ethical issue.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

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3 Explain two religious teachings that raise moral concerns about weapons of mass destruction. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 8.7 Weapons of Mass Destruction: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) a nuclear, chemical or biological weapon capable of causing large-scale, indiscriminate death and destruction, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: A nuclear, chemical or biological weapon capable of causing large-scale, indiscriminate death and destruction.

(b) holding a powerful weapon to discourage another country from attacking, without intending to use it first, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: Holding a powerful weapon to discourage another country from attacking, without intending to use it first.

(c) unable to distinguish between combatants and civilians, so it harms both without telling them apart, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: Unable to distinguish between combatants and civilians, so it harms both without telling them apart.

(d) a weapon of mass destruction that releases immense destructive energy, one of the three main categories of weapon of mass destruction alongside chemical and biological weapons, oe **B1**

(d) Answer: A weapon of mass destruction that releases immense destructive energy, one of three main WMD categories alongside chemical and biological weapons.

(e) the reducing or giving up of weapons, especially by an agreement between countries, oe **B1**

(e) Answer: The reducing or giving up of weapons, especially by an agreement between countries.

Question 2

weapons of mass destruction are widely seen as raising a distinct moral problem because they cannot discriminate between combatants and civilians, oe **B1**

some countries hold weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent, believing this makes an attack on them less likely, oe **B1**

many religious and non-religious groups campaign for the international reduction or abolition of weapons of mass destruction, oe **B1**

Answer: Any three: they raise a distinct moral problem over discrimination; some states hold them as a deterrent; many groups campaign for their reduction or abolition.

Question 3

point 1: many Christians argue that weapons of mass destruction cannot meet the just war requirement of discrimination between combatants and civilians, oe **B1**

development: this is often linked to Jesus's teaching to 'love your neighbour as yourself' (Matthew 22:39), understood as ruling out deliberately harming those not involved in fighting, oe **B1**

point 2: many Muslims argue that the extreme, indiscriminate harm caused by such weapons goes far beyond what the Qur'an permits in fighting, oe **B1**

development: the Qur'an's instruction to 'fight in the way of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress' (Qur'an 2:190) is used by many Muslims to reject any weapon whose harm cannot be limited to combatants, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. failure to discriminate between combatants and civilians (Matthew 22:39); harm going beyond what is permitted in fighting (Qur'an 2:190).

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