

## History – Enquiry 2: “Out of the blue”: When did 9/11 begin?

### Al-Qaeda motives

If we are to find a way of ending the violent hatred that Al-Qaeda supporters have for Israel and Western powers such as the USA and Britain, we need to understand what motivates them. Why do they do what they do?

**There are three main driving forces behind Al-Qaeda’s actions. These are:**

1. Things that anger them
2. Things that inspire them
3. Things they are determined to achieve

The table below imagines some statements that an Al-Qaeda supporter might say. They are all based on events mentioned in pages 8–9 in the booklet **What caused 9/11?**

Against each one, place a cross in the box to show which category you think it fits.

	This would make an Al-Qaeda supporter angry	This would inspire an Al-Qaeda supporter	An Al-Qaeda supporter would be determined to achieve this
“Muslim warriors drove the Russians out of Muslim lands.”			
“Non-Muslim infidels (unbelievers) think they can move into our lands and control our lives.”			
“Muslim leaders should believe that they can defend their lands without the help of infidels such as the USA or Britain.”			
“American Armed Forces are based in the land where Islam’s holiest places are found.”			
“God has shown that He is on our side”			
Leaders of many Muslim countries do not stand up to the United States and Israel.”			
“United Nations sanctions caused suffering and death to many thousands of Muslims.”			
“All infidels should be driven out of Muslim lands.”			
“Muslims come from all over the world to fight against the enemies of Islam.”			

After you have done the task above, select some of the statements above and try to think how you would respond to an al Qaeda supporter. How would you persuade him or her that other people see these events and ideas differently and that these are not reasons for using violence against anyone?