

GCSE AQA A Topic on a Page for Component 2

Relationships and Families

Full Course and Short Course: Theme A

H Dixon

zigzageducation.co.uk

**POD
6855/
7130**

Publish your own work... Write to a brief...
Register at publishmenow.co.uk


Contents

Thank You for Choosing ZigZag Education.....	ii
Teacher Feedback Opportunity	iii
Terms and Conditions of Use	iv
Teacher’s Introduction.....	v
A3 Revision Posters	2 pages
Topic Content for Theme A: Part 1	1 page
Topic Content for Theme A: Part 2	1 page
A3 Sub-topic Posters with Activities	8 pages
<i>11</i> to <i>18</i>	
A4 Sub-topic Revision Posters	8 pages
<i>11</i> <i>18</i>	
Answers to Extension Questions	5 pages

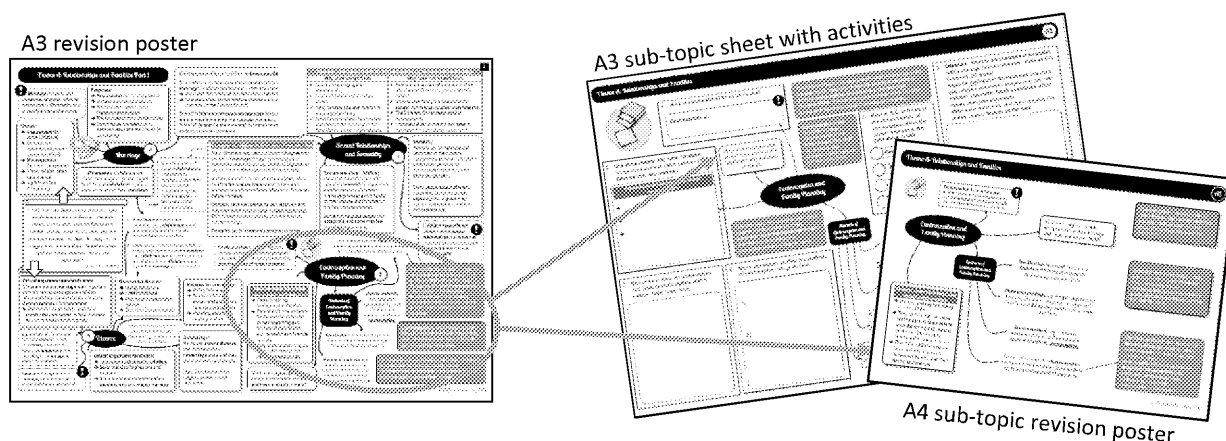
Teacher's Introduction

This resource covers the Religious Studies GCSE AQA A specification (full course and short course) for Component 2: Thematic Studies; Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies – Theme A: Relationships and Families.

The sections are as follows:

1. **A4 teacher information pages.**
2. **Two A3 revision posters**, between them covering the eight sub-topics. These are labelled: **1** and **2**. These posters are intended as a summary of all Theme A material, focusing on the main points rather than the detail, so that all important areas are covered without going into too much depth.
3. **Eight A3 sub-topic sheets with activities.** Each of these sheets covers one sub-topic and provides write-on activities for students to complete. Answers are provided in the A4 sub-topic revision posters and the A4 extension question answer pages. These are labelled with numbers inside white circles: Exam-style questions in the activity sheets are marked by a pencil icon:  118
4. **Eight A4 sub-topic revision posters.** These provide answers for the main activities given in the A3 sub-topic activity sheets. As revision posters, these can be used as a summary for each area, and have enough space for teacher or student annotation. These are labelled with numbers inside black circles: 118
5. **A4 answers to extension questions.** These pages provide answers to the extension questions not covered on the A4 sub-topic revision posters.

All posters can be displayed on classroom walls, or given to students to learn in lessons or at home.



As a whole, the resource can be used to help students to revise at the end of a topic/subtopic, or before a test or an exam. Different styles and layouts are used to make the information interesting, and to help the students engage with the information in a productive way.

Note: this theme covers several controversial and potentially upsetting issues such as religious views against homosexuality. 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.

H Dixon, November 2016

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

Go to zzed.uk/freeupdates

Theme A: Relationships and Families Part 1



Marriage is a legal, and sometimes religious, union of two people. In Christianity, this is usually a man and a woman.

Nature:

- A **sacrament** (for some Christians)
- An important commitment to one's spouse (and God)
- **Monogamous** (between two people)
- Within religion, often heterosexual
- A gift from God (Christianity)

Purposes:

- **Procreation** and raising a family
- To have a sexual relationship
- To show one's spouse love, friendship and support
- The foundation for a stable society
- To symbolise the relationship between Jesus and the Church (in Christianity)

Christians have different opinions on **homosexuality**.

Some who accept homosexual relationships still believe that **marriage** should only be between a man and a woman:

- Jesus said that marriage was between a man and a woman
- Homosexual sex cannot produce children – a purpose for marriage (in the Catholic Church)

Some Christians accept **same-sex marriage**, because they feel it is the most loving thing. Sexual marriage is now legal in the UK (except Northern Ireland), but not all churches will perform same-sex marriage.

Examples of religious beliefs about premarital sex

Many Christians (e.g. Catholic Church) disagree with sex before **marriage**, though some accept it in committed relationships (e.g. Church of England) and are even more relaxed (e.g. liberal Protestants).

In Islam, premarital sex is unlawful sex (**zina**). Muslims feel that sex has a special place within marriage, though some liberal Muslims will have sex before marriage.

Orthodox Jews view premarital sex negatively and may even avoid other physical contact, e.g. kissing. Reform Jews are more relaxed and may have sex before marriage.

Premarital sex is increasingly accepted in society.

Some Christians will accept **cohabitation** as a step towards marriage, as they think love is the most important thing (the Golden Rule); this is the position of the Church of England.

Some non-religious people might think that **cohabitation** is just as good as, or better than, **marriage**.

"'But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall 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.'"

(Mark 10:6–9 NRSV)

✓ **Pros:** **Divorce** is messy and expensive, and **cohabitation** avoids this possibility; and this can still provide stability for children.

✗ **Cons:** Many Christians believe that sex should only take place within **marriage**; and **cohabitation** may not be as stable for children. Some **atheists** may also agree that **marriage** provides stability.

Contraception is something used to stop someone becoming pregnant, and some forms of contraception also stop the spread of certain diseases.

Ethical arguments against divorce:

Christians believe **marriage** is an important commitment to one's spouse and God, which God does not want broken. In some **denominations** it is a **sacrament**. This means the marriage vows have sanctity; they are sacred, or holy. It is seen as a sin to break something holy.

e.g. the Catholic Church does not allow **divorce** and will not remarry divorcees. It does allow **annulments** (the cancelling of a marriage) in some circumstances.

Divorce is the legal end of a **marriage**, when two people no longer wish to remain married.

Reasons for divorce:

- Falling out of love
- Cheating spouse
- Abusive or unreasonable spouse
- Desertion (spouse leaving)

Divorce is becoming more socially acceptable, and there are higher rates now than in the past.

Ethical arguments for divorce:

- Jesus allowed **divorce** for **adultery**
- Belief that God forgives sins and mistakes
- It is more compassionate to allow people to end an unhappy marriage

Reasons for remarriage:

- Falling in love again
- To have a fulfilling sexual relationship and have love and support
- Providing security for existing children

Remarriage:

If a church accepts **divorce**, they normally allow **remarriage**, but it is at their discretion with each couple.

Many Christians and non-religious people accept remarriage.

Reasons some Christians may accept contraception

- There is nothing forbidding it in the Bible
- They think it may be better for the parents to be able to plan the timing and number of their children, e.g. for health and financial reasons.
- They think children may be better off if their parents have been able to plan their timing and number.

Most non-religious people accept contraception. It is widely and freely available in the UK.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families Part 2

Nature of Families:

- Reflect the family of God (Christian)
- Provide a basis for stable society (Christian)
- Parents and children have different roles:
 - ↳ Parents look after their children, caring for them and teaching them
 - ↳ Children obey their parents and may look after them in their old age
- There are various types of families, such as **nuclear** and **extended** families

'Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour your father and mother"—this is the first commandment with a promise: "so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the Lord, as the Lord instructs you.' (Ephesians 6:1-4 NRSV)

'I permit no woman to have authority over you'

Some Christians (such as Catholics) should not be priests because of biblical teaching such as Ephesians 5:21-33. because Jesus and his disciples believed that husbands should be in charge of their wives because of biblical teaching such as Ephesians 5:21-33. because it is a tradition (in the Catholic Church)

Some Christians believe that husbands should be in charge of their wives because of biblical teaching such as Ephesians 5:21-33.

'Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the church, as Christ is the head of the body of which he is the saviour' (Ephesians 5:22-23)

Types of Families	
Nuclear	Two parents with their own biological or adopted children
Extended	A family unit including relatives such as grandparents, aunts, and uncles
Single Parent	One parent with their own child. This could be due to bereavement, or the end of a relationship between the parents, for example.
Same-sex Parents	Parents of the same gender. They could have adopted, or one could be the biological parent of the child/children
Blended	At least one member of the couple has at least one child from a previous relationship living with them

Purposes of Families

(Christian/religious):

- To fulfil God's command to **procreate** (have children)
- To raise and educate children in a **faith**

(Religious and non-religious):

- To educate children
- Fulfilling the desire to have children
- To provide security (stability and protection), love, and support for family members (including children)

Families

5



A **family** is a unit of people living together, or who are related, normally involving parents and children.

Most Christians think it is wrong to discriminate against people differently in any unfair way. They believe God loves everyone.

However, some Christians do hold gender prejudice and discriminate on the basis of gender, e.g. Catholic priests cannot become priests.

Some Christian parents get their children baptised/christened as a way of introducing them to Christianity and as a way of committing to raising them in the Christian faith.

There are different **contemporary family issues** in the modern world.

Same-sex parents:

- If a **same-sex couple** have children, they will generate a child who will be related to one parent, e.g. through **surrogacy** or **sperm donation**.
- Not all people support same-sex parents – some religious people especially may feel that only heterosexual couples should have children.

Same-sex adoption is legal in the UK.

Contemporary Family Issues

6

Families with single parents or step-parents can have different family issues.

Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

Polygamy (marrying more than one person):

- **Polygamy** may result in the jealousy of some spouses; or mean that children see their parents less (e.g. if the father has more than one household); or mean that some spouses/parents have fewer legal rights if polygamy is not legally recognised.
- Polygamy may mean that children have the support of more parent figures, and that the population can be increased or decreased as appropriate.

Polygamy is not legal in the UK, but polygamous marriages performed outside of the UK may be recognised. Christians generally oppose polygamy, though it is not forbidden in the Bible. Non-religious people have different views.

Examples

- Example 1
- Example 2
- Example 3
- Example 4

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



- Find a Bible quote which could be used to argue for or against homosexuality and write it here: (Hint: try Matthew 7 or Leviticus 18.)

Reference:

Sexuality

Humans can be **A** _____ (attracted to the opposite sex/gender), **B** _____ (attracted to both sexes/gender), **C** _____ (attracted to the same sex/gender).

Many people accept different sexualities, but some people, especially those who are religious, may oppose relationships which are _____.

Christians have different opinions on **homosexual** _____.

Some who accept homosexual relationships still believe **marriage** should only be between a man and a woman.
 → Jesus said that marriage was between a man and a woman.
 → Homosexual sex cannot produce children – a purpose of marriage (in the Catholic Church).

Some Christians accept **same-sex marriage**, because they feel it is the most loving thing. Homosexual marriage is legal in the UK (except Northern Ireland), but not all churches will perform same-sex marriages.

Sexual Relationships and Sexuality

- Write the correct multiple-choice answers in the gaps.

* Examples of religious beliefs for (+) and against (-) homosexual relationships *

Why some accept them

- **A** _____ said nothing against homosexuality.
- Jesus told people not to **B** _____ others.
- Many Christians believe **C** _____ is the most important thing.
- Some Christians/Jews/Muslims feel that some of the teachings in the **D** _____/Qur'an are no longer relevant.

Why some are against them

- Homosexual sex cannot produce **E** _____ (the Catholic Church is against it for this reason).
- If the **F** _____ family is a foundation for society, homosexual couples undermine this.
- The Bible and Qur'an teach against homosexuality.
- Homosexual sex is unclean (zina) in Islam, as it is considered a sin.

A – Leviticus

Popes

B – Judge

Love

Prosecute

C – Love

Power

Law

D – Guru Granth Sahib

Bible

Vedas

E – Love

Pleasure

Children

F – Nuclear

Single-parent

Extended

- Discuss Christian views on different types of sexual relationships with a partner. Make some notes.

Explain what these different groups of people think about sex before marriage.

Examples of religious (and other) beliefs about sex before marriage

The Catholic Church...

The Church of England...

Liberal Protestants...

Muslims...

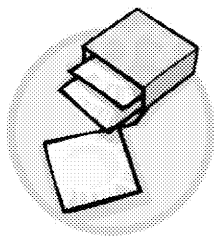
Jews...

Society...

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED





1. What is contraception? What are its uses?

Contraception is...



The Catholic Church only approves of methods that are open to the possibility of new life, so artificial **contraception**. This is taught in **Humanae Vitae**. It is particularly controversial because of the **contraception** in developing countries.

Contraception is not forbidden in Islam. Natural methods are preferred and they must be used with the consent of both partners and not harm them.

Mr. Smith, a Muslim, and his wife have decided to use contraception. It is legal and freely available in the UK.

Orthodox Jews may consult a rabbi about whether it is acceptable for them personally to use **contraception**. Reform Jews have a liberal attitude to contraception and are likely to use it.

Contraception and Family Planning

Methods of Contraception and Family Planning

5. Write the correct word in the gap.

○
○
○
○

A _____ of birth control that may be used.

B _____ approved of by the Church. They may not have the possibility of abortion.

C _____, especially most Christians who use **contraception**.

Some Catholics use the **D** _____ when the woman is less fertile, so the likelihood of pregnancy is low.

2. Give three reasons why some Christians accept contraception. (Hint: consider the Bible, parents and children.)

Reasons some Christians accept contraception



→
→
→

3. Discuss your views on contraception and types of contraception with a partner. Make some notes.



4. Name and explain another two methods of contraception not given here.

1) _____
2) _____

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families

1. What is marriage, in general and in Christianity?

Marriage is...



Purposes:

- **Procreation** and raising a family
- To have a sexual relationship
- To show one's spouse love, friendship and support
- The foundation for a stable society
- To symbolise the relationship between Jesus and the Church (Christians)

Christians have different opinions

Some who accept homosexual relationships think **marriage** should only be between a man and a woman. Jesus said that marriage was made for a man and a woman. Homosexual sex cannot produce children. Marriage (in the Catholic Church) is a sacrament.

Some Christians accept **same-sex** marriage. They feel it is the most loving thing. It is legal in the UK (except Northern Ireland) and some churches will perform same-sex marriage.

Nature:

- A **sacrament** (for some Christians)
- An important commitment between a man and a woman (and God)
- **Monogamous** (between one man and one woman)
- Within religion, often performed by a priest or minister
- A gift from God (Christians)



Marriage

2. Fill in the Bible quote.

(Mark 10:6-9 NRSV)

Alternative: Cohabitation

Some non-religious people might think that **cohabitation** is just as good as, or better than, **marriage**.

Pros:

- 1)
- 2)

Cons:

- 1)
- 2)

3. Give two religious or non-religious pros and cons for cohabitation

4. What are your views on marriage and on cohabitation?



5. Find another marriage and cohabitation reference

Reference:

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



1. Fill in the gaps!
Use the words in the box below.

Annulment
Holy Sacrament
Compassionate
Ethical
Adultery
Sin

"But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall 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."
(Mark 10:6-9 NRSV)

2. Give a definition of divorce.

Divorce is...

Divorce

argument for divorce:

Christians believe **marriage** is an important commitment to one's spouse and God, which God does not want broken. In some **denominations** it is a _____.
↳ This means the marriage vows have sanctity; they are sacred, or holy. It is seen as a _____ to break something holy.

e.g. the Catholic Church does not allow **divorce** and will not **remarry** divorcees. It does allow _____, the cancelling of a **marriage**, in some circumstances.

Ethical arguments for divorce:

- Jesus allowed **divorce** for _____
- Belief that God forgives sins and **mistakes**
- It is more _____ to allow people to end an unhappy marriage

4. What do you think of divorce? Do you think it is a good case for not all divorces? Why or why not?

3. Give four reasons for getting a divorce.

Reasons for divorce:

-
-
-

5. Give two reasons for religious people allowing divorce.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



1. Find another Bible quote that relates to families, e.g. their nature or purpose. Write it here: (Hint: try 1 Timothy 5.)

Reference:

2. Which of these types of families is most likely to involve step-siblings?
a) Nuclear b) Blended c) Single-parent



A family is a unit of people living together, or who are related, normally involving parents and children.

4. Write each statement in either the nature or purpose boxes next to the question marks: ?

Families

Some Christian parents get their children baptised/christened, as a way of introducing them to Christianity, and as a way of committing to raising them in the Christian faith.

- A To fulfil God's command
- B Reflect the family of God
- C To raise and educate children
- D There are various types of families and **extended** families

Nature of Families:

→ ?

→ ?

- Provide a basis for stable relationships
- Parents and children have responsibilities
 - ↳ Parents look after their children
 - ↳ Children obey their parents
 - ↳ Children obey their parents after them in their old age

Purposes of Families (Christian/religious):

→ ?

→ ?

Purposes of Families (religious and non-religious):

- To educate children
- Fulfilling the desire to have children
- To provide security (stable home, protection), love and support
- To provide a basis for stable relationships
- To provide a basis for stable relationships

5. Fill in the table with each type of family next to its correct definition.

Same-sex Parents
Extended
Blended
Nuclear
Single-parent

Type of Family	Definition
	A family unit with their own biological or adopted children
	A family unit including extra relatives such as grandparents
	One parent with their own child. This could be due to bereavement, or the end of a relationship between the parents, for example.
	Parents of the same gender. They could have adopted, or one could be the biological parent of the child/children.
	At least one member of the couple has at least one child from a previous relationship living with them

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



1. Fill in the gaps!
Use the words in the box below.

Surrogacy
Heterosexual
Adopt
Legal
Biologically

Same-sex parents:

→ If a **same-sex couple** wish to have children, they will generally _____, or have a child who will be _____ related to one parent, e.g. through _____ or **sperm donation**.

→ Not all people support _____ parents - some people believe that only _____ couples should have children.

Same-sex adoption is _____ in the UK.

Polygamy: (_____)

1)

2)

Polygamy may mean that children have the support of more parent figures, and that the population can be increased or decreased as appropriate.

Polygamy is not legal in the UK, but polygamous marriages performed outside of the UK may be recognised. Christians generally oppose polygamy, though it is not forbidden in the Bible. Non-religious people have different views.

There are different **contemporary family issues** in the modern world.

Contemporary Family Issues

4. Consider if there are any problems in contemporary society which polygamy might fix. List any you can think of.

Give two reasons for religious people opposing polygamy. (2 marks)

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



1. Fill in the Bible quote:

(1 Timothy 2:12 NRSV)

2. Fill in the gaps on the right! Use the words in the box below.

Biblical
Priests
Mothers
Disciples
Husbands

Some Christians (such as Catholics) believe that men and women should not be equal because of the teaching of Jesus and his apostles. Jesus was male; and because it is a tradition (in the Catholic Church).

Some Christians believe that _____ should be in charge of their wives because of _____ teaching such as Ephesians 5:21–33.

'Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour.'
(Ephesians 5:22–23 NRSV)

Christians who think men and women should have different **roles** may see men and women as **equal**. They may think it is fair to treat them in different ways if this is God's will. However, those who disagree with different gender **roles** may see men and women being treated differently as **unequal** treatment, if women do not have all the same rights as men. This is seen as **prejudice** and **discrimination**.

4. Do you think Christians are justified if they give women different roles to men? Why / why not?

Gender Equality and the Roles of Men and Women

Christians have different opinions about gender and gender roles; whether men and women were created for different purposes by God. Equality means having the same opportunities and rights and being treated fairly. This does not necessarily mean being the same. Non-religious people may have different views.

Why men and women should not have different roles / are equal

1)

Why men and women should have different roles / may not be equal

Some Christians feel that women should focus on motherhood, because important Christian figures such as Mary are important because they were _____.

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

Christians have worked with charities to improve the treatment of women worldwide, and campaigned for more **equal** treatment of women and men politically.

Some non-religious people believe that women should have the same biological differences as men and women may be influenced by biology or personal choice.



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



1. Give three or more examples of gender prejudice and discrimination.

Examples of Gender Prejudice and Discrimination:

→
→
→



Christians who think men and women should have different **A** _____ may still see them as **equal**. They may think it is fair to treat them in different ways if this is God's will. Christians who disagree with different gender **roles** may see men and women being given different **roles** as **unequal** treatment, if women do not have all the same rights as men. This may be seen as **prejudice** and **B** _____.

Many Christians think it is wrong to treat people differently in any unfair way because they believe God loves everyone equally.

However, some Christians do hold gender prejudice and discriminate on the basis of gender, e.g. **C** _____ women cannot become priests.

Other Christians may see such **discrimination** as unfair. Many churches allow women to become vicars/ministers, and women have been able to become bishops in the Church of England since **D** _____.

3. Write choice

- A** – Worth
B – Difference
C – Catholic
D – 1994
E – Legal

Many non-religious people should be treated equally. Discrimination are unfairness and equality.

Gender prejudice and discrimination in the UK.

2. Give definitions of gender prejudice and gender discrimination.

Gender prejudice is...

Gender discrimination is...

These normally disadvantage women, but can also disadvantage men.

Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

4. Do you think that religious beliefs are good grounds for any type of gender discrimination? Why / Why not?



5. Do you think religion has done more to reduce prejudice and discrimination? Why?

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families

Christians have different opinions on **homosexuality**.

Some who accept homosexual relationships still believe that **marriage** should only be between a man and a woman:

- Jesus said that marriage was between a man and a woman.
- Homosexuals cannot produce children – a purpose for marriage (in the Catholic Church)

Some Christians accept **same-sex marriage**, because they feel it is the most loving thing. Homosexual marriage is now legal in the UK (except Northern Ireland), but not all churches will perform same-sex marriages.

Examples of religious beliefs for

Why some accept them

- ✓ Jesus was loving against homosexuality.
- ✓ Jesus told people not to judge others.
- ✓ Many Christians believe love is the most important thing.
- ✓ Some Christians/Jews/Muslims feel that some of the teachings in the Bible/Qur'an are no longer relevant.

Christians have different opinions about **sexual relationships**. Sex is seen as important because Jesus said it bonded a heterosexual, married couple.

Sex

Examples of religious beliefs about Premarital Sex

Many Christians (e.g. Catholic Church) disagree with premarital sex, though some accept it in committed relationships (e.g. Church of England), or are even more relaxed (e.g. liberal Protestants).

In Islam, premarital sex is **zina** (zina). Most Muslims feel that sex has a special meaning within marriage, though some liberal Muslims will have sex before marriage.

Orthodox Jews view premarital sex negatively and may even avoid other physical contact, e.g. kissing. Reform Jews are more relaxed and may have sex before marriage.

Premarital sex is increasingly accepted in society.

Extra
Most Christians believe that sex is only for someone who is married to their partner. The Ten Commandments say 'Thou shalt not commit adultery'.

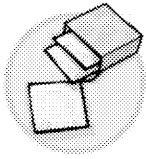
Some Christians accept that sex before marriage is acceptable.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families



Contraception is something used to stop someone becoming pregnant, and some forms of contraception also stop the spread of certain diseases.



Contraception and Family Planning

Most non-religious people accept contraception. It is safe and freely available in the UK.

Methods of Contraception and Family Planning

Sterilisation: approved of by many Christians if it is thought through. Muslims may disagree with it.

Hormonal methods, e.g. the pill: approved of by many Christians. They may not approve if there is a possibility they could cause an abortion.

Barrier methods, e.g. condoms: approved of by most Christians who approve of artificial **contraception**.

Some Catholics use the **rhythm method** of having sex when the woman is less fertile to try to limit the likelihood of pregnancy.

Reasons some Christians may accept contraception

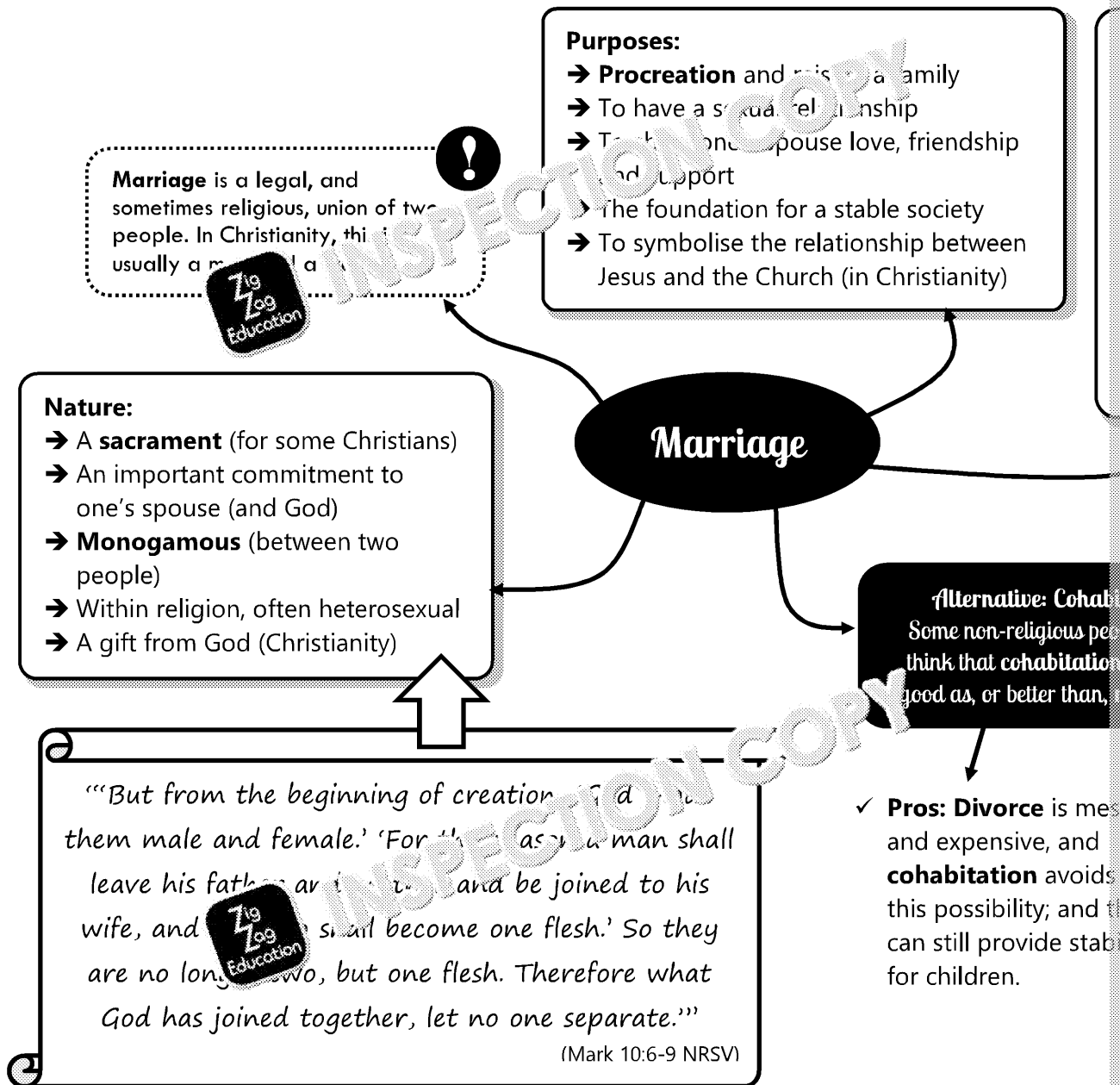
- There is nothing forbidding it in the Bible.
- They think it may be better for the parents to be able to plan the timing and number of their children, e.g. for health and financial reasons.
- They think it may be better off if their parents have been able to plan their timing and number.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families



INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families

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

(Mark 10:6-9 NRSV)

Ethical arguments against divorce:

Christians believe **marriage** is an important commitment to one's spouse and God, which God does not want broken. In some **denominations** it is a holy **sacrament**.

↳ This means the marriage vows have sanctity; they are sacred, or holy. It is seen as a sin to break something holy.

e.g. the Catholic Church does not allow **divorce** and will not recognise divorcees. It does allow the cancelling of a **marriage** in some circumstances.

Divorce

Divorce is becoming more socially acceptable, and there are higher rates now than in the past.

Cons: Divorce and ex

Divorce is the legal end of **marriage**, when two people no longer wish to remain married.

Ethical arguments for divorce:

- Jesus allowed **divorce** for **adults**
- Belief that God forgives sins and
- It is more **compassionate** to allow end an unhappy marriage

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families

Nature of Families:

- Reflect the family of God (Christian)
- Provide a basis for stable society (Christian)
- Parents and children have different roles.
 - ↳ Parents look after their children, caring for them and bringing them up.
 - ↳ Children obey their parents and may look after them in their old age
- There are various types of families, such as **nuclear** and **extended** families

'Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour your father and mother"—this is the first commandment with a promise: "so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the Lord, in his teaching and instruction of the Lord.

(Ephesians 6:1-4)

Family

Types of Families	
Nuclear	Two parents with their own biological or adopted children
Extended	A family unit including other relatives such as grandparents
Single-parent	One parent with their own child. This could be due to a divorce or the end of a relationship between the parents, for example.
Same-sex Parents	Two parents of the same gender. They could have adopted, or one could be the biological parent of the child/children.
Blended	At least one member of the couple has at least one child from a previous relationship living with them

A family is a group of people who are related to each other.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families



There are different **contemporary family issues** in the modern world.

Contemporary Family Issues

Same-sex parents:

- If a **same-sex couple** wish to have children, they will generally **adopt**, or have a child who will be **biologically** related to one parent, e.g. through **surrogacy** or **sperm donation**.
- Not all people support same-sex parents – some religious people especially may feel that only **heterosexual** couples should have children.

Same-sex adoption is **legal** in the UK.

Polygamy

- Polygamy is a practice where one person has more than one spouse at the same time. It is less legal in most countries.
- Polygamy is often practiced in some religious communities, but it is generally opposed by many people.

Polygamy is performed by some religious groups, but many people oppose polygamy.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families

'I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man...'

(1 Timothy 2:12 NRSV)

Some Christians (like Catholics) feel that women should not be **p** because of biblical teaching. Jesus and his **disciples** were men and because it is a tradition (in the Catholic Church).

Some Christians believe that **husbands** should be in charge of their wives because of **biblical** teaching such as Ephesians 5:21-33.

'Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour.'

(Ephesians 5:22-23 NRSV)

Christians who think men and women should have different **roles** may still see them as **equal**. They may think it is fair to treat them in different ways if this is God's will. Christians who disagree with different gender **roles** may see men and women being given different **roles** as **unequal** treatment, if women do not have all the same rights as men. They may see this as **prejudice** and **discrimination**.

Christians have worked with charities to improve the treatment of women worldwide, and campaigned for more **equal** treatment of women and men politically.

Gender Equality and the Roles of Men and Women

Why men and women should have different roles / may not be equal

Some Christians feel that women should focus on motherhood, because important Christian figures such as Mary are important because they are **mothers**.

The men and women (Gender Equality)

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A: Relationships and Families

Examples of Gender Prejudice and Discrimination:

- Being thought of as inferior due to one's gender
- Being refused jobs reserved for the other gender
- Gender-based clothing restrictions and expectations
- Different legal rights, e.g. to custody of children, or to education

Gender prejudice is holding a belief that one gender is better than the other. Gender discrimination is treating someone differently because of their gender. These normally go hand in hand.

Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

Christians who think men and women should have different **roles** may still see them as **equal**. They may think it is fair to treat them in different ways if this is God's will. Christians who disagree with different gender **roles** may see men and women being given different **roles** as **unequal** treatment, if women do not have all the same rights as men. They may see this as **prejudice** and **discrimination**.

Most Christians think it is wrong to treat people differently in any unfair way because they believe God loves everyone equally.

However, some Christians believe that gender prejudice and discrimination on the basis of gender is acceptable because men and women cannot be equal.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Theme A Topic on a Page Activities

Exam-style questions here are not exactly the same as they would be in an exam. For example, some ask for contrasting views on issues which the exam would not use for such questions, and some focus on only Christian views where the exam would ask for views from other religions. This is to allow students to practise the ideas taught in this resource.

1. Sexual Relationships and Sexuality

- 1) For example:
'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.' (Matthew 7:1 NRSV) – This could mean that homosexuality should be allowed, as people should not judge people for being different.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) For example: Some Christians have very strict views on sexual relationships – they must be within heterosexual marriage. However, there seems to be a wide variety of views on sex within committed relationships and some will accept all consensual sexual relationships (including gay and lesbian relationships).
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) See summary sheet.
- 6) For example:
 - One argument with justification
 - Different arguments for and against, with justification
OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
 - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
 - Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.

Points and Justification for

- Jesus did not say anything against homosexuality.
- Christians do not keep many of the commandments in the Old Testament, including the ones forbidding homosexuality.
- Jesus taught people to love others, and not to judge them, so Christians should not judge them.

Points and Justification against

- There are teachings against homosexuality in the Old Testament of the Bible.
- There are teachings in the New Testament which imply that homosexuality is wrong.
- Homosexual sex cannot produce children, and the Catholic Church feels that marriage should be open to the possibility of new life.
- The Catholic Church believes that heterosexual nuclear families are the best for children.

Accept any relevant point or justification – other religions should be accepted.

- 7) For example: I think that religion is helpful in giving people guidance about their relationships, and the danger is of hurting people in casual or extramarital relationships. It is helpful in making decisions about sexuality, as many religions teach love and respect. People who apply these religious principles and treat people who are different with respect and respect.

2. Contraception and Family Planning

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) For example: I think using contraception is sensible – unwanted pregnancies can be prevented wherever possible. I think it is a sensible idea to use hormonal or barrier methods to be extra safe.

INSPECTION COPY

COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



- 4) For example:
 - The withdrawal method
 - Emergency contraception
- 5) See summary sheet.
- 6) For example:
 - One argument with justification
 - Different arguments for and against, with justification
OR Several linked, justified arguments for one position
 - Good, well-justified arguments for and against, linked together
 - Very well argued. Well-justified arguments for and against, linked together and leading to a reasonable conclusion.

Points and Justification for

- Christianity teaches that people should not be having sex outside of marriage and having sex outside of marriage will automatically be wrong.
- There is nothing for married couples from using contraception in marriage.
- It is sensible to limit the number of one's children and have them at appropriate intervals so that children have a good quality of life.

Points and Justification against

- The Catholic Church believes that using artificial contraception is always wrong and should be open to the possibility of new life.
- Even if people should not have sex outside of marriage, if they are having sex, the most loving thing is for them to use contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancies.
- There is no good reason in the twenty-first century for people not to have sex without contraception, if this is consensual and they know what they are doing. Religious teachings are outdated.

Accept any relevant point or justification– other religions should be accepted.

- 7) For example: I do not think religious views are helpful when considering whether to use contraception because if people do not use contraception because of religious teachings, but have unwanted pregnancies and STIs, and this could damage their health and their relationships.

3. Marriage

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example: I think that marriage is important – it is good to make a commitment to someone. However, I think cohabiting before marriage is sensible, to check that you are compatible before committing to marriage.
- 5) For example:

'To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is well for them to remain unmarried if they can. But if they cannot, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be alone.' (1 Corinthians 7:25-28)
- 6) For example:
 - Many Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God, and that it is permanent. Divorce is seen as a failure. Some Christians emphasise this by classing it as a holy sacrament.
 - Jesus taught: 'Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' (Matthew 19:6)
 - Many Christians believe that marriage should be heterosexual because the Bible is heterosexual, and homosexuality is condemned in the Old Testament. Marriage is between a man and a woman.
 - 'But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." (Genesis 1:27) His father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' (Genesis 2:24)

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark per scripture.

If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for

- 7) For example: I do not think that marriage is a sacrament, just a very important thing. I think it is holy and cannot be broken. I also do not think that marriage *has to* be broken because two people can have a loving relationship and not want to have children.

4. Divorce

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example, I think divorce is unfortunate, and marriage should not be taken lightly. There is a good case for not allowing divorce – once a marriage has failed, it is too late to turn back – and I think that even if there is a God who dislikes divorce, he will not prevent people from getting divorced.
- 5) For example:
 - The Bible allows divorce if someone's spouse has been unfaithful.
 - If someone's spouse is violent then it is loving to allow them to divorce rather than forcing them to stay married.Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2).
- 6) For example:
 - Pope Francis has been seen to relax Catholic teaching against divorce and remarriage, suggesting in his paper *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) that people who have divorced and remarried (outside of the Catholic Church) may be allowed to receive the Eucharist. This shows that the Church is becoming more tolerant, though still maintaining that divorce and remarriage are not ideal.
 - One report suggests that nearly one sixth of married Catholics in the UK have divorced and remarried (without receiving a Catholic annulment first). This shows that many Catholics do not agree with the Church's strict teaching on divorce and remarriage.
- 7) For example: I think divorce rates may fall, as fewer people are getting married. There are many reasons in the modern world for high numbers of divorces. Many people do not feel able to stay in a bad marriage. Some people do not take marriage very seriously, and many people have their marriages, such as financial worries.

5. Families

- 1) For example:
'If a wife has children or grandchildren, they should first learn their religion and make a financial payment to their parents; for this is pleasing in God's sight.' (1)
- 2) b) Blended
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) See summary sheet.
- 5) See summary sheet.

- 6) For example:
- Some Christians will disapprove of single parents if this situation has arisen for the parents – many Christians believe that people should marry before they have their partner for their whole life.
 - Some Christians will disapprove of same-sex parents because they believe that marriage is only for heterosexual couples and that only heterosexual couples should have children.
 - Some Christians will disapprove of blended families because they believe that children with their spouse, should have one partner for life, and should not have a step-parent.
- 7) For example: I think there must be some religious practices involved in raising children. Children will not learn about the religion and how to practise it. Therefore, these practices are necessary in enabling a child to decide if they want to follow the faith. However, some practices such as infant baptism are necessary, as parents must raise their children in the faith. If they do not, then they are not baptised as an infant – then their faith will be important to some people.

6. Controversial Family Issues

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example: If families contain more adults living together, this could help with people who desire more than one partner, polygamy could be better for them than monogamous relationships, or cheating.
- 5) For example:
 - It is not loving to discriminate and not allow people to have children on their own.
 - Same-sex couples adopting can help to give children without parents a good home.
 Accept any relevant point, 1 mark per point (maximum 2).
- 6) For example: I am not sure if the advantages of polygamy outweigh the disadvantages. If children get more attention, they might also be confused about their family situation (if they do not see their parents enough if they have multiple households). Also, when people have multiple relationships, which may be beneficial, it also brings a strong dislike of polygamous relationships feel jealousy.
- 7) For example: Some Christians approve of same-sex parents because they have accepted homosexuality, and believe that it is good if same-sex couples can give unwanted children a home. Some Christians approve of polygamy because it is allowed in the Old Testament, but not in the New Testament. They may feel that polygamous relationships also fulfil the commandment to love humans by God.

7. Gender Equality and the Role of Men and Women

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example: I do think Christians are justified in giving women different roles to men in the Bible and taught by churches such as the Catholic Church – these are important teachings for Christians.
- 5) For example: I do not think it is possible for people to have to conform to different roles, because making people perform different roles indicates that they are not equal, they are not performing, so are unequal.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**



- 6) For example:
- Some Christians believe that men and women should fulfil the same role and women were created equal. They do not feel that God commanded different roles, and they feel that Jesus demonstrated gender equality by his actions.
 - 'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; all of you are one in Christ Jesus.' (Galatians 3:28 NRSV)
 - Some Christians feel that men and women should fulfil different roles, for example, men should be ordained. Other examples are that some believe that men should have the primary role in the home and that women should focus on motherhood. This is supported by some biblical teachings.
 - 'I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man' (1 Timothy 2:12 NRSV)

Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for reference to scripture.

If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for reference to scripture.

- 7) For example: Women could be ordained in the Methodist Church from 1974, and in the Church of England from 1993, and women could become bishops in the Church of England from 2015.

8. Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

- 1) See summary sheet.
- 2) See summary sheet.
- 3) See summary sheet.
- 4) For example: I do not think that religion gives people grounds for gender discrimination. Gender discrimination is wrong, regardless of whether religions appear to justify it. All religions, including Christianity, teach equality, and so should not be able to justify discrimination.
- 5) For example: I think religion has both encouraged and helped stop gender prejudice. Some religions appear to treat men and women differently, and may look down on women, but others have worked to change culture and society. However, other religious people have worked hard to stop gender prejudice of their time, such as the first Quakers.
- 6) For example:
 - Most Christians believe that gender discrimination is wrong, because of their belief that both men and women were made in God's image, and, therefore, have equal value and dignity. Furthermore, Jesus taught people to treat others as they would treat themselves, and no one wants to be discriminated against.
 - 'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them.' (Genesis 1:27 NRSV)
 - Some Christians feel that certain forms of gender discrimination are justified, for example, women to be ordained. They may see this as discrimination, certainly, but they feel that different treatment is God's will – for example, Jesus had only male disciples, and St Paul taught against female teaching.
 - 'I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man...' (1 Timothy 2:12 NRSV)

Any additional religions should be accepted.

Accept any relevant points and reference to scripture.

1 mark per simple point, 2 marks per developed point (maximum 4), 1 mark for reference to scripture.

If *only* one religious belief is mentioned, maximum 2 marks + 1 mark for reference to scripture.
- 7) For example: Many Christian churches have allowed male/female equality and have worked to prevent domestic abuse and people trafficking, which often discriminates against women.

**COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED**

