2.3 Thematic study: peace and conflict

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS peace • conflict • negative peace • positive peace • structural violence • just war theory • peacekeeping

Objective

Study the thematic study **peace and conflict**: types of **peace** and **conflict**, the causes and dynamics of conflict, the debate on when violence is justified, and ways to build peace.

You must be able to:

- distinguish negative and positive peace, and direct and structural violence
- classify conflicts: interstate, intrastate and internationalized
- explain causes of conflict and how conflicts escalate and end
- apply just war theory to a case
- evaluate methods of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ Kinds of peace and violence (Johan Galtung)

idea	meaning
negative peace	the absence of direct violence
positive peace	the absence of structural violence too: justice, rights, fair institutions
direct violence	physical harm by an actor, e.g. war
structural violence	harm built into a system, e.g. poverty or discrimination that shortens lives

■ Kinds of conflict

Interstate (between states), **intrastate** (inside one state, e.g. a civil war), **internationalized intrastate** (a civil war in which other states send troops). Conflicts

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can also be non-violent: strikes, protests, legal disputes.

Causes: competition for territory and resources; identity (ethnic, religious, national); weak or unjust governments; outside intervention. Conflicts move through stages: latent → escalation → violence → de-escalation → settlement, and can return.

■ Just war theory

Jus ad bellum (going to war): a just cause, legitimate authority, right intention, last resort, a reasonable chance of success, proportionality. **Jus in bello** (fighting): discrimination between soldiers and civilians, and proportionality.

■ Building peace

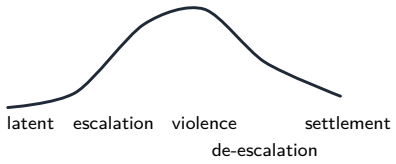
Peacemaking: negotiation and mediation to reach an agreement. **Peacekeeping**: neutral forces, often UN, keep sides apart and watch a ceasefire. **Peacebuilding**: rebuilding institutions, justice and trust, e.g. truth commissions (South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, 1996–2003).

Worked application. Northern Ireland: the Good Friday Agreement (1998) ended most direct violence (negative peace), but divided schools and housing show that positive peace is still being built.

2 Practice

2.1 Distinguish **negative peace** from **positive peace**. [2]

2.2 The diagram shows the stages of a conflict. Explain why a ceasefire at the stage of de-escalation does not guarantee lasting peace. [3]



2.3 Explain **two** causes of intrastate conflict, with an example. [4]

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2.4 Apply **three** criteria of **jus ad bellum** to a use of force you have studied. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* Evaluate the effectiveness of **peacekeeping** in resolving conflicts. [15]



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