

2016 specification
first exams in 2018

Course Companion for GCSE AQA A Component 2

Relationships and Families

Full Course and Short Course: Theme A

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been designed to support the learning and teaching of *AQA A GCSE Religious Studies Component 2: Thematic Studies, Theme A: Relationships and Families*. All areas of the specification are covered, and questions and activities are included to test knowledge and ability, and to help students to engage with the topics.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

The information is comprehensive, and images help to illustrate concepts. Key words and Bible and Qur'an quotes are included to help students to understand the material and to further their grasp of the subjects. A brief introduction to the course and answering exam questions is provided for students at the start, and answers / a mark scheme are included at the end.

This course companion can be used in full as an alternative or complement to a textbook, as a class text or for independent learning or revision. Alternatively, teachers might use a section for a specific classroom activity or homework.

This topic involves studying a number of different arguments, ideas and opinions, from different religious and non-religious perspectives. This should both inform students and develop their thinking, enabling them to approach issues from different points of view.

This resource focuses primarily on Christianity in line with the specification's focus on Christianity as the main religious tradition in Britain today. Where students need to know contrasting religious views on specific topics, examples are provided from Islam, which we expect to be a common choice, along with other religious and non-religious views where appropriate.

We have sought a balance between explaining relevant concepts in sufficient detail without oversimplification, while not going beyond GCSE level and becoming too complicated. Throughout we have tried to present all views in a neutral and informative way.

Note: this theme covers several sensitive and potentially controversial issues such as homosexuality and divorce. It is advised that teachers review these sections before sharing them with their classes, and warn students about any content which may distress or offend.

Hopefully, this resource will encourage students in their learning and help to prepare them for their exams. It should take the pressure away from teachers by providing the bulk of the content which they want to teach to their class.

Free Updates!

Register your email address to receive any future free updates* made to this resource or other Religious Studies resources your school has purchased, and details of any promotions for your subject.

* resulting from minor specification changes, suggestions from teachers and peer reviews, or occasional errors reported by customers

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Introduction to the Course and How to Answer

This course aims to cover religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and arguments; families; and gender equality – and to assess your understanding of these in the world today. The course companion focuses on Christianity in particular, with a focus on Christianity as the main religious tradition in Britain today, as well as other religions in certain sections. Quick questions also focus on Christianity, but please note that a specific religion will be referred to (except in 4-mark questions) and you may have studied.

This course companion is designed to equip you with the information you need to have the knowledge and ability to answer related questions. Not all the questions and answers are exam-style, but those which are should be answered in particular ways.

The exam board will give you multiple-choice questions and ask you to give brief examples, as well as asking you to 'explain' and 'evaluate' beliefs and opinions. When answering all questions it is important to try to use technical terms where possible, and to write well using a style that is easy to read, and use correct spelling and grammar. More or less writing is required, depending on the number of marks. Try to spend as little time as possible on the shorter questions, to allow yourself more time for longer ones.

For this theme you will get a 1-mark, 2-mark, 4-mark, 5-mark and 12-mark question in the exam – a few extra marks are given for spelling, punctuation and grammar based on the 12-mark question.

Hopefully, this resource will be interesting, informative, and help you to achieve good results.

For the **1-mark question**, you will be given a multiple-choice question and you need to choose the right answer. Make sure not to fall for trick questions!

For the **2-mark question** you need to give two examples or facts. You do not need to elaborate on these, and do not waste time giving extra examples, as you can only get two marks.

For the **4-mark question**, you will be asked to 'explain'. You need to give two points and to get full marks you must develop or justify both. So you can think of a mark per point and a mark for developing each point. This should show that you understand information as well as being able to recall it. The question will ask you to *contrast* beliefs – in this case make sure the beliefs you use are not just the same argument given by two different religions. You must refer to Christianity as one of the chosen religions.

The **5-mark question** is very similar to the 4-mark question, but the beliefs you contrast may refer to any religious beliefs, which do not need to be from the chosen religions. As well as making two points and developing/justifying both, you should also refer to scripture / religious writing (as well as your development/justification). Make sure your points are as different as possible so that the person marking can give you every point/development you make.

The **12-mark question** is the longest, and there is a little more to remember. You will be asked to 'evaluate' a statement. This means giving arguments and justifications **for** and **against** the statement (so agree with it and give an alternative point of view). Make sure you have good reasons for all the points you make. To get top marks you need to come to a conclusion; picking the most convincing side of the arguments you have given!) and saying why you think this is the case. You need to refer to a range of religions. You have a lot of different religious arguments, it is a good idea to refer to non-religious arguments as well.

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Sex, Marriage and Divorce

Many Christians look to their religion to provide them with **moral** guidance and teachings regarding **marriage** and sexual relationships in Christianity. Many **contraception** and **divorce** are controversial within the religion.

Keywords:

- ♦ **morality** – ideas about what is right and wrong
- ♦ **marriage** – a legal joining of two people. In Christianity, this is normally a religious ceremony and is seen as spiritual as well.
- ♦ **homosexuality** – a sexual orientation where people are attracted to people of the same sex
- ♦ **contraception** – methods which aim to stop someone becoming pregnant
- ♦ **sexually transmitted infections** – infections passed on through sexual contact
- ♦ **divorce** – the legal ending of a marriage

Human Sexuality including Heterosexual and Homosexual

Keywords:

- ♦ **sexuality** – sexual feelings and the ability and desire to have sexual relationships
- ♦ **sexual orientation** – which sex/gender someone is attracted to
- ♦ **homosexuality** – a sexual orientation where people are attracted to people of the same sex
- ♦ **monogamous** – only having one sexual partner, and being faithful to them
- ♦ **marriage** – a legal joining of two people. In Christianity, this is normally a religious ceremony and is seen as spiritual as well.
- ♦ **prayer** – communication with God
- ♦ **sin** – an act against God's will
- ♦ **celibacy** – refraining from sexual activity
- ♦ **immorality** – acting wrongly
- ♦ **procreation** – making/having children
- ♦ **nuclear family** – where two parents live with their biological or adopted children
- ♦ **morality** – ideas about what is right and wrong
- ♦ **atheist** – someone who does not believe in a God or gods
- ♦ **humanist** – someone who aims to live a good life, without belief in religion
- ♦ **zina** – in Islam, unlawful sexual activity
- ♦ **Qur'an** – the Muslim holy book, which the majority of Muslims believe to be revealed through the Prophet Muhammad
- ♦ **hadith** – collected sayings of the Prophet Muhammad
- ♦ **shari'ah** – Islamic law derived from the Qur'an and the hadith

Sexuality

Sexuality refers to humans' sexual feelings and their ability and desire to have sexual relationships. Someone's sexuality is affected by their **sexual orientation**: whether they are attracted to people of the opposite sex/gender, **homosexual** (attracted to people of the same sex/gender), or **bisexual** (attracted to people of both sexes/genders). Sexuality also involves sexual identity, such as if they identify as cisgender (the gender they were born as) or transgender (the gender opposite to which they were born).

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Heterosexual Relationships

Christians approve of **monogamous** heterosexual relationships: relationships between a man and a woman. This is because they believe such relationships were instituted by God and because Jesus emphasised the importance of heterosexual **marriages**.

‘And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman as one of his ribs. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.’ (Genesis 2:22-25 NRSV)

‘... the one who made them at the beginning made them male and female’, and a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. They are no longer two, but one flesh.’ (Matthew 19:4-6 NRSV)

More about marriage is considered acceptable within a heterosexual Christian context in the sections below.

Some Christians believe that it is better to refrain from all relationships – or **celibacy**. Paul, for example, believed that it was better to be **celibate** and unmarried, to remain single. Some Christians have agreed with this, and remain unmarried to commit their lives to God. Some join religious orders and become monks or nuns, and in the Catholic Church, priests are unmarried and celibate, as they are seen to be married to God.

‘... he who marries his fiancée does well; and he who refrains from marriage does better.’ (1 Corinthians 7:38 NRSV)

Homosexual Relationships

Important! You need to be able to contrast beliefs about homosexual relationships with those of Christianity and at least one more religious tradition.

Christianity

There are various different attitudes to **homosexuality** and homosexual relationships within Christianity.

Some Christians, such as Evangelical Christians, believe that homosexuality is wrong in itself, and that if people **pray** to God, he will help them to stop having homosexual feelings. This is based on teaching against homosexuality in the Bible.



‘It is not right for a man to lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.’ (Leviticus 18:22 NRSV)

‘We must not indulge in sexual immorality...’ (1 Corinthians 10:8 NRSV)

Some other Christians believe that homosexual activity is a **sin**, but that it is not sinful if people control them and do not act on them, because their feelings are not sinful. They believe people should not have homosexual relationships, or possibly that they should have homosexual relationships.

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This is taught by the Catholic Church, and also believed by some conservative Christians. They believe homosexual activity is sinful because it is prohibited, for example, in Leviticus – and sexual **immorality** is prohibited in some New Testament passages. Some Christians interpret these references to include homosexual sex.

The Catholic Church is also against homosexual sex because its position is not open to the possibility of **procreation**, and this is not possible with homosexual couples. Some Christians feel that homosexual couples undermine the role of the *traditional* (heterosexual) family as the foundation for society.

‘... Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts contrary to the natural law, the tradition has always declared that “homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered” and that they are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life.’ (Catholic Catechism, 2357)

However, some Christians, such as more liberal Protestants, are not opposed to homosexual relationships. The reason for this is that they may feel that the commandments in the Old Testament do not need to be followed any more because Christians are not bound by the Jewish law. For example, Christians do not keep many Jewish dietary rules which Jews maintain for purity or cleanliness, as Christians feel that they have Jesus’ death – they may see commandments against homosexuality as relating to the **morality**, and so they would also be redundant in this way.

Some Christians also feel that love is more important than following rules, and that as long as relationships harm no one, so should not be stopped.

Furthermore, there is no record of Jesus condemning homosexuality, and he did not judge others, and did not always condemn those who had committed sins. Jesus forgave a woman in John 8. Some Christians may feel that homosexuality is sinful, but it is not a sin against God, so it is unfair to treat homosexuals badly when no one is perfect.

‘Or how can you say to your neighbour, “Let me take the speck out of your eye,” and not see the plank in your own eye?’ (Matthew 7:4 NRSV) [Jesus on not judging others, when you are not perfect]

‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone...’ (John 8:7) [Jesus says that they can condemn an adulterous woman if they themselves are without sin]

Christians who accept homosexuality and homosexual relationships may have different views. Some Christians, humanists and atheists, while Christians who do not accept homosexuality, are likely to claim that, while allowing homosexuality may seem fair, it is not fair if that does not make sense to humans, as it should still be followed.

Islam

Islam disapproves of **homosexual** relationships – homosexual activity is seen as against the will of Allah. It is compulsory to punish homosexual activity, a form of **shari’ah** law within Islam. Some Muslim countries, which observe **shari’ah** law (Islamic law) and the **hadith** (sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad)), carry out the punishment for homosexual activity.

‘Of all the creatures in the world, will ye approach males, And leave those whom Allah has made for you to be your mates? Nay, ye are a people transgressing (all limits)!’ (Qur’an, 24:19)

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It is primarily male homosexual activity which is forbidden in Islamic teaching. Those who disapprove of male homosexual activity will also disapprove of female homosexuality.

While homosexual relationships are condemned within Islam, homosexuality is not forbidden or punishable – Muslim homosexuals are expected to refrain from homosexual activity.

However, some modern Muslims do accept homosexual relationships, and Muslims and those who want Islam to be more accepting of homosexuality. Non-Muslim countries are likely to be more accepting of homosexual relationships and social acceptance in these places.

Judaism

Within Judaism, as with Christianity, there are prohibitions against **homosexuality**. Technically, homosexual activity is punishable by the death penalty, though this is not in practice.

Orthodox Judaism, the strictest branch of Judaism, generally views homosexuality as sinful. Orthodox Jews do not view homosexuality itself as sinful, and some Orthodox Jews accept homosexual relationships which do not involve anal sex and/or sexual activity.

Reform Judaism, a more liberal branch of Judaism, is generally much more accepting of homosexual relationships. Some Reform Jews feel that prohibitions do not apply, or feel that commandments against homosexuality refer to homosexual acts, not to loving homosexual relationships.

Non-religious

Some non-religious people also discriminate against **homosexual** people as being wrong. However, many **humanists** and **atheists** do not have a problem with homosexuality. If it is not seen as a sin against God, then they see no reason to treat homosexuals differently to heterosexual ones.

Impact and Influence

For many years, **homosexuality** was illegal in the UK, and still is in some parts of the world, partly due to religious views. However, more liberal religious and non-religious views have become more popular, and have been reflected in the law of many countries. There is now a much more open debate about sexuality, and it is now more socially acceptable to be homosexual or transgender.

Quick Questions

- Which of the following is **not** a sexual orientation?
 - Homosexuality
 - Bisexuality
 - Tensexuality
- Give two reasons why Christians approve of heterosexual relationships.

Now Try This...

- Explain two contrasting religious beliefs on homosexual relationships, Christianity and another religion.

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Sexual Relationships before and outside of Marriage

Sexual relationships within **marriage** for Christians will be covered later. Here are different views on sexual relationships *before* and *outside of* marriage.

Keywords:

- ♦ **premarital sex** – sex before being married
- ♦ **extramarital sex / adultery** – sex where at least one of the participants is not the person they are having sex with
- ♦ **open marriage** – a marriage where the partners agree they can have sex with other people
- ♦ **sacrament** – a particularly important worship practice which has even higher status in religions such as the Catholic and Orthodox churches
- ♦ **denomination** – a particular branch within a religion, e.g. Catholicism, Anglicanism

Sexual Relationships before Marriage

Important You need to be able to contrast beliefs about sexual relationships between Christianity and at least one more religious tradition.

Christianity

Many Christians believe that sexual relationships should take place only within the teaching of the Catholic Church, and a more conservative Christian view. The purpose of marriage is the time when men and women can be joined sexually, and teach about **immorality**, which some believe to include **premarital sex**.

‘...the one who made them at the beginning “made them male and female” for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh”? So they are no longer two, but one flesh.’ (Matthew 19:4-6)

‘We must not indulge in sexual immorality...’ (1 Corinthians 6:18)

‘Fornication is carnal union between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman contrary to the dignity of persons and of human sexuality which is naturally ordered to the procreation and education of children.’ (Catholic Catechism)

However, some other Christians have a more relaxed view to premarital sex, especially if it is within a committed relationship. The Church of England accepts long-term, committed (heterosexual) couples having sexual relationships if this is a step towards marriage, because they see love as the most important thing. It is important for Christians to love and accept others, and it is important for there to be love in relationships.

‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’
(Matthew 22:39 NRSV)



Some more liberal Protestants do not see a problem with more casual sex outside of marriage (as long as they are consensual), e.g. one-night stands, or sex early in a relationship. The Bible did not teach about sexual relationships, other than when talking about marriage. Many Christians feel that their sexual life is not of particular concern to God, or religion, as long as they are not hurting anyone.

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Islam

Islam prohibits sex before marriage – like homosexual activity, consensual sex (**zina**). Premarital sex can be punished by law in some Muslim countries as bad as adultery.

Many Muslims believe that sex should only take place within marriage because it forms a special bond between the married couple (this is very similar to tradition in Christianity). They also believe that children should be born within marriage, so premarital sex is seen as being born outside of a stable and loving relationship.

Some more liberal Muslims will engage in premarital sex, but even in liberal countries it is seen as much more severe than within liberal branches of Christianity.

Judaism

Orthodox Judaism, like the more traditional/conservative branches of Christianity, sees marriage as a sacred bond. Orthodox Jews may also avoid any amorous physical contact, such as kissing, embracing or holding hands.

‘Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.’ (Genesis 2:24 NRSV) This quote is often taken to imply that sex should only occur within marriage.

Reform Judaism is much more lenient – **cohabitation** and sex before marriage are accepted within Reform Judaism.

Non-religious

Humanists and **atheists** are likely not to have a problem with premarital sex. Some will feel that sex should only take place in committed relationships, but it is ultimately a personal decision and if someone wants to have multiple sexual partners, that is their choice.

Sexual Relationships outside of Marriage

Most Christians disapprove of **adultery**, also called **extramarital sex**, which is when a married person has sex with someone who is not their spouse (husband or wife). This is seen as a violation of the Ten Commandments – important rules in the Old Testament which many Christians generally see as the foundation of moral behaviour. Adultery is generally seen to be the opposite of being loving. Most people would not want to be in a relationship where their partner is committing adultery, so Christians feel it is wrong to do something they would not want others to do (the Golden Rule).

‘Thou shalt not commit adultery.’ (Exodus 20:14 NRSV) [from the Ten Commandments]
‘In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law of love.’ (Matthew 7:12 NRSV) [The Golden Rule]

Humanists are likely to disapprove of adultery in the sense that they are likely to believe that having sex with someone other than your partner is wrong. However, humanists and **atheists** may be more likely to see a relationship where a couple has already split up and is going through the process of getting a divorce as cheating as the problem, rather than the breaking of marriage vows. Some may see adultery as a personal choice.

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accept **open marriages**, where a couple is married, but the partners agree to have sex with other people; because both partners agree on this, it may not be seen as cheating.

However, many Christians will not see this as acceptable because they believe that marriage is a relationship and married partners should only have sex with each other. Christianity is a **sacrament**, which means that marriage vows are sacred and holy, and therefore it is a sin to break what is holy.

Impact and Influence

Christian views on sexual relationships before and outside of **marriage** do not play a part in the law of the UK. However, **premarital sex** and **adultery** are both legal. However, there is disapproval of adultery within society, and there is still some social stigma around premarital sex in conservative communities.

Do not refer to sexual relationships outside of marriage.

Quick Questions

- 4) Give two reasons why Christians may disapprove of sex outside of marriage.
- 5) Which of these types of sexual relationships always involves cheating on a partner?
 - a) Adultery
 - b) Marriage
 - c) One-night stand

Now Try This...

- 6) Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about sexual relationships before marriage, referring to Christianity and another religion.

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Contraception and Family Planning

Different Christians have different attitudes to **contraception** and family planning. Some oppose all different types of contraception.

Keywords:

- ◆ **contraception** – methods which aim to stop someone becoming pregnant or prevent sexually transmitted infections
- ◆ **procreation** – making/having children
- ◆ **encyclical** – an open letter from the Pope to Catholics, instructing them
- ◆ **Humanae Vitae** – an encyclical about the importance of life and not using contraception
- ◆ **natural law** – rules about morality drawn from nature and reason
- ◆ **emergency contraception** – contraception used after sex which may prevent pregnancy

Important! You need to be able to contrast beliefs about contraception from Christianity with one more religious tradition.

Christianity

Some Christians, such as some Catholics, and evangelical or conservative Christians, oppose all forms of artificial **contraception**, as they believe that God created sex for the purpose of procreation. God told humans to have children when he created them, according to the Bible. The Church teaches that all sexual acts should be open to the possibility of new life. Pope John Paul II continued the Church's stance against artificial contraception in his **encyclical** *Humanae Vitae*.

'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...' (Genesis 1:28 NIV)

“every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, is not ordered towards its development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or a means, to elude the procreation impossible” is intrinsically evil’ (Catholic Catechism 2370, quoted in *Humanae Vitae*)

The Catholic Church also disagrees with contraception because of **natural law**. Natural law is that God has shown humans what is right through nature and reason. It tells us how to act. Because sex naturally carries the possibility of producing children, any form of contraception goes against nature, and disobeys natural law.

However, many Christians from other **denominations**, such as many Protestant denominations, are not opposed to contraception and family planning in general, but may approve of some methods but not others. They allow artificial contraception because *there is nothing in the Bible which expressly forbids contraception*, and because they believe people should be able to control the size of their families without having to stop having sex. Some Christians do not want more children.

Among other things, contraception:

- is likely to improve the health of women (especially in developing countries where women constantly have children;
- improves women's social position because they can have other roles than just childbearing;
- improves the health of children, because parents will be able to provide better care for them;
- improves the quality of life for children and parents because people can plan when they are able to look after them, provide for them, and when the children are born.

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Further, in the modern world, many people believe that overpopulation can be avoided. If people want to have fewer, or no, children, this means there is more to go around. Some forms of contraception such as condoms can also prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

One method of contraception which some Catholics accept is the **rhythm method**. Couples try to have sex when they believe the woman is less fertile, lowering the chance of becoming pregnant. Because this still allows the possibility of procreation, it is seen as a family better while allowing that they may conceive at any time, if God will. Some Christians who approve of artificial contraception are much more likely to use artificial contraception in addition, as it is more reliable.

One type of contraception which Christians who approve of artificial contraception use is **barrier method** contraception, such as condoms. This type of contraception is acceptable because it stops sperm from reaching an egg and prevents fertilisation. If it fails, it in no way is seen as creating an embryo if conception does take place.

Some Christians also approve of **sterilisation**, where someone has minor surgery to make them unable to conceive in the future. Christians may feel this is sensible if someone wants no more children, and does not want to have to worry about contraception. Some object on the basis that Christians could feel called by God to have more children. However, some types of sterilisation can be reversed if necessary. The Catholic Church disapproves of sterilisation for the same reasons it disapproves of artificial contraception, though it accepts sterilisation as a medical treatment for other reasons; for example, removing the uterus (womb) for cancer.

Many Christians are happy to use **hormonal methods** of contraception such as the contraceptive pill; hormonal methods involve using chemicals to convince the female body not to ovulate or to prevent conception, such as by stopping it releasing an egg. Some Christians, however, will not use such methods, or some such methods, if there is the small chance that if conception takes place, the hormones will also likely cause an early abortion – some Christians feel that this is murder, and murder is forbidden in the Ten Commandments (see below).

Some Christians will not use the **withdrawal method** of contraception, where the man pulls out from the woman's vagina before ejaculating semen (containing sperm), because of teaching against this in the Bible. In Genesis 38 a man called Onan uses the withdrawal method which displeased God but he did not want to fulfil his duty to have children with his dead brother's wife to raise children for his dead brother. Some Christians would probably not use the withdrawal method as a main method of contraception as it is seen as a sin.

While many Christians agree with artificial contraception, most are opposed to the **emergency contraceptive pill**. This method of contraception is used after sex, and is designed to delay the ovulation or prevent fertilisation. Some people argue that certain types of emergency contraceptive pill have the potential to change the condition of the uterus, which might mean that an embryo is destroyed – so the embryo would be destroyed. Many Christians believe that life begins when the sperm meets the egg and becomes an embryo. These people are opposed to artificial contraception in case it does destroy an embryo, which should be treated as a human life. The Bible teaches not to murder people in the Ten Commandments. Some also believe that every human soul starts from the moment of conception.



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'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13 NRSV) [from the Ten Commandments]

Some Christians will allow emergency contraception as being the most logical in certain circumstances; for example, if a woman was raped.

Christians who are against contraception might argue against those who argue that there is no need for contraception to stop diseases or pregnancies in unstable relationships or sex with their lifelong **marriage** partner. However, this does not answer the question at all, even with their spouse, or those who want a reliable way of limiting the number of children to have, and of choosing when to have them.

Islam

There is nothing in the **Qur'an** which condemns the use of **contraception** or encourages it, with the exception of the use of **coitus interruptus**.

Some stricter Muslims may oppose the use of contraception because of encouragement to have children. The Prophet Muhammad is also said to have encouraged procreation, but it is not approved of within Islam.

'Your wives are as a tilth unto you; so approach your tilth when or how ye will... (Qur'an 2:223) sometimes translated as 'sowing field' – this quote promotes men sowing their seed.

If Muslims disapprove of contraception, it is likely to be on the grounds that the Prophet Muhammad have encouraged procreation, and some will also oppose methods that could cause an early miscarriage; many Muslims oppose abortion / the destruction of the foetus, as they oppose the destruction of life.

Some Muslims, such as Ahmadiyya Muslims, oppose contraception if it is taken to mean a ban on children – they extend teaching against killing children, which is often applied to children) and abortion, to contraception – they believe that Muslims should accept all children he grants them, and that all children should be accepted as a gift from Allah.

'Kill not your children for fear of want: We shall provide sustenance for them as we provide for you. The killing of them is a great sin. (Qur'an 17:31)

Many Muslims approve of contraception, especially if it is to limit the number of children for a woman's health. Allah is believed to be merciful, and some Muslims will feel that the use of contraception is necessary to place unnecessary strain on Muslim families. Contraception is often preferred.

Further, the hadith (recorded sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad) suggest that the Prophet Muhammad was aware of contraception and did not teach against it. One hadith suggests that if Allah willed the birth of a child then this would happen – so contraception is 100% effective and pregnancy will result if Allah wills.

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When contraception is used, Islam teaches that it should be used with the permission of both husband and wife. (Islam teaches that sex should take place within marriage), and that contraception should be used to protect the relationship between husband and wife.

Judaism

Judaism, like Christianity, believes that having children is important, due to the command to **procreate** in Genesis. Orthodox Judaism, a stricter branch of Judaism, views contraception as wrong in certain circumstances, such as if the couple are newly married (Judaism encourages couples to remain within marriage) and need to spend time together as a couple before having children. Orthodox Jews may also consult a religious leader (a rabbi) about using contraception.

Reform Judaism, a more liberal branch of Judaism, is more relaxed about contraception. It is seen as a more personal matter for couples to decide for themselves.

Non-religious

Most **atheists** and **humanists** have no problem with artificial **contraception**, believing that sex is at least partly for pleasure, and that there are good reasons for having children (people have and for being able to choose when is best to have children, as given for allowing contraception above). They may have similar views to many other religions.

Some may have problems with hormonal methods of contraception which can sometimes lead to **emergency contraception**, if they feel that one should not kill human embryos. However, many will accept all forms of contraception.

Impact and Influence

Contraception is freely available in the UK, but people can choose which form to use depending on their personal beliefs.

Quick Questions

- 7) Which of these is a form of *artificial* contraception?
 - a) Rhythm method b) Condoms c) Humanae Vitae
- 8) Give two reasons why Christians might choose to use contraception.

Now Try This...

- 9) Explain two religious beliefs that oppose using contraception. Refer to scriptures.

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The Nature and Purpose of Marriage

The Bible contains teaching about **marriage**, and different church **denominations** have different views about marriage, which may be due to different interpretations of the Bible. Marriage is a union of two people, which is also seen as a spiritual union in Christianity.

Keywords:

- ◆ **marriage** – a legal joining of two people. In Christianity, this is normally a sacrament, which is seen as spiritual as well.
- ◆ **sacrament** – a particularly important worship practice which has even higher status in churches such as the Catholic and Orthodox churches
- ◆ **monogamous** – only having one sexual partner and being faithful to them
- ◆ **procreation** – making/having children
- ◆ **divorce** – the legal ending of a marriage

The Nature of Marriage

The nature of marriage is what marriage *is*.

- For some Christians marriage is a **sacrament**, an important religious practice, which they believe conveys God's grace. This is taught by the Catholic Church, and some other branches of Christianity.
- All Christians believe that marriage is an important commitment, because it is a promise to God and to another person about how someone will spend the rest of their life.
- Marriage within Christianity is **monogamous**; it is a commitment between two people to stay faithful to each other.
- Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God.
- For many Christians, marriage is a union of two heterosexual people of opposite sex, as how it is described in the Bible. For more liberal Christians, marriage can be a union between two people of any gender.

'But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Many **humanists** and **atheists** also get married and value marriage, and marriage is an important commitment.

The Purpose of Marriage

Different Christians may think marriage has different purposes:

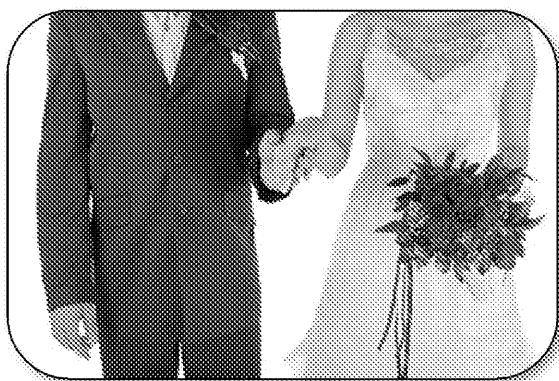
- A purpose of marriage for Christians is **procreation** and raising a family. Being married is seen as a good thing *if* you want to have a family, to provide a stable environment for children. Other Christians think that once married you *should* have a family and should actively try to have children. This is based on Bible verses such as 'Be fruitful and multiply' which tells humans to have children. This is taught by the Catholic Church, and some more conservative Orthodox Christians or Protestants.
- A purpose of marriage for Christians is to allow couples to express love and support each other through life. This makes marriage important because love and friendship play a very large part in their lives.

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- A purpose of marriage for many Christians is being able to have sex. Many Christians see relationships as important, and not something to be entered into casually. Marriage is something which conveys love and commitment. Jesus' words in Matthew 19 describe the bond between a couple, so sex is significant; therefore, many Christians believe in sex before marriage, or at least that long-term sexual relationships should be made official. This makes marriage important for Christians as it allows for love and commitment to their partner through sex.
- Many Christians see marriage as the foundation for a stable society, and a way of ensuring that children are brought up in a stable environment.
- Many Christians also think a purpose of marriage is to symbolise the relationship between God (represented by the husband) and his church (represented by the wife). This is because of this; this is indicated in Ephesians 5. So marriage represents a relationship of love and authority. Some Christians may not like this as it makes the man seem superior to his female partner.

'For as the church is the body of Christ, which he himself saves with his blood, so he himself is the head of the church, just as Christ is the head of the church.'



A groom and bride in wedding outfits

Humanists and atheists may not believe in marriage. They may include having sex for one's partner, and providing a stable environment for society. Alternatively, atheists may have other purposes of marriage; for example, having a big wedding, and getting benefits (such as regards to children) and tax breaks.

Some humanists and atheists believe that marriage is not necessary. They feel that it is not necessary to have children, or to show love.

For many people, marriage is significant to them for religious reasons, and they may feel that it is expensive. For some people, marriage is no longer wish to be together, and have to go through the complicated process of getting a **divorce**.

Impact and Influence

Many people in Britain get married, and many non-religious people also get married in churches, if they feel that church marriages are special. However, not getting married is becoming more socially acceptable.

Quick Questions

- 10) Which of these is **not** a description of the nature of marriage for Christians?
- Monogamous
 - A contract or agreement
 - A life-long commitment
 - Procreation
- 11) Give two purposes which Christians believe marriage has.

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Same-sex Marriage and Cohabitation

Controversial issues for Christians include **same-sex marriage** and cohabitation. Some Christians disagree with one or both of these; others see no problem with them, and still others have views in between.

Keywords:

- ♦ **same-sex marriage** – a legal/spiritual joining of two people of the same sex
- ♦ **procreation** – making/having children
- ♦ **cohabitation** – living with a partner unmarried, often in a sexual relationship

Reasons for Disapproving of Same-sex Marriage

Many Christians disagree with **same-sex (homosexual) marriage**, because they disagree with **homosexuality** / homosexual relationships. See the section on *Homosexual Relationships* above.

To reiterate, apart from a disagreement with homosexual relationships for other reasons, including teaching in the Bible, the Catholic Church disagrees with homosexual sex as it cannot produce children. If Christians see **procreation** as an important purpose of marriage, they are strongly against it for this reason.

Even Christians who accept homosexual relationships do not all accept same-sex marriage because they feel that marriage is a special institution for heterosexual (opposite sex) couples. How it was created by God and described by Jesus. They do not think human beings have the ability to change this.

Some also feel that if Christian **denominations** accept homosexual marriage, those who do not agree with homosexual marriage will be forced to perform such marriages, which is a significant challenge.

'But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." You are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'

Reasons for Accepting Same-sex Marriage

However, some liberal Christians do accept same-sex marriages, for the reason that they see **homosexuality** in the section on *Homosexual Relationships*. They may feel that marriage has traditionally been between a man and a woman, this does not mean that it must always be this way. They feel that prohibitions on same-sex marriage are old-fashioned. Some Quakers are a Christian denomination who will practise same-sex marriage. Some churches offer same-sex couples a blessing if they have a civil wedding (this is at the discretion).

Many **humanists** and **atheists** do not have a problem with same-sex marriage. They see marriage as a civil institution, not a religious institution, and should not be widened to include only heterosexual couples.

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Reasons for Cohabitation

Some **atheists** and **humanists** see no need for **marriage**. They feel that cohabiting, often in a sexual relationship – is perfectly acceptable, because they do not believe in a decree that people should get married, and people can live together in just the same way without making public promises and signing pieces of paper. They feel that cohabiting can provide a stable society, and provide stability for raising a family.

They may also feel that there is no point to marriage and/or that cohabiting is better than marriage because many couples split up, and having to go through a **divorce** is expensive and does not help with stability for any children involved.

Most Christians approve of marriage, and want to be married if they meet someone they like. A few may prefer the idea of cohabitation in the short-term when they do not intend to have a long-term partner, for some of the reasons given above and/or because they feel that the most important thing is to be with someone. Many Christians will view cohabitation as a step towards marriage. They feel that it is sensible to live with someone before making a life-long commitment. Cohabitation may be easier financially if a couple cannot afford to get married immediately.

Some tolerant Protestants have no problem with cohabiting couples and think that eventually it will accept cohabiting couples working towards marriage.

Reasons against Cohabitation

However, some Christians feel that there are valid religious and ethical objections to **cohabitation**:

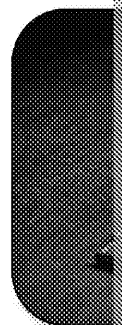
- The Catholic Church and conservative Christians feel that sex should only take place within **marriage** because of biblical teaching, e.g. Jesus describing marriage as the time when a couple would be joined physically.
- Being comfortable with cohabitation may mean that couples move forward too quickly with a relationship which may then mean they get stuck in an unloving relationship for financial reasons, or have a more difficult break-up.
- Cohabitation and sex before marriage may be a bad idea if children are accidentally conceived in an unstable cohabiting relationship.

Some atheists and humanists may still think that marriage is a good idea, not just for stability, and because it requires couples to make a commitment to each other to make them happy and help them to lead good lives.

Impact and Affirmation

For many years, same-sex unions were not legally provided for, in part due to religious opposition. In 2004, same-sex couples could get civil partnerships, which are very similar to marriage. Since 2014, same-sex marriage has been available in England, Scotland and Wales, though not in Northern Ireland.

Cohabitation is becoming increasingly popular and increasingly socially acceptable. Cohabitation now affords couples some legal and financial rights, though not as many as marriage.



Key

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Quick Questions

- 12) Which of these is **not** a reason why some Christians disapprove of same
- a) Homosexual couples cannot procreate naturally
 - b) The Bible condemns homosexuality
 - c) Jesus' description of marriage features a man and a woman
 - d) Jesus condemned homosexuals
- 13) Give two reasons why religious couples might cohabit.
- 14) Give two reasons why Christians may disagree with cohabitation.



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Divorce

As well as teaching about **marriage**, the Bible also teaches about **divorce**, and different **denominations** teach different positions, while different Christians have different views.

Keywords:

- ♦ **divorce** – the legal ending of a marriage
- ♦ **separated** – where a couple remain married legally, but do not live together
- ♦ **sacrament** – a particularly important worship practice which has even higher status in some churches, such as the Catholic and Orthodox churches
- ♦ **annulment** – the cancelling of a marriage, saying it never existed
- ♦ **baptism** – a sacrament which involves being baptised with, or immersed in water, in the name of Jesus
- ♦ **remarriage** – where people who have been married before marry another person, or the same person again

Against Divorce and Remarriage

Some Christians have very strict views when it comes to **divorce**. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a sacrament, and does not acknowledge legal divorce (so they would see a divorced person as **separated** from their spouse). This is because the Catholic Church sees marriage as a covenant given by God, and Jesus taught that people should not separate what God has joined together. However, Catholics will allow **annulments** in some circumstances, which say that a marriage has not taken place. This is decided by a Catholic marriage tribunal, and reasons for an annulment include: if the marriage was never consummated (the couple never had sex), one of the parties was not of legal age, or that (at least) one of the parties was tricked or coerced into marriage. However, Catholics will allow divorce for **adultery** or desertion (when one partner leaves the other and refuses to return).

The Catholic Church will not **remarry** people who are divorced because they do not accept the ending of the first marriage, so they view it as adultery: cheating on the person's first spouse. A Catholic would have to get a Catholic annulment and a legal divorce in order to be remarried legally in a Catholic Church. (Catholics will, however, remarry those whose spouses have died.)

Divorce was not introduced until the 19th century, but it has since become a common thing to do out (and some people are remarried there).

"... what God has joined together, let no one separate." They said to him, "What does God say?" He said to them, "Who made this command for you to give a certificate of dismissal and to remarry?" He said to them, "Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so." (Matthew 19:6-8 NRSV)

'The Lord Jesus Christ is the original intention of the Creator who willed that man and woman should be united in marriage. He has made the accommodations that had slipped into the old Law.' (Catholic teaching)

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Reasons for Divorce and Remarrying

While some non-Catholic Christians also hold strict views on **divorce**, most allow divorce in some circumstances. For example, moderate Protestants in some circumstances, such as:

- if someone's spouse committed **adultery** against them;
- abused them; or
- deserted them.

In these cases, they may feel that the other person broke the **marriage** vow and the relationship with them is dangerous or practically impossible. Jesus appeared in the case of unfaithfulness.

'... anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to become an adulteress; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.' (Matthew 5:32)

Moderate Protestants also believe that God forgives sins and mistakes, and allows divorce, but will allow **remarriage** in church for those who have had good reasons (see above) for divorce. All churches will remarry someone if their spouse has died.

'... for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' (Matthew 26:28 NRSV)

Remarriage is up to the individual vicar or minister, and some may not marry those who have been divorced; did not try sufficiently hard to save a marriage, or have had more than one failed marriage.

More liberal Christians, such as liberal Protestants, allow divorce for many reasons, such as if a couple decide that they are no longer in love. Some such **denominations** are happy to marry all those who have previously been divorced, if they believe they are genuinely making the marriage work. Some may remarry people who have abused previous marriages if they believe they have changed (or for their mistakes), and may choose to remarry those who have had several marriages (if they believe people always deserve another chance, and Jesus taught that we should forgive).

'Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against you, should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times."' (Matthew 18:21-22 NRSV)

Reasons for remarriage may include:

- A divorced person falls in love again.
- A divorced person desires to have a fulfilling sexual relationship and they should marry their new partner in order for this to happen.
- Marrying a new partner may provide security for existing children.

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Not all Christians have the same perspectives on marriage, as this can be a matter of interpretation. Catholics may have more liberal views on divorce than the Catholic Church itself. Some Christians think that their churches are too lenient with accepting divorces and allow remarriage. Some Christians' opinions on divorce may change depending on their circumstances, and some Christians believe that people should break their marriage promises to God and their partners if they feel that their marriage has failed.

Non-religious people may feel that getting a divorce in any circumstances is acceptable. They may no longer wish to remain married, as they may see no reason to stick to such a commitment. Without marriage being a commitment to God/gods, there are no religious restrictions.

Non-religious people may also have no problem with divorced people remarrying. They may see it as a new start and new promises.

This does not mean that all non-religious people are casual about divorce. Some people may still believe that an unhappy couple should stay married.

Impact and Influence

Divorce is becoming more socially acceptable, and most people can obtain a divorce. Divorce is also legal, and there is no legal limit on the number of times someone can get divorced.

Quick Questions

- 15) Which of these is **not** a reason which people might give for getting a divorce?
- a) Saving money b) Unhappiness c) Desertion
- 16) Which of these does the Catholic Church sometimes grant *instead* of a divorce?
- a) Remarriage b) Adultery c) Annulment
- 17) Give two reasons why some Christians will allow remarriage.

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Ethical Arguments Related to Divorce

There are various ethical arguments – arguments about what is right and wrong in particular situations – related to divorce.

Keywords:

- ♦ **sanctity** – holy, of spiritual importance
- ♦ **compassion** – showing care for others

Sanctity of Marriage Vows

Catholics, and some other Christians, argue that marriage vows are sacred; because they are a promise to God, they are **holy**. Because of the **sanctity** of marriage vows, such Christians may feel that it is unethical to break them. It is seen as a **sin** to break something holy, something that does not want broken.

Therefore, Christians may feel divorce should not be allowed, because for the couple involved by *human* standards, it would be wrong in the eyes of God.

Commitment

Christians might also argue that divorce is not only a promise to God, but also a promise to one's spouse, and allowing divorce at all, or allowing divorce for any old reason, makes people take commitment too casually, and creates an unstable society.

However, while these may be reasons for taking marriage seriously, and not allowing a relationship has broken down, those involved are likely to want the chance to move on.

Practical

Both religious and non-religious people may feel that there are negative social consequences of breaking promises to God and/or one's spouse. People who get divorced often find it hard to afford living costs on their own. Children of divorce find break-up emotionally tough.

However, some people may feel that unhappy parents divorcing will be better in the long run, as unhappy parents will also have a negative emotional impact on their children.

Compassion

Many Christians allow divorce because they feel that it is the most loving thing to do. They should treat others as they would wish to be treated. They feel it is **compassion** to allow people to have a second chance, because they believe that God is a loving God, who does not want them to suffer for their mistakes.

'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law of love.'
(Matthew 7:12 NRSV) [The Golden Rule]

Humanists and atheists are also likely to feel that allowing divorce is compassionate, because it is unfair to make people stay married if they do not want to.

Quick Questions

- 18) Give two arguments *against* allowing divorce.
- 19) Which of these is an ethical argument *for* allowing divorce?
 - a) Sanctity of Marriage Vows
 - b) Commitment
 - c) Remarriage
 - d) Compassion

Summary for Sex, Marriage and Divorce

- Human **sexuality** is not uniform; people experience different sexual desires and preferences. Different sexes/genders. Heterosexuality is approved of by Christians, as is marriage, but not of **homosexual** relationships. Some object on biblical grounds, while others judge others, and accept **homosexual** relationships.
- Different Christians have different attitudes to sexual relationships. Some believe that sexual relationships should take place within **marriage**, while others feel that premarital sex is acceptable. Most Christians disapprove of **adultery** / **extramarital sex**. Some Christians are likely to have a more relaxed attitude to consensual sexual relationships, while others believe that sexual relationships should take place within a committed relationship and/or that adultery is a sin against God and/or that adultery is a betrayal to the spouse who is cheated on.
- Different Christians have different attitudes to **contraception** and family planning. Some Christians do not use any artificial contraception, feeling that all sexual activity should be for the purpose of new life, and allowing the opportunity for **procreation** – the Catholic **encyclical** states that this is the purpose of marriage. Others, however, might use the rhythm method as a way of limiting the number of children. Others may be happy to use barrier methods or sterilisation. Some will accept artificial contraception, while others may not if there is a chance that they could cause a miscarriage. Some Christians are more open to contraception, though they may not approve of all methods.
- Marriage** is important within Christianity. It is seen to be an important spiritual commitment and, in some denominations, a sacrament. It is viewed as a gift from God, and some see it as the foundation for a stable society. Christian marriage is monogamous and generally heterosexual. It is entered into for purposes such as **procreation**, expressing love within a committed couple, having sex and because Christians believe that God intended humans to marry. Non-religious people may also see marriage as important, though they will not view it as a spiritual commitment.
- Same-sex marriage** is controversial in Christianity, for many of the same reasons that **homosexual** relationships are controversial in general. Most Christians do not accept **cohabitation**, and may even favour it over **marriage**. Some Christians accept **cohabitation**, but others accept it as a step towards marriage, or have no opinion on it.
- There are also different Christian positions on **divorce** and **remarriage**. Some Christians do not allow divorce, but will allow an **annulment** in some circumstances. They believe that marriage is a lifelong commitment, and those who are divorced, but may remarry those whose partners have died, or those who have been widowed. Other Christians may allow divorce in limited circumstances, such as in the case of adultery. Some have appeared to allow for divorce in this instance. Some are much more lenient in their attitudes to divorce for more reasons. Churches which allow divorce may choose to allow divorce in limited circumstances, for example, if they fall in love again, want to have a committed relationship for their children. Non-religious people are likely to be more relaxed about divorce.
- Ethical arguments against **divorce** include that divorce breaks **marriage** (which is a **sin** against God); that allowing divorce may make people take marriage less seriously and that divorce can make families financially and emotionally unstable. Some Christians argue for **compassion** – that it is kinder to allow people a new start.

Now Try This...

- 20) 'All sexual relationships outside of heterosexual marriage are wrong.'
 Discuss this statement.

Argue for **and** against this statement. You must give religious arguments and non-religious arguments. Reach a conclusion which follows from your arguments.

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Families and Gender Equality

Families can be very different from each other in the twenty-first century, and families may differ from non-religious ones. There are also different views on women, and on **gender equality**, **prejudice** and **discrimination**.

Keywords:

- ♦ **role** – a part or job carried out
- ♦ **equality** – not necessarily being the same, but being treated with the same level of authority
- ♦ **prejudice** – a biased belief about someone or a group of people
- ♦ **discrimination** – treating someone differently, unfairly because of prejudice
 - **gender equality**, **equality** between men and women is an important issue
 - **gender prejudice** and **gender discrimination** are **prejudice** and **discrimination**

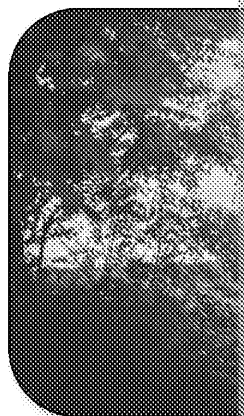
The Nature of Families

There are various beliefs about the nature of families, and there are many different views. Some people feel that families make up the basis for a stable society. Some believe that the human family reflects the family of God; the family of all Christians through the church.

The Role of Parents and Children

Parents and children have different **roles** in the family.

Parents look after their children, caring for them and teaching them. This can include providing stability, protecting their children, and educating them, sometimes including raising them in a **faith** (see the section on *The Purpose of Families* below). Having brought their children into the world it can be argued that they have more responsibility to their children than their children do to them (children do not choose to be born).



Children obey their parents and learn from them. Christianity stresses the importance of this. Children may also look after their parents in their old age. The Greek philosopher Aristotle believed that children do have an obligation to their parents because their parents raised them.

'Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour your father and mother" is the first commandment with promise: "so that it may be well with you and you may prosper." (Ephesians 6:1–3 NRSV)

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Different Types of Family

In the twenty-first century there are many different types of family. There are different cultures and family circumstances, and also because of changes in society, **nuclear families** and **extended families** in particular.

Type of Family	Description	Possible Influences
Nuclear	A family unit where two parents (traditionally heterosexual) live with their biological children or adopted children. Some think of this as the traditional family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Christians see this as the ideal family. Some Christians see a couple having children as a blessing.
Single-parent	A family unit where one parent looks after the child or children. This is a variation on the nuclear family (with one parent). This can be due to the death of one parent, the end of a relationship between parents, or (in recent times) where a woman has become pregnant with donated sperm or a single person has adopted a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians may see taking on all the responsibilities of parenting as a challenge. Some Christians see families as being broken down, or as a child, if they feel entitled to two parents and that people who are single they cannot provide a good environment for their children.
Blended	A family unit where at least one member of the couple has children from a previous relationship. The children, therefore, live with one parent and one step-parent, and any children of the new couple live with their half-sibling(s). This is a variation on the nuclear family (as children live with two adults, but one is not their parent / not the parent of all children in the family).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians may see a new family unit as a blessing, but some may see it as a challenge for the children to adjust to a new family unit. Some Christians see leaving the parent's home as a challenge for the children to adjust to a new family unit.
Extended	A family unit where extra members of the family live with parents and their children; for example, grandparents or aunts, uncles and cousins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians may see living together as a blessing, but some may see it as a challenge for the children to adjust to a new family unit. Christians may see family members as being a blessing, but some may see it as a challenge for the children to adjust to a new family unit.

Impact and Influence

With people living longer, there has been an increasing demand for children to be cared for by their parents. Some do this by taking them into their homes, or living close by. Others may pay for them to be looked after in a nursing home.

An increasing acceptance of casual sex and the widespread acceptance of cohabitation has led to a divergence in the types of family which exist in twenty-first century.

Quick Questions

21) Which one of these is **not** a type of family?

- a) Extended b) Doubled c) Nuclear

22) Give two roles of children in a family.

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The Purpose of Families

There are various beliefs about the purpose of families.

Keywords:

- ♦ **procreation** – making/having children
- ♦ **faith** – belief and trust in something, here in Jesus and God
- ♦ **morality** – ideas about what is right and wrong
- ♦ **baptism** – a sacrament which involves being anointed with or immersed in water in the name of Jesus
- ♦ **sacrament** – a particularly important worship practice which has even higher status than other practices such as the Catholic and Orthodox churches

Procreation

Many Christians feel that they should have a family because God told humans to have children in Genesis. Therefore, the purpose of having a family is to fulfil God's plan for humanity and having a family is important because the family is part of God's plan for the world.

'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...' (Genesis 1:28 NIV)

As seen above, some Christians, such as Catholics, feel that all sexual acts should be open to the possibility of procreation. Some Christians take this even further – Christians who are Catholic do not use any forms of **contraception** or family planning (including natural family planning or the rhythm method), as they believe all children are a blessing from God. They believe anything to stand in the way of God giving them children, and often have very strong views on this.

Some people, including Christians, believe in **marriage**, but do not feel that they should have a family. So not all married Christians feel called to procreation.

Additionally, some couples cannot have children even if they want to due to infertility (inability to conceive) in either or both members of the couple. They may accept remaining childless, or use fertility treatment, adoption or fostering. Those who adopt or foster a child do so for the purpose is to have children, just not through procreation. Note: while the Church teaches that all sexual acts *should* be open to the possibility of procreation, it also accepts that some couples are infertile through no fault of their own. It does not condemn such couples, as they are infertile, and encourages infertile married couples to have a sexual relationship. Church teaching does not allow fertility treatment such as IVF, but encourages adoption.

Stability and Protection for Children

Many people feel that the purpose of a family is to provide stability and protection for children to grow up in a loving and safe environment – parents should care for, and love their children. Some religious and some non-religious people feel that **marriage** provides the best environment for a family for children, as this shows the commitment of a couple to stay together and not disrupting their children's family unit. Others will disagree, and feel that a child can be raised by a single parent married to provide stability for children. They may also feel that different types of family structures, such as parent families, or separated parents who share custody of their children, can provide a safe environment for their children.

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Educating Children in a Faith

Christians may also feel that part of the purpose of a family unit is to raise children in the Christian **faith**; the Catholic Church makes the couples it **marries** promise to raise their children in the Catholic faith. The family is, therefore, important as a place for learning about God and Christianity. Most Christians also feel that it is their responsibility to educate their children in other respects and many non-religious people also see the family as important in the **moral** education and general education of children, but without the focus on religious education.

Many Christian families get their children **baptised**, to show that they are making a commitment to raising them as a Christian and educating them in the **faith**. Baptism also symbolises joining the family of God. As an alternative, they may dedicate their child(ren) to God, holding a service similar to baptism, but with the **sacrament** taking place, so the child(ren) can be baptised themselves when older, if they wish.



'And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.' (Ephesians 6:4 NRSV)

Other Purposes of Families

- People may feel that it is a personal choice to have children, and that it is fulfilling the desire of parents to have children.
- Some people feel that a purpose of having a family is so that you have support in your old age, and that families are important for this reason. Others feel that it is important to have a family, but they may agree that families are important because they often support each other.

Quick Questions

- 23) Give two reasons why Christian parents may get their children baptised.
- 24) Which of these is **not** a purpose of the family for Christians?
- Procreation
 - Being baptised
 - Stability and protection of children
 - Educating children in the faith



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Contemporary Family Issues

There are many different contemporary family issues for different types of

Keywords:

- ♦ **same-sex parents** – parents of the same children who are both of the same sex
- ♦ **surrogacy** – where a woman is pregnant with a child for another person/ couple; the child may not be biologically related to her.
- ♦ **polygamy** – the practice of having multiple spouses

Same-sex Parents

Type of Family	Description	Possible Children's Issues
Same-sex Parents	A family where both the parents are of the same sex/gender. One member could have adopted a child; one member of a lesbian relationship could have become pregnant with donated sperm; or one member of a male gay relationship could have fertilised a donor egg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Christians are opposed to same-sex parents and wish to provide a loving environment for children. Christians who disapprove of homosexuality may disapprove of homosexual children together being brought up in a loving environment. Equally, some Christians should have examples of loving upbringing.

Same-sex parents may face issues around actually having children – they cannot **procreate** naturally. Same-sex adoption is legal in the UK, but has not always been. There are also regulations surrounding other ways to have children, such as **surrogacy**. In the UK it is illegal to pay surrogates more than fair expenses to have a baby, and the surrogate has rights as the child's mother until she signs an agreement after birth; there is nothing to stop her choosing to keep the child.

Same-sex parents may also have issues being accepted. Religious people may disapprove, and families traditionally have parents of both sexes/genders, so same-sex parents are a relatively new concept for society. However, acceptance is growing for same-sex parents. Celebrities such as Elton John have raised the profile of same-sex parenthood.

Further down the line, the children of same-sex parents (and indeed any adopted children) may wish to meet their biological parents, which may be hard for them.

Polygamy

Polygamy is **marrying** more than one person. Polygamy is not legal in the UK, but some countries do recognise some polygamous marriages performed elsewhere. Christians generally oppose it, though it is not forbidden in the Bible; the Church has traditionally taught that marriage is between two people and God. There are different approaches to polygamy in different cultures, e.g. some interpret the Qur'an as allowing Muslim men to marry up to four women. The Muslim holy book, which the majority of Muslims believe to be the literature revealed through the Prophet Muhammad.

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There are different types of polygamy, e.g. **polyandry** is where one woman marries multiple men; **polygyny** is where one man marries multiple women; and in **group marriage** both men and women, either all married to each other, or married to different couples, live together as the group.

Negative family issues from polygamy:

- Polygamy can result in jealousy of spouses, if they feel left out and unwanted.
- Children may see their parents less if one of their parents has several partners, as they have more people in the family (spouses and children), and so less quality time with them.
- If polygamous relationships break up, children may face separation from one or more parent figures.
- Polygamous families may have fewer legal protections in some instances
 - a second or third spouse may not have legal rights if a spouse dies (as the union is not legally recognised)
 - a non-biological parent in a group marriage scenario may not have legal rights, even if they have helped to raise the children

Positives for polygamous families:

- Polygamy may mean that children have the support of more parent figures.
- Families with multiple wives can increase the number of children in a family, while families with multiple husbands can decrease the number of children, if this is desired (while still providing loving and stable relationships).

Other Contemporary Family Issues

- Single-parent families mean that some children grow up with only one parent. In the majority of single-parent families, this does not affect the child negatively. However, there may be issues with single-parent families; for example, if the child still sees their other parent, there may be disputes about custody.
- In blended families, there can be issues between step-parents, and stepchildren, and it can prove difficult if they do not get along.
- In the twenty-first century it is extremely common for both parents in a two-parent family to work, meaning that they have to juggle work and family commitments.

Quick Questions

25) Which of these is the term for marrying more than one person?

- a) Polygamy b) Fertility c) Procreation

26) Give two issues that same-sex parents may face.

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The Roles of Men and Women

Some Christians see different **roles** for men and women in the family, and in

Keywords:

- ◆ **role** – a part or job carried out
- ◆ **equality** – not necessarily being the same, but being treated with the same level of authority
- ◆ **ordained** – the word used to describe someone who is a member of the clergy who has had training and has authority to perform services and administer
- ◆ **apostles** – Jesus' disciples after his death, who spread Christianity
- ◆ **apostolic succession** – the belief that priests in certain denominations can trace their authority back to Jesus and his disciples and that this is important

The Roles of Men and Women in the Family

Many Christian attitudes to the **roles** of men and women in the family are based on the Bible. For example, in his letter to the Ephesians, St Paul writes that husbands are the same way as Jesus is the head of the Church. This indicates to some that wives are subordinate to, or inferior, less important, than men, and are under their authority. If husbands are in charge of their wives, then the husband's role in the family is to lead, and to provide for the family. Note: St Paul's teaching does not suggest that husbands can abuse their power. They should love their wives as they love themselves.

'Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is cleansed by water with the word, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands... Each of you, however, as the Lord loves the church, as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.' (Ephesians 5:22-24)

Some Christians also justify different roles for men and women by using Genesis. As man was made before woman, this shows men to be more important, and as God gave Adam authority over Eve, for man, wives should serve their husbands. The woman also tempts her husband to eat the forbidden fruit, and some use this as an indicator that husbands should not follow their wives.

'Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper and partner."' (Genesis 2:18 NRSV)

Important women in the Bible are often important as wives and mothers; Mary is important to Christians because of her role as Jesus' mother. This may lead some Christians to feel that it is important for women to be wives and mothers, and see this as their primary responsibility.

However, some other Christians have argued that men and women should not have different roles in the family. They may disregard the teaching of St Paul in Ephesians because it was originally a letter to a small group of Christians; not intended to teach Christians several thousand years in future. Equally, they may claim that St Paul was just a human and humans make mistakes; what he believed may not have been what God wants for the family. Indeed, there is no record in the gospels of Jesus claiming that women should have different roles from men in the family. In Luke 10:38–42 Jesus encourages a woman called Mary to listen to his teaching rather than helping her sister Martha with the traditional female role of serving.

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'But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But he said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Jesus has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."' (Luke 10:41-42)

Furthermore, it can be argued that the word for 'helper' in Genesis 2 is also used on several occasions in the Old Testament to describe God, and, therefore, if a wife is her husband's helper, this in no way makes her less important than him; it would actually indicate that the role of helper is more important.

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Christians who think that men and women should have different roles in the family – from wives, and fathers different from mothers – might try to argue that biology. They could argue that differences between men and women show that they perform different roles. However, those who disagree argue that science and there are not many psychological differences between men and women with that any differences between men and women can be explained environmental factors. They prepare them differently, expecting them to perform different roles.

Many modern **humanists** and **atheists** may see no reason for different roles in the family; they see them as **equal**.

Some atheists may believe there should be gender roles within a relationship. They have grown up in a male-led society, but this is not because they think God/gods have different roles.

Other Roles of Men and Women

Other than having different roles in the family, some Christians feel that women have other roles men can, and should not be **ordained** as priests, e.g. conservative Anglicans and the Catholic Church. This is partly due to the teaching of St Paul in the New Testament due to the fact that Jesus and his 12 disciples were male. The Catholic Church is traditional – that Catholic priests can trace themselves back to the original apostles.

'I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man...' (1 Timothy 2:12)

'... women should be silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, as the Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the saviour, who himself saves the church with his word, cleansing it by the word of water by the word, as the law also says.' (1 Corinthians 14:34 NRS)

However, other Christians feel that this is unfair, and that women should be able to perform the same roles as men, including being ordained. They argue that St Paul's teaching was for a community thousands of years ago, and is no longer relevant, and that there were female prophets and leaders in the Early Church (see Romans 16).

Quick Questions

- 27) Give two reasons why some Christians feel that men and women should have different roles in the family.
- 28) Which of these is a role which a Catholic woman cannot perform?
 - a) Wife
 - b) Mother
 - c) Priest

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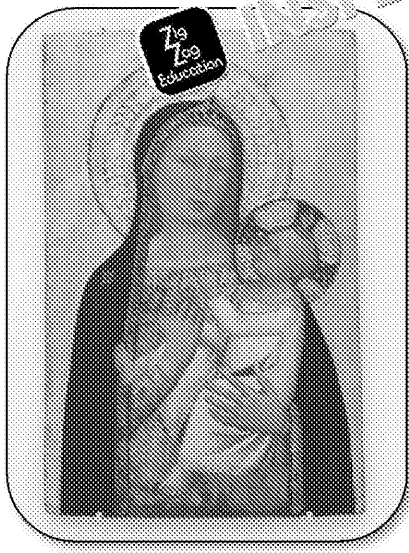
Gender Equality

There are different opinions about **gender equality** within Christianity and

Keywords:

- ♦ **equality** – not necessarily being the same, but being treated with the same level of authority

Those who do *not* support different **roles** for men and women in the family **ordination**, may feel that giving them roles based on gender does not show genders. While equality does not necessarily mean being treated the same, many feel that if women are seen as inferior to men, or made not allowed to be priests, they are not being treated with the same respect.



An image of Mary, Jesus' mother, with Jesus

A counterargument is that those who treat differently within Christianity claim that they are equal. Therefore, if men and women are given different treatment and different roles of authority, they argue that God created male and female for different purposes, and if humans treat them differently, they cannot be treating women unfairly. For example, they feel that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is highly regarded, especially in the Catholic and Orthodox churches, though she is seen as unequal to men though she is a woman.

However, Christians who feel that giving different roles makes them unequal, and who believe that men and women should be treated equally, claim that giving different roles is not in the spirit of Christianity. The teachings of the Bible are about love, and treating people equally.

Christians who believe in treating men and women equally, and that they have equal roles in the family and elsewhere, argue that if God created men and women equally, and if he sees them as no different (Galatians 3:28), then he should not treat them differently either. In Genesis 1 there is no mention of man being created first, but of them both being created at the same time in the image of God. This does not mean they have different roles, but that they are both equal. The Bible shows that Jesus has spoken to women and treated them kindly, such as the Samaritan woman in John 4, and the woman in Mark 7, who other Jews would not have had contact with.

'So God created human beings in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.' (Genesis 1:27 NRSV)

'... this is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28)

Christians have also argued that biblical teaching must be understood in the context of the time it was written, and what may have been good teaching at the time, about wives not speaking in church, etc. in a male-dominated society, is out of date in the 21st century and is no longer relevant.

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Some Christians and **atheists/humanists** who think men and women should be equal in society, and not have different roles, may still accept that men and women have different roles in the upbringing of small children. There are certain roles which differ, for example, men cannot breast-feed, and women can. However, they may agree on how the couple divide up parenting responsibilities and an individual's choice of career in their lives. For example, if parents are trying to take equal responsibility, the father has his fair share of looking after his child, as well as the mother, even if not all tasks are divided equally.

Gender equality is in many ways a relatively modern concept, which has developed over the last hundred years. It was not until the twentieth century that women began to have equal rights with men, such as being able to vote – women such as those in the suffragette movement fought for this. The First and Second World Wars contributed to calls for female equality, as women took on significant parts in contributing to the war effort and maintaining the country. Some Christian groups, such as the Quakers, were ahead of their time in promoting gender equality. Modern Christian groups have become more gender-equal in line with modern society.

Quick Questions

- 29) Give two reasons why Christians feel that men and women are equal.
- 30) Which of these quotes tells of God creating men and women in his image?
- a) Genesis 1:27 b) Galatians 3:28 c) Ephesians 5:22

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Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

Gender prejudice is where someone thinks that women or men cannot or are different in an inferior way because of their gender. **Gender discrimination** is where prejudice is put into practice, and someone treats someone differently because of their gender, allowing them to do certain things, or making them do certain things. Those with gender prejudice often see women as inferior to men, and gender discrimination is often against women; however, it can also disadvantage men. Gender prejudice and discrimination

Keywords:

- ♦ **prejudice** – a biased belief about someone or a group of people
- ♦ **discrimination** – treating someone differently unfairly because of prejudice

Opposition to Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

As seen above, many Christians believe that Jesus treated women well, and for men and women; he died to save everyone. Moreover, some early Christians did not view men and women differently, and many Christians believe this today. **Prejudice** and **discrimination** on the basis of **gender** are wrong.

‘... there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus’ (Galatians 3:28)

Examples of Christian opposition to **gender prejudice and discrimination** include the Christian **denomination** the Quakers, who aim to treat men and women equally. They have allowed women to speak at Quaker meetings from the beginnings of the movement (in the 1600s), giving them equal status during worship.

Several other denominations have also allowed women to become vicars and bishops in recent years, allowing women to perform the same **roles** as men on an equal footing – not believing they should not, or preventing them, because of their gender. In the Church of England, women have been able to become priests since 1993, and bishops since 2014.

Christians have also worked against gender prejudice and discrimination in other areas outside of the church. Many Christians have worked to help the (female) victims of domestic abuse by supporting refuges. They have also worked to stop women being trafficked (moved) around the world as sex slaves, either by donating to existing charities or working with charities; some Christian charities work to end inequality against women. Some Christians have also worked on issues relating to discrimination against women. This is becoming more common, such as that women have political rights. A contemporary issue which Christians work on is the Tampon Tax – whether women should have to pay taxes on necessary sanitary products.

Most **humanists** will think that it is wrong to have **prejudice**, or to **discriminate**, because humanism promotes **equality**. They will have views similar to liberal atheists will also agree.


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Examples of Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

However, it can also be argued that some Christians are **prejudiced** based on **gender**, and **discriminate** based on **gender**. It can be argued that this is done by Christians who think there should be, and implement, different gender **roles** in the family; and by Christian **denominations** who will not allow women to perform certain roles, such as becoming a priest in the Catholic Church (see the sections on *The Roles of Men and Women* and *Gender Equality*).

Such Christians and denominations claim that the Bible provides reason for different roles; for example, Jesus' closest 12 disciples were all men, and so against women becoming priests, because this is the pattern set by God. However, such treatment of women is not *prejudice*, because prejudice implies that a reason; they believe this is justified by God.

Christians  believe that there are valid reasons for discriminating against women, and are unlikely to be able to convince non-religious people of their points of view. What they believe God wants, and some of the ways they discriminate are based on biological differences which (may) exist between women and men.

However, some atheists in societies which have been traditionally male-led discriminate against women and discriminate against them for social or cultural reasons. There is discrimination in everyday British society today, e.g. women are paid, on average, less than men.

Other examples of gender discrimination include being refused jobs, expecting different legal rights (including child custody arrangements, or access to abortion). While these *should* not occur in the UK, there are still countries where they do. In countries such as Iran, women must wear headscarves in public.

Debate

Some non-religious people and Christians will argue that **gender prejudice** is wrong; however, there are some biological differences between men and women, and it is prejudiced to believe, for example, that men are generally stronger than women, or that men are better at lifting something heavy, for example, because of this.

Others (Christians and non-religious people) will note that while there may be differences between men and women, people should try to avoid making generalisations or drawing conclusions (for example, if you want something lifted, there may be a woman stronger than the men present), in order to promote an **equal** society.

Quick Quiz

31) Which of these is an example of gender discrimination?

- a) Giving both genders equal education
- b) Men beating women in a race
- c) Hiring a woman because she is the better candidate for a job
- d) Not letting women be priests

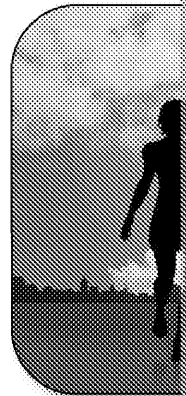
32) Give two ways that Christians have opposed gender prejudice and discrimination.

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Summary for Families and Gender Equality

- ♦ Christians may feel that families provide a foundation for a stable society and reflect the family of God. They may feel that parents and children have different **roles**; parents raising their children, and children obeying their parents. There are many different types of families, such as nuclear families (parents with their children) and extended families (where there are additional relatives living with a nuclear family).
- ♦ Many Christians feel that the purposes of families include **procreation**, stability and protection of children, and educating children in the **faith**.
- ♦ Contemporary family issues include **same-sex parents** and **polygamy** issues, raising children and being accepted in society, among others. There is also a focus on issues like jealousy, less time with parents for children, and fewer legal rights among other issues.
- ♦ Some Christians believe that men and women should have different **roles** due to passages in Ephesians and at the start of Genesis. They may also believe that men and women should have different roles in other respects, e.g. women should not be in positions of authority. However, many Christians believe that such biblical teaching is outdated, and that it is not loving to give men and women different roles.
- ♦ Christians who feel men and women should have different **roles** may believe that men and women are not **equal** before God. Other Christians believe that giving men and women different roles is not loving, but that the Bible teaches that men and women are equal, so humans should not treat them differently.
- ♦ Different Christians have different positions on **gender prejudice and discrimination**. Some Christians believe these are wrong, and many **denominations** allow men and women to have the same **roles**. Christians have also campaigned for and worked towards the end of prejudice and discrimination. However, other Christians do disagree, because they believe they should *not* carry out all the same roles. Some people, especially **humanists**, are likely to oppose gender prejudice and discrimination. Some non-religious people may still be prejudiced or discriminate because of religious beliefs.



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Answers

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to assessment material.

Sex, Marriage and Divorce

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
1	c) Tensexuality
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They believe God instituted them when he created humanity. Jesus spoke in favour of them <p>Accept any correct point. 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>
3	<p>Christianity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians believe that they do not need to follow all of the Jewish law because they have been freed from sin, so some feel that prohibitions of homosexuality are outdated and that homosexual relationships are fine. Christians believe that love is the most important thing, because of teaching the Golden Rule, and so some accept homosexual relationships to be loving. Jesus taught people not to judge others, so some Christians may not judge relationships negatively because of this. Homosexuality is forbidden in the Bible, e.g. in Leviticus, and in teachings on immorality, so some Christians feel that homosexual relationships are wrong. Some Christians feel that homosexual relationships are wrong because they cannot procreate naturally, and this is the purpose of sexual relationships that God told humans to multiply. <p>Islam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homosexual relationships are wrong because they are unnatural and go against Allah's will. Homosexual activity is forbidden in the Qur'an and other Islamic teachings, and is punishable by death, so homosexual relationships are wrong. <p>Judaism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Jews accept homosexual relationships, as they feel they do not need to follow prohibitions against homosexuality in the Bible. Some feel that those prohibitions no longer apply because they were not meant for loving homosexual relationships, which are acceptable. <p>Any additional religions should be accepted.</p> <p>Accept any relevant point</p> <p>1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4)</p> <p>If <i>only</i> Christianity OR <i>only</i> another religion is mentioned OR the two beliefs are <i>contrasting</i>, maximum 2 marks</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ten Commandments forbid adultery. Jesus said that marriage was where sexual union occurred. Adultery is wrong because it is loving and likely to hurt one's spouse. <p>Accept any correct point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>
5	Adultery
6	<p>Christianity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus taught that a physical union of men and women occurred within marriage. Christians believe that having sex before marriage would be wrong. Christians may feel that sexual relationships before marriage are a bad idea because they could lead to children being born in an unstable relationship. Some Christians believe that sexual relationships before marriage are acceptable as they are a step towards marriage; the Church of England accepts such relationships. Some Christians feel that any consensual sexual relationships before marriage are acceptable, as they may feel that sexual relationships are a personal decision.

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
	<p>Islam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex before marriage is generally disapproved of as it is forbidden in the Quran to be against the will of Allah. Muslims believe that sex is something special for married couples and make sure that children are born within marriage. <p>Judaism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodox Jews will generally not have sex before marriage because this is reserved for marriage from biblical teachings such as Genesis 2:24. Orthodox Jews may go as far as to avoid other contact, such as kissing prior to marriage. <p>Any additional religions should be accepted.</p> <p>Accept any relevant point 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4) If <i>only</i> Christianity OR <i>only</i> another religion is mentioned OR the two beliefs are mentioned, maximum 2 marks</p>
7	Condoms
8	<p>There is no teaching against contraception in the Bible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They might want to have fewer children so they can look after them better. They might want to choose when to have children. <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>
9	<p>Against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Catholic Church teaches against contraception because they believe sex so that humans could reproduce. 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...' (Genesis 1:28 NRSV) The Catholic Church teaches against contraception because it feels that this is against God's Law, because preventing conception during sex is not natural. Some Christians disagree with some hormonal methods of contraception as they may cause miscarriages, and this may be seen as murder, which is forbidden by the Ten Commandments. 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13 NRSV) [from the Ten Commandments] <p>For:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholics allow the rhythm method of contraception, because it still allows the possibility of conception. Many Christians accept the use of contraception because there is nothing in the Bible forbidding it; they may want to plan the number and timing of their children and improve the health of women... <p>Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture 1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark per reference to scripture. If <i>only one</i> religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for scripture</p>
10	d) Procreation
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procreation To have a sexual relationship To show love and support <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>
12	<p>Jesus condemned homosexuals</p> <p>2. Jesus said nothing about homosexuality and did not condemn homosexuals</p>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They want to check that their relationship is strong before getting married. They want to live together, but save money before paying for a wedding. They feel that love is the most important thing. <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They may feel that sex should only take place within marriage. They may feel that accepting cohabitation can lead to people becoming casual sex partners, which can lead to messy break-ups. They may feel that if people have children while cohabiting, this is not as stable a family as marriage.

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Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme		
	Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)		
15	a) Saving money		
16	c) Annulment		
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christians will allow remarriage if someone's spouse has died. Christians may allow remarriage because they believe they should forgive making mistakes, and give them another chance. Christians may feel that it is compassionate to allow remarriage, as they treat others as they would like to be treated, and they might want to remarry if the death of a spouse if they were in that position. <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>		
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriage vows are sacred, and it is a sin to break something sacred. If divorce is allowed then people will lack commitment and marriage less meaningful, knowing they can divorce if things do not work out. <p>Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)</p>		
19	d) Compassion		
20	<p>Compelling and convincing justification</p> <p>Present arguments for and against, with justification OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position</p> <p>Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together</p> <p>Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Points and Justification for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God instituted marriage for heterosexual couples to have sex within. Jesus implied that sex should take place within heterosexual marriage. The Catholic Church believes that all sex should be open to the possibility of procreation and homosexual sex is not; and it may not be a good idea to have children outside of marriage, as this is a less stable environment for them. The Bible teaches against sexual immorality, and sexual relationships outside of heterosexual marriage may be believed to be sexually immoral. </td><td> <p>Points and Justification against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you do not believe in God, there is no reason not to have sex outside of marriage or homosexual sex. Jesus never said anything against homosexual or premarital sex. Teaching against homosexuality in the Bible is outdated. Jesus taught to treat others as they would like to be treated, and saying that homosexual relationships are wrong is not treating others well / loving others. Jesus taught not to judge, and it is wrong to make someone else's choices wrong. If couples have sex before getting married, this may help them decide if they want to be together before getting married, and people can take marriage more seriously / may be less likely to divorce. </td></tr> </table> <p>At least one relevant point or justification – other religions should be accepted</p>	<p>Points and Justification for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God instituted marriage for heterosexual couples to have sex within. Jesus implied that sex should take place within heterosexual marriage. The Catholic Church believes that all sex should be open to the possibility of procreation and homosexual sex is not; and it may not be a good idea to have children outside of marriage, as this is a less stable environment for them. The Bible teaches against sexual immorality, and sexual relationships outside of heterosexual marriage may be believed to be sexually immoral. 	<p>Points and Justification against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you do not believe in God, there is no reason not to have sex outside of marriage or homosexual sex. Jesus never said anything against homosexual or premarital sex. Teaching against homosexuality in the Bible is outdated. Jesus taught to treat others as they would like to be treated, and saying that homosexual relationships are wrong is not treating others well / loving others. Jesus taught not to judge, and it is wrong to make someone else's choices wrong. If couples have sex before getting married, this may help them decide if they want to be together before getting married, and people can take marriage more seriously / may be less likely to divorce.
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Families and Gender Equality

Question Number	Answer/Mark Scheme
21	b) Doubled
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To obey parents To learn from parents Accept any correct point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce them to the family of Christianity. To make a commitment to raise them in the Christian faith. Accept any correct point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
24	b) Being baptised Note: This may take place as part of educating a child in the Christian faith
25	a) Polygamy
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They cannot procreate naturally They may not be accepted by all of society, especially the religious. Accept any correct point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible teaches that women should obey their husbands, and that women are seen as weaker than men. Some Christians believe that Eve tempted Adam, and some Christians feel this means that women should be seen as weaker than men. Women in the Bible are often important as wives and mothers, e.g. Mary, Jesus. Accept any correct point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
28	c) Priest
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible teaches that both men and women were created in the image of God, and gender does not matter within Christianity. The Bible teaches love, and many Christians feel that God would not be pleased with people who treat people unequally. Accept any correct point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)
30	a) Genesis 1:27
31	d) Not letting women be priests
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denominations such as the Quakers have always treated women equally Denominations such as the Church of England now allow female vicars and bishops They have campaigned against gender prejudice and discrimination, e.g. the 1970s Tampon Tax. They have given money to charities which help disadvantaged women. Accept any correct point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2)

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