

An idiot's guide to Conflict and cooperation.

This issue looks at the various types of conflict that exist at personal, local, national and international level. There are different causes and effects of a conflict. The main issues include:

- What does the term mean?
- When does conflict occur?
- What are the effects of conflict?

A definition:

Conflict is the struggle between two or more people or opposing forces.

For many people this usually means violence. This is due to people having different values, attitudes or beliefs. Conflict affects a lot of people at various different times in their lives. There are different types of conflict, some go back a long way, others are short term. If we look at the example of WWI we can see a mixture of both long and short term. For example:

Long term The alliance system which was set up in the 19th century. They became suspicious of each other and began to build up armaments.

Short term The assassination of the Arch duke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo. This caused the alliance system to kick in bringing most of Europe into the war.

Causes of small scale conflict:

Although not all conflicts have the same cause, they can be put into some categories. Where divorce is concerned there may be a number of factors which have added to the conflict. Lets look at the main causes of divorce using the main categories of conflict:

Cause:	Example
Religion	If partners are of different religions, this could lead to conflict where the bringing up of children is concerned or when making important decisions.
Politics	One partner may overpower the other.
Economics	Debt and financial worries can cause tension.
Social	Different upbringing, social class or cultures may have differences in their values.
Moral	One partner thinks the other partners' behaviour is wrong ~ for example adultery.

So how can conflict be resolved?

To try to resolve conflict we need to look at the underlying causes of it so that they can be addressed. There has to be some form of cooperation (working together) to achieve the common goal. There are various terms which need to be noted and explained as this will help for the exam. These terms are:

- **NEGOTIATION** ~ a meeting which allows both sides to put their point of view across.

- INTERMEDIARY help ~ a third party becoming involved. This could be a counsellor in a way to save a marriage.
- MEDIATION ~ compromise to ensure that both parties feel like they have been heard.
- FORCE ~ punishment for an action.
- PACIFISM ~ a belief in non violence to end a situation.

There is also other methods that can be used. Look at the table below to see what they are in there historical settings.

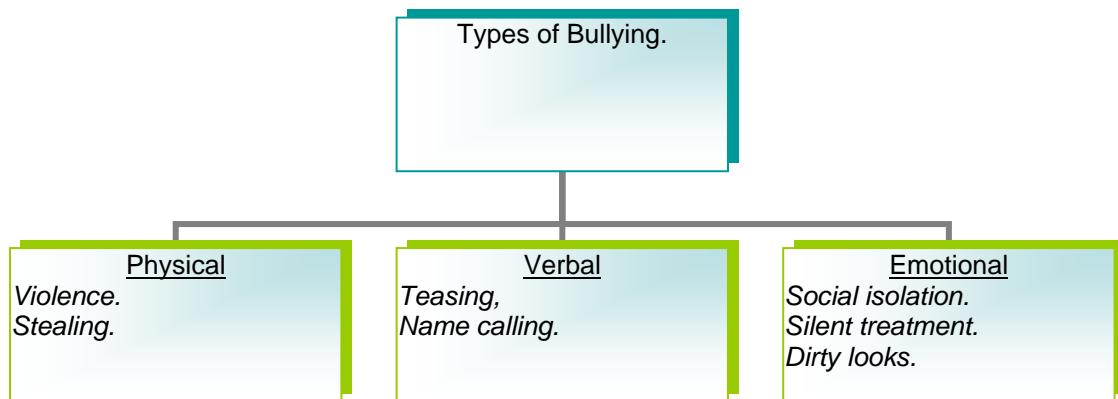
Method	Examples and comments.
Appeasement	British PM, Neville Chamberlain thought that he had guaranteed peace with Hitler in 1939, by getting Hitler to make a written promise not to seize more land. Yet this failed as Hitler did not keep his promise.
Force	In Afghanistan in 2002, President G.W. Bush preferred force to end terrorism. In the short term it seems too early to assess whether or not this has worked. In WWII it seemed to work as fascism was ended.
Protest	In 1947, Gandhi protested peacefully to ensure that India became independent from the British empire. This is not always the case.
Sanctions	This is a mixed bag. In some instances, like South Africa, sanctions helped bring about the end of apartheid. Yet in places like Iraq, it has failed to make them change their ways. They seem more determined whilst denying the general public things like food and medicine.
Deterrent	India and Pakistan have built up their nuclear weapons. If they were to use them they would kill each other. Knowing that they are there should they be needed makes war less likely.
Improving links	In 2004 contact was made, after 50 years of not speaking with each other, between Indian and Pakistan to allow their national cricket teams to play one another.
International cooperation.	The most important example of this has been the establishment of the United Nations (UN) in 1945. This organisation attempts to resolve conflict and issues throughout the world.

So now that we have the examples of conflict and how to resolve them, we need to delve a little further in to the types of conflict. This will help you with the exam.

Small scale conflict ~ Bullying:

Bullying is any behaviour that deliberately upsets, threatens or hurts another person.

This is good for an individual conflict as well as community conflict as it shows that the individual's rights and freedoms are being denied. There are different types of bullying. These include:



Types of bullying changes with age, but it still happen at all stages of life. Look at the list below and try to see which category each type of bullying fits into:

- Playground bullying.
- Sexual harassment.
- Gang attacks.
- Assault.
- Marital violence.
- Child abuse.
- Workplace harassment.

Why do people become bullies? Well there are a lot of different reasons why this happens, but it is believed that it comes down to:

- Poor discipline at home.
- Abuse or lack of love at home.
- Being seen as a failure.
- A sense of power / success.
- Peer pressure.

What is important is that anyone at any stage in life can be bullied for whatever reason. There will always be someone who is being bullied for whatever reason. Yet what is important is that it is stopped before it does long term damage to the person who is experiencing it. Some of the main effects are:

- They can be injured or property destroyed.
- Their lives are made miserable and they can loose their self worth.
- Some people have been known to commit suicide after being bullied.
- Cannot concentrate on their work and their progress suffers.

So when looking at bullying in school, how can it be resolved:



Now that we have looked at the causes of personal conflict, and don't forget that this can be applied to conflict with a neighbour¹, we need to move onto look at cause of National conflict.

This issue moves to look at the causes and effects of a National conflict in the USA and how Martin Luther King Jr did all he could to end the unfairness for the Black American.

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his world famous 'I have a dream' speech in Washington. 200 years of discrimination for the black man was behind this speech and despite the abolition of slavery in 1863, many black people were being denied their rights. These included:

- Politically where state laws were carefully designed to ensure that black people could not get the vote as they could not read or write. They had to answer questions which included 'how many bubbles can be blown from a bar of ivory soap'.

¹ Also add to this your notes on ASBO's and nuisance neighbours as this section will help you to grasp that as well as bullying.

- Economically they were given the worst jobs with the poorest pay. Many were unemployed. This meant that they lived in the worst houses in the worst areas.
- Socially they had *racial segregation* imposed on them. For example black people had their own schools, restaurants, waiting rooms and entrances into cinemas.

The government in Washington allowed this to happen and were reluctant to confront the Southern politicians who had imposed these laws. The complex system of government and laws made it difficult to intervene. As a result of this the situation for black people got worse. They were forced to live in ghettos and live by these unjust laws.

In WWII many blacks joined the US forces and played a significant part in winning the War. After the war ended they decided not to take on the role of being a second class citizen as they had been fighting for freedom and justice. Many left the Southern states and moved towards the North to ensure their freedom. Yet this was not to be the case as they still found that they were living in poverty.

In December 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving up her seat to a white man as she made her way home on the bus. Martin Luther King Jr arranged a boycott of the bus due to her treatment. On the first day only 8 black people were seen riding the bus. It took over a year for the end of segregation on the buses but it happened. This one act by Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr is often seen as the start to the civil rights movement.

The situation was made more difficult due to the actions of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). This group had originally been set up in 1866 to persecute recently freed slaves. By 1924 there were 4 million members, who included some very senior members of the community. Most were ignorant who believed that they were protecting the white southern way of life. They wore uniforms and their rituals brought about a sense of purpose and excitement to their lives. Some of their actions included:

- Lynching.
- Firebombing homes.
- Rape.
- Murder.²

Effects of the struggle:

Supreme Court rulings: In September 1957 the National Guard tried to prevent 9 black students from enrolling at the local high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. The government responded by sending 1000 federal troops to ensure that these students went to school and were not injured.

Peaceful protests: Martin Luther King Jr gave up preaching in 1959 to concentrate on the movement. He believed in peaceful protest and looked to the example of Gandhi for

² There are a lot of films out that relate to this issue. Some of the films that are worth watching include 'A time to kill' and 'Mississippi burning'. These films will help you to understand what life was like for all included. If you wish to watch a non graphic film which relates to this I would suggest 'Fried green tomatoes at the whilst stop café'. Although it is set in modern times it does go back to the Deep South at the times of the killings. Well worth watching one of these films to broaden your understanding.

inspiration. He encouraged black people to challenge the unjust laws which mainly focused on segregation. He joined in the struggle and often became injured for his efforts. His house received threatening phone calls and 30 – 40 letters a day. He was even bombed.

In 1961 the freedom rides were introduced to take students buses from the north and ride into towns / cities where there was segregation. One bus was set on fire and the KKK would beat up whites and blacks for their behaviour.

1963 the march to Washington occurred and Martin Luther King Jr gave his speech of 'I have a dream'.³

Eventually the end came into sight and people began to listen to what Martin Luther King Jr had to say. Progress was slow as the Presidents found it difficult to act due to restrictions they were placed under. Eventually Lyndon B. Johnson introduced some steps to end the inequalities the black people had been facing. For example:

1964 The Civil rights act made illegal all segregation and discrimination based on race.

1965 The voting rights act ended intimidation of voters. The number of black voters increased dramatically, especially in the Deep South.

1968 Another Civil rights act made discrimination in housing illegal.

Although this shows an improvement in the situation, progress was not maintained as some of the laws were not upheld. However, progress is slow, but the situation today has improved.

Vietnam:

Background to the conflict:

- Before WWII, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were classed as French Indo – China.
- During WWII, Japan has conquered these countries and had gained control of their natural resources.
- Japan treated these people badly and this gave rise to many resistance groups, including the Vietminh.
- Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam a free republic.
- War broke out to ensure that communism did not spread ~ USA believed in the domino theory which meant that if one country became communist then the one next door would become communist too.
- USA gave the French nearly \$3 million to help them to oppose it.

US involvement increases:

1961 ~ President J. F. Kennedy became president and sent more advisors into Vietnam to help the situation.

³ There are other examples of the Civil rights movement which could be used. The most important ones have been summarised, but further research would help you with this.

1964 ~ North Vietnamese attacked the US destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin ~ President Johnson was given the excuse he
 Wanted to attack. Congress passed a law to ensure that the army could fight.

Effects of the conflict:

<i>Vietcong tactics</i>	<i>US tactics</i>
Booby trapped their tunnels which ran for 320km (200 miles) in the south.	Operation rolling thunder ~ destroys trade routes in the North along the Ho Chi Minh trail.
Guerrilla warfare ~ avoided open warfare and attacked when people least expected. Also hid in with the peasants.	Search and destroy ~ flush out the Vietcong hiding in the jungle.
Tet offensive (Vietnamese new year) ~ Vietcong attacked 100 towns and cities in the south. Lasted a month but had an effect on US media against the war.	Strategic hamlets ~ turned people out of their homes to ensure that they did not hid the Vietcong.
	Winning hearts and minds ~ USE wanted to do this with the south. USA army were accused to telling people how to run their country.
	Chemical warfare ~ Used chemicals like Agent orange to defoliate the tree and destroy crops. Can cause cancer. Also used Napalm which burns everything it comes into contact with.

Effects of the War:

The war convinced those who were involved that it was futile as their modern weapons were not suitable to this type of warfare,

	Short term	Long term
Political	US lost 1 st war. Johnson lost popularity. Domino theory was proved wrong.	War played part in ending Cold War. Powers involved came to idea of Détente.
Social	2 million people killed. Millions injured by bombs.	Traps left in Vietnam. Still suffering effects of chemical warfare. USA troops found it difficult to readjust.
Economic	US cost \$120 billion for the war ~ limited spending at home.	Vietnam became totally communist. Unable to feed selves.

Resolving the conflict:

Method	How well did it work?
Force	Initially seen as a way to end it all, but it did nothing but continue the fighting.

Deterrent	Nuclear weapons could have been used but it would have resulted in less chance of winning.
protest	Peace movements with its anti war message helped to end the conflict/
International cooperation.	

Remember ~ any conflict can be used in the exam as long as you know what the long term and short term effects are.