

Pacifism: Survey

1) Do you believe religious people should be pacifists?

2) Find out the views of five other people in the class.

Person	Reason

3) Out of the people you have surveyed, whose answer do you think is the most convincing? Why?



Answers

The nature of this activity means students are giving personal responses. However, some answers may include:

Religious people should be pacifists	Religious people should be not pacifists
War is destructive and kills innocent people. Some students may therefore take the quote further and say everyone should be a pacifist.	Fighting is acceptable in self-defence.
	Fighting may be necessary to prevent evil people taking power (i.e. Hitler).
Students could use any of the Christian arguments looked at in the lesson. For example, the Ten Commandments on killing and Jesus' teaching to turn the other cheek.	Fighting a war may be the only way to protect people from human rights abuses.
	Religious arguments like Just War or jihad set out the conditions when a religious person can fight, therefore if these conditions are met it is acceptable.