

Starters and Plenaries

For GCSE AQA Religious Studies A
Component 2: Thematic Studies

Theme A: Relationships and Families

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource has been designed to support the learning and teaching of GCSE AQA Religious Studies A Component 2: Thematic Studies, Theme A: Relationships and Families. All areas of the specification are covered.

Different activities provide a way into new topics or allow students to reinforce and consolidate their learning – there is also some assessment content. Some activities can be done individually, others in groups, or with the entire class; and there is flexibility to adapt this.

The starters and plenaries in this resource are designed to help teachers allow students to learn continuously by providing short activities which can be slotted in at the beginning and end of lessons. Each activity should take between 5 and 15 minutes to complete, though some could be adapted into a longer main-lesson activity if desired.

A plan of the activities with teacher's notes is provided at the beginning of the resource to give guidance on how to teach the content. Answers, or possible answers, are included at the end of the resource, to help with student or teacher marking, and in some cases it may be helpful to distribute these as revision resources.

This resource should be informative and educational, and hopefully also enjoyable for students. It should support teachers with a base which they can build on when teaching additional content and skills.

The topics force students to consider different arguments and philosophical ways of thinking, as well as exploring how different views and arguments impact on the modern world and influence society. Ideally, this will help the students to develop reasoning skills as well as learning important details.

March 2018

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Topic Coverage




For many of these it will be useful for the students to have some knowledge of the topic

Specification Area	Topic	Activity Description	Suggested Use	
Sex, Marriage and Divorce	Sexuality: Heterosexual and Homosexual Relationships & Same-sex Marriage	1. Class discussion	S	Class activity This sheet though you could use questions for students
	Sexual Relationships before and outside of Marriage & Cohabitation	2. Multiple choice	S or P	Individual
	Contraception and Family Planning	3. Place items on a continuum	S or P	Can be done in groups (or pairs) It may be useful for the class
	Nature and Purpose of Marriage	4. Odd one out	S	Individual
	Sexuality, Sex, Contraception, Marriage & Cohabitation	5. Match up views	S	Individual
	Divorce and Remarriage, including Ethical Arguments	6. Advantages and disadvantages	P	Individual be worth

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Specification Area	Topic	Activity Description	Suggested Use	Notes
Families and Gender Equality	Nature and Purpose of Family	7. News that...	S	Class activity This sheet is not for...
	 of Family	8. What am I?	S	Class activity This sheet is not for... (unless you cut off... use as prompts) Cut up cards before...
	Contemporary Family Issues	9. Fill in the gaps	S or P	Individual activity
	Roles of Men and Women	10. Assess an example exam answer	S or P	Individual or group be worth feeding b...
	Gender Equality	11. Correct the statements	S or P	Individual activity
	 Gender Prejudice and Discrimination	12. Partnerships with questions to test knowledge	S	Paired activity
Summary	 Summary Revision	13. Spider diagram with questions	P	Can be done individual or in groups (use A3 paper)

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Activity 1 – Sexuality: Heterosexual and Homosexual & Same-sex Marriage

Separate the class into five groups, and give each group a question to discuss and write bullet points about. Then bring the class together to have a class discussion about different sexualities, and different Christian and other religious attitudes. Give back answers to their question, and other students can add more if they have any.

1) Give different Christians responses to, and opinions about, heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

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2) Why does the Catholic Church, and some other churches, forbid homosexual relationships? Why does it not encourage people to try not to be homosexual?

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3) Why do some evangelical Christians think homosexuals should try to be heterosexual?

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4) Why do some Protestants accept couples in loving homosexual relationships?

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5) Why will some Protestant denominations, which accept loving homosexual relationships, not accept homosexual marriage? (And why might some Christians accept homosexual marriage?)

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6) What attitudes do you learn from the second religion you are studying about homosexual relationships?

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Activity 2 – Sexual Relationships before and Marriage & Cohabitation

Answer the multiple-choice questions about Christian, other religious, and sexual relationships. Tip: Some of the incorrect options are also factually incorrect.

- 1) What is forbidden in the seventh of the Ten Commandments (hint: Ex 20:17)?

A	Promiscuity
B	Adultery
C	Pre-marital sex
D	Homosexuality

- 2) Why might some Christians accept sex/cohabitation before marriage?

A	There is nothing against sex before marriage in the Bible
B	The Church is not concerned about sex
C	They think love is the most important thing
D	With contraception, there is no chance of getting pregnant

- 3) Which of these is **not** a reason Christians might give in response to a non-Christian suggesting that cohabitation or sex before marriage are acceptable?

A	Being at risk of cohabitation or have sex before marriage might mean couples end up in a relationship without giving it sufficient thought before getting together
B	Sex before marriage is wrong because the Bible teaches that sex should take place within marriage
C	Sex before marriage and cohabitation are a bad idea, because if the relationships end this can be emotionally damaging, and financially problematic in the case of cohabitation
D	Sex before marriage and cohabitation are a bad idea because if children are born into unstable relationships, and these end, this is bad for the children
E	Cohabitation is a bad idea because it means someone might go on to have children because of their bad habits before they are married to them

- 4) Which of these is **not** taught about sex within Christianity, or a branch of Christianity?

A	Wives should have sex as often as their husbands want, and have control over when to have sex
B	Sex is given by God to strengthen the bond between a married couple
C	Sex is designed to be enjoyed within marriage
D	Sex is given for the procreation of children, and God commanded couples to be fruitful in Genesis

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- 5) Which of these is **not** a reason that many Christians object to adultery? (hints: Exodus 20, 1, Corinthians 5–6)

A	They think they will never be forgiven by God
B	They are forbidden in the Bible
C	Adultery will likely hurt the spouse who is cheated on, and promote also emotionally hurt those involved
D	Unlawful sexual relationships may harm someone's relationship

- 6) Which of these is **not** a reason for cohabiting?

A	It helps people to decide if they really want to get married
B	It avoids divorce if the relationship breaks down
C	If there is no belief in God, there is no need to marry for religious reasons
D	Cohabiting is more stable than marriage for children

- 7) Within Islam, sex outside of heterosexual marriage is forbidden, and the type of unlawful sex is **least** severe in Islam?

A	Premarital heterosexual sex
B	Adultery
C	Homosexual sex

- 8) Which of these branches of Judaism is most strict about sex outside of marriage?

A	Reform
B	Reconstructionist
C	Orthodox
D	Conservative

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Activity 3 - Contraception and Family

1. Cut out and place the types of contraception for family planning along the line, depending on how acceptable they are to Christians.
2. Next to each, give at least **one** reason why a Christian might approve, **or** disapprove, of each type of contraception (Catholic and Protestant) if relevant. Give at least **one** opinion someone from another religion might give.
3. **Extension:** Give two contrasting religious beliefs about contraception, referring to Christianity.

Most Acceptable

←

✂ Hormonal contraception, e.g. the pill

✂ Sterilisation

✂ Barrier contraception

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Activity 4 – Nature and Purpose of Marriage

In each box, spot and circle the odd one out – the statement that is NOT correct according to Christian teachings about marriage.

1. What marriage teaches Christians...:

- a) Some Christians see it as a sacrament and those that don't still see it as an important part of Christianity
- b) Monogamous – between two people
- c) A requirement for Christianity
- d) A gift from God
- e) For many Christians, marriage is a union of a man and woman – two heterosexual people. All Christians accept homosexual marriages

2. Christianity teaches that the purposes of marriage include...

- a) Procreation and raising a family
- b) Friendship and love
- c) Being able to have sex
- d) Financial security
- e) Symbolising the relationship of God and the Church

3. The New Testament says about marriage:

- a) 'When a man is newly married, he must not go out with the army or be charged with public duties. He shall be free at home one year, to be happy with the wife whom he has married.'
- b) '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. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.'
- c) '... when [people] rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage. They will be like the angels in heaven.'
- d) '... he who marries his fiancée does well; and he who refrains from marriage does well.'
- e) 'Wives, be subject to your husbands... Husbands, love your wives...'

Explain why the odd one out is not correct.

1.
2.
3.

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Activity 5 – Sexuality, Sex, Contraception, Marriage

There are different views within Christianity and society about sexuality, sex and cohabitation (couples living together before marriage).

Match each point of view to which group of people is likely to hold it by putting it in the empty boxes.

A Sex should only take place within heterosexual marriage, but contraception is acceptable. Marriage is important for a stable society.

B Sex is fine within a committed and homosexual couples), so cohabitation is fine. (Some feel any consensual sex is important, and should be available for all. Contraception is also fine.

C Sex is the decision of those involved. If that involves having sex with someone you don't love, or having multiple sexual relationships over time, this is fine if the sex is consensual. Different sexualities are fine and homosexuals are just as entitled to consensual sex and marriage. Contraception is a good thing. Cohabitation is fine, and marriage is unnecessary if the people involved don't want to get married.

D Sex should take place within marriage, but sex before marriage is accepted as a step towards a commitment. Contraception is also fine.

E Sex should only take place within marriage, and no artificial contraception should be used, as sexual acts are seen as a possibility of new life because it is a sacrament. Marriage is important for a stable society.

Traditional Catholic View		Traditional Protestant View		Traditional Jewish View	
Modern Christian View		Modern Secular View		Modern Muslim View	

Extension: Give two reasons for one of these views.

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Activity 6 – Divorce and Remarriage, including

Fill in the table about divorce and remarriage. Remember to give ethical arguments for and against.

Arguments to divorce and remarriage / situations where divorce and remarriage are acceptable			Reasons
Christian	Non-religious	Christian and Non-religious	

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Activity 7 – Nature and Purpose of Family

Play noughts and crosses with the class on the board. Split the class into two teams. Ask each side of the room a question from the list, about Christianity and family, before allowing them a nought/cross. Some questions have multiple answers – it may be worth playing at the beginning of the lesson, and at the end. Students have new answers, or asking each team the same question for fairness.

- 1) Give a Bible passage mentioning, or referring to, family.
- 2) What are the roles of parents and children in a Christian family?
- 3) What is the purpose of family for Christians?
- 4) Why is family important to Christians?
- 5) How does the Church support families?

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Activity 8 – Types of Family

What am I? Cut up cards and stick onto a volunteer's forehead or back, and then ask the class yes/no questions to work out what type of family they are (some may be 'maybe' depending on how you view them).

Extension: Once they guess, they, with the help of the class, should give an opinion on whether Christians may approve, and one on why they may disapprove of this type of family.

You can allow students to try to ask appropriate questions themselves using the sheet of questions if they get stuck / need more assistance.

Nuclear Family	Single-parent Family	Same-sex Parents Family	Extended Family
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Am I likely to contain two parents who are the biological parents of all the children?

Am I likely to contain two parents?

As they are, is it possible for the parents in the family to conceive naturally?

Does this type of family involve extra relatives than parents and children?

Does this family contain people who are not / are highly unlikely to be related by blood?

Am I possibly formed due to bereavement?

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Activity 9 – Contemporary Family Issues

Fill in the gaps about contemporary family issues.

Same-sex parents are parents of the same gender – a couple with have children, so they have several different ways of becoming parents. In a lesbian couple, one of the women could become pregnant using donated sperm (they might or might not be a lesbian couple). In a male same-sex couple, one of the men could father a child via surrogate. There are several ways in which a couple could use their own egg or a donated egg from someone else. Only is allowed in the UK, and there are many laws governing this. Alternatively, children – this is now legal in the UK.

The children of same-sex parents may wish to meet their parents who difficult (as it is for heterosexual couples who have children with donated eggs/sperm, or adopted children).

Same-sex parents are not accepted by everyone in society. Many disapprove of same-sex couples being parents, e.g. the Catholic Church feels that the is the foundation of society. However, many more same-sex couples are now parents, including is marrying more than one person. In some cultures it is normal for a man to have more than one wife, and in others for women to have more than one husband (there can also be group marriages). Polygamy is in the UK, though polygamous marriages have been performed in other countries.

..... generally disapprove of polygamy. Some accept allowing a man to marry up to four wives – providing he can treat them all equally.

Polygamy can result in of other spouses, and/or in children being able to (as they have multiple households). There may be legal issues with polygamous families in countries where it is illegal.

However, polygamous families can help to control the size of the population, and may also figures.

jealousy	Muslims	Christians	IVF	
surrogate	legally	heterosexual	religious	
Polygamy	naturally	homosexual	illegal	

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Activity 10 – Roles of Men and Women

Have a look at this example answer to an exam-style question. Annotate the text well, and make at least three major or five minor alterations or additions with marks which this answer could expect. You could highlight or underline the text where you would make an alteration and then make alterations underneath so that you can learn from others' ideas about how to create a good exam answer.



Some Christians who think there should be gender roles are not thinking this.' Evaluate this statement. (12 marks)

Some Christians think that women should be subordinate to men because St Paul said that husbands should be in charge of their wives, and Genesis 2 says that woman was created after man. They also think that the woman's role is in the home and as a mother, because this is traditional and because Mary is an important figure within Christianity and she is important because she was Jesus' mother.



Some Christians do not think that men and women should have different roles in the family because St Paul said that gender does not matter to Jesus/God and because Jesus was kind to women.



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Activity 11 – Gender Equality

Correct the mistake in all of these statements about gender equality.

- 1) All Christians treat women equally to men.

.....

.....

Bonus: Give a Bible verse which provides a reason for this (the correct



- 2) Women are seen as spiritually unequal in Christianity.

.....

.....

Bonus: Give a Bible verse which provides a reason for this (the correct

.....

.....

- 3) Mary is important to many Christians because of her role as Jesus' priest.

.....

.....

- 4) Galatians 3:28 claims that men are no longer male or animal.



.....

.....

- 5) Genesis 2 says that men and women were both created in the image of

.....

.....

- 6) Teaching in the New Testament from St Paul about the different roles of men and women is aimed at people in the 21st century.

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- 7) Men and women can do all of the same things physically.



.....

.....

- 8) The Catholic Church has led the way with promoting gender equality

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Activity 12 – Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

- Pair up with someone with Battleships 2.
- Hide a 1-square, a 2-square and a 3-square battleship on your grid.
- Take it in turns to ask the other person a question from your sheet. Suggested answers are given below the questions for checking. Questions can be used multiple times (there are multiple answers).
- If someone answers a question correctly, they can try to sink one of the opponent's battleships by guessing a square, e.g. C4. Guessing one square correctly sinks it. Whoever sinks the most ships in the time wins!

1. a) What is gender prejudice?

When someone thinks that someone cannot or should not do something because of their gender; a biased belief about someone due to their gender.

b) Why might Christians be opposed to gender prejudice and discrimination?

Galatians 3:28 says that gender does not matter to God; Jesus came for everyone regardless of gender; because Jesus taught to love one's neighbour (Matthew 7:12); prejudice and discrimination are not loving...

c) Give examples of Christians opposing gender prejudice and discrimination.

Many churches allow women to be ordained; many Christians have equal roles in the home; many Christians have campaigned for equality.



Your grid

Guess

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

	A	B
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

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Activity 12 – Gender Prejudice and Discrimination

- Pair up with someone with Battleships 1.
- Hide a 1-square, a 2-square and a 3-square battleship on your grid.
- Take it in turns to ask the other person a question from your sheet. Suggested answers are given below the questions for checking. Questions can be used multiple times (there are multiple answers).
- If someone answers a question correctly, they can try to sink one of the opponent's battleships by guessing a square, e.g. C4. Guessing one square correctly sinks it. Whoever sinks the most ships in the time wins!

2. a) What is gender discrimination?

When someone forces someone to do, or will not allow them to do, something because of their gender; acting differently towards someone because of their gender.

b) Why might Christians be prejudiced because of, or discriminate against, women?

The doctrine of the Fall and its basis in Genesis portrays woman as a temptress; Jesus and the 12 disciples were men, so some churches restrict women's ordination; St Paul taught that women should be subordinate to men in the church (Ephesians 5...).

c) Why do some Christians not accept women's ordination?

There is teaching in the Bible that women should not speak in church (1 Corinthians 14:34-35); there is teaching in the Bible (1 Timothy 2:11-12) that women should not teach men. The Catholic Church believes in male apostolic succession; Jesus said that the priest represents Jesus at the Eucharist...

Your grid

Guessing grid

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

	A	B
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

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Activity 13 – Summary: Revision Questions

Choose at least six questions, and write the answers to these questions on the back of the page. Write your answers in full sentences. If you have spare time, answer more questions.

* Easier Question

** More Challenging Question

If you are unsure about a topic, answer the easier questions, or if you're confident, challenge yourself by choosing some harder questions.

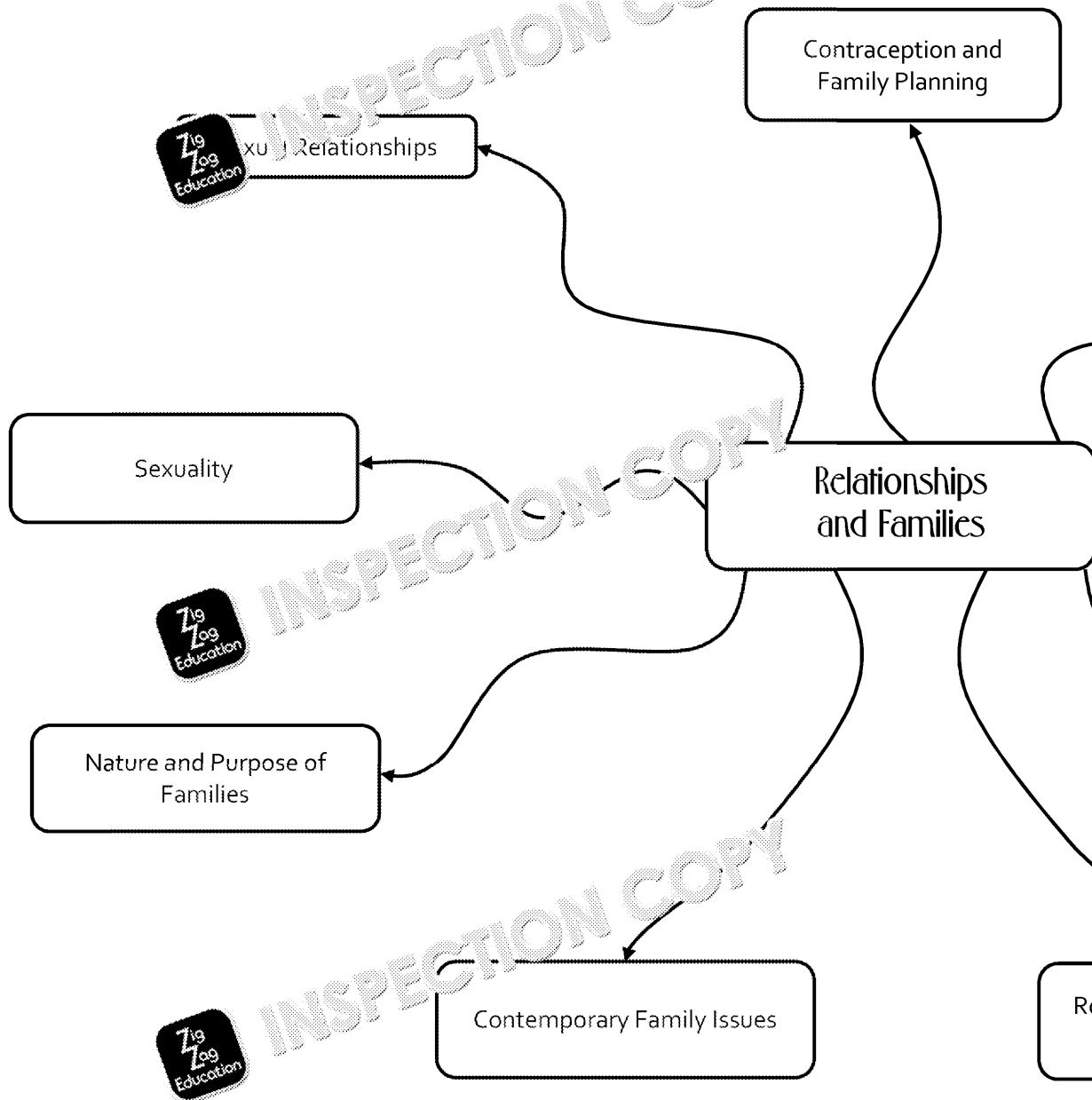
- 1) ** What types of sexual relationships might Christians disapprove of, and why?
- 2) * Why might Christians allow contraception?
- 3) * Why might Christians not allow contraception?
- 4) * Give two purposes of marriage for Christians.
- 5) * Why might Christians think cohabitation is a bad idea?
- 6) ** Give one advantage and one disadvantage to divorce for Christians.
- 7) ** What is the purpose of the family for Christians?
- 8) * What is a nuclear family?
- 9) * What is polygamy?
- 10) ** Why might Christians think that women and men have different roles?
- 11) ** Why might Christians think men and women should be treated equally?
- 12) ** Why might Christians disapprove of gender prejudice and discrimination?

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Revision Spider Diagram – Relationships



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Answers

Activity 1– Sexuality: Heterosexual and Homosexual Relationships & Same-Sex Marriage

Possible discussion points:

- 1)
 - Heterosexual relationships are good, as God intended men and women to be together
 - Many Christians believe that heterosexual relationships should be monogamous, life-long, and sex should take place within marriage
 - Some Christians believe that it is wrong to have romantic/sexual relationships and devote their life to God
- 2)
 - Homosexuality is prohibited in the Old Testament (e.g. Leviticus 18:22)
 - Some homosexuality is prohibited in the New Testament letters, and some include it as including homosexual sex
 - Being homosexual is not seen as a sin, if people do not act on their inclination
 - Sex is for procreation, and homosexual sex cannot lead to procreation
 - Homosexual couples will undermine the role of the traditional family in society
- 3)
 - Some see homosexuality as a sin in itself (see above paragraph)
 - Evangelical Christians may believe that if people pray to God, he will help them overcome their homosexual inclination
- 4)
 - Some Protestants (and other Christians) may feel that being loving is the most important thing in the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)
 - Some Christians may feel that everyone sins against God, and homosexuals should not be stigmatised, as Jesus taught not to judge others (“Or how can you say to your brother, ‘speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:4) and the adulterous woman in John 8)
 - Some Christians may think that the commandments against homosexuality need to be followed anymore because of Jesus annulling the law – Christian requirements and many of the other laws (for example, the Sabbath)
 - Jesus did not say anything against homosexuality
- 5)
 - Even if homosexuality should be allowed, marriage is between a man and a woman according to the Bible (see e.g. Genesis 2:24 and Mark 10:6-9)
 - The Catholic Church believes one important purpose of marriage is procreation
 - If churches allow homosexual marriage, this may mean that vicars/pastors will be forced to perform homosexual marriages or face lawsuits
 - (Some Christians feel that Church teaching is out of date, and same-sex couples should be able to celebrate loving same-sex relationships.)
- 6)
 - Islam condemns homosexuality and those who have homosexual relationships
 - The Qur’an and shari’ah law forbid homosexual activity and it is punishable
 - Some modern Muslims accept homosexuality and homosexual relationships
 - Some Muslims see homosexuality as out of date

Activity 2– Sexual Relationships before and outside of Marriage & Cohabitation

- 1) b Adultery
- 2) c They think love is the most important thing
- 3) e Cohabitation is a bad idea because it encourages people to go off their guard and have sex before they are married
- 4) a Wives should have sex as their husbands want, and have no say
- 5) a They think they will never be forgiven by God
- 6) d Cohabitation is more stable than marriage for children
- 7) a Protestant heterosexual sex
- 8) c Orthodox

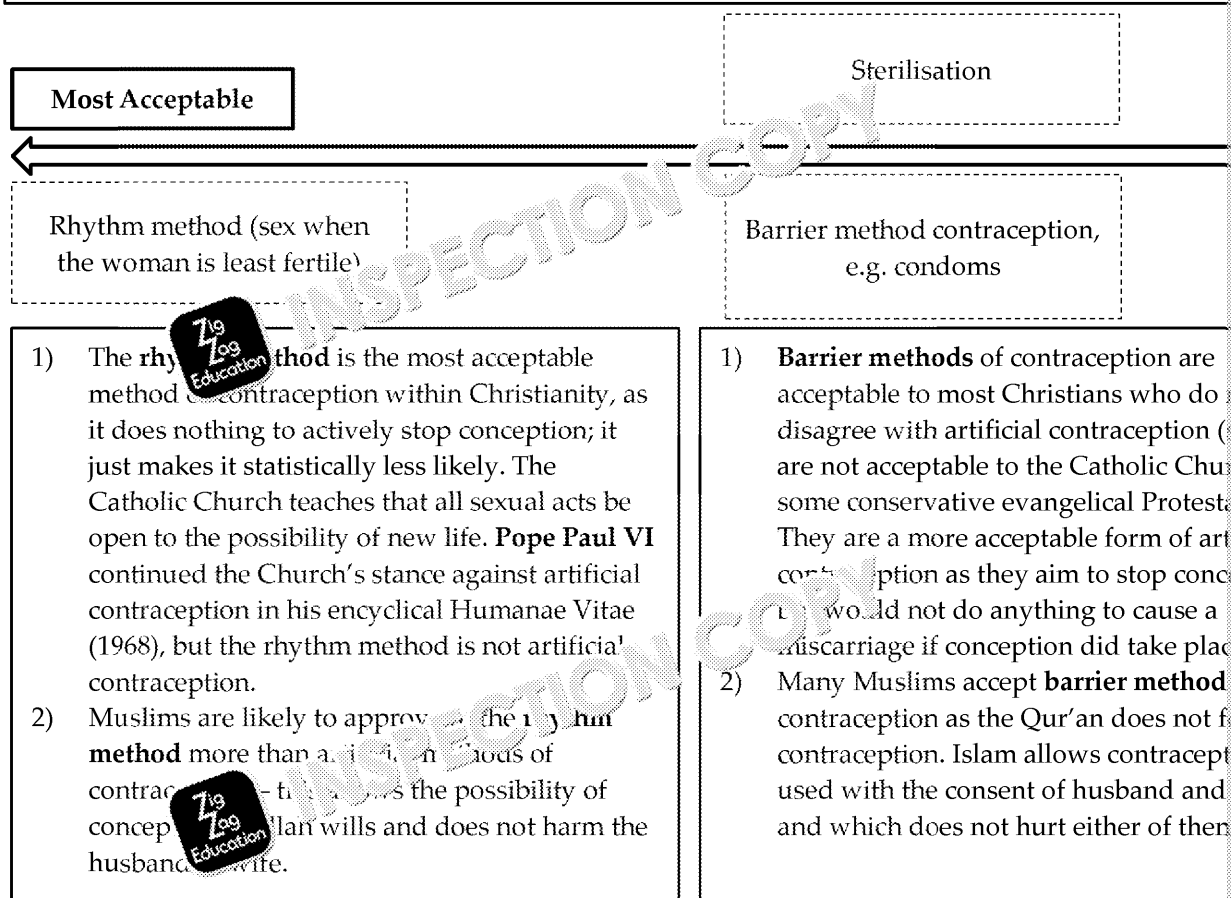
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Activity 3– Contraception and Family Planning

- 1) The Catholic Church forbids **sterilisation**, as a permanent means of contraception. However, if a necessary medical procedure produces sterilisation as a side effect (ovaries being removed due to ovarian cancer, for example) this is acceptable. Many Protestant Christians feel that sterilisation is acceptable, especially if it is saving a family, but others may disagree if they think there should always be a possibility that conception could take place in the future. Many Protestant Christians agree with various forms of contraception because they believe God created sex for married couples to enjoy and because they think they should be able to plan the size of their family. There is nothing in the Bible which forbids contraception.
- 2) Many Muslims oppose **sterilisation**, as they feel that ultimately children are a gift from God, and they should never prevent the possibility permanently.



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Activity 4– Nature and Purpose of Marriage

- c) A requirement of Christianity is the odd one out. This is because Christians are encouraged to get married – for example, some may remain unmarried to better serve God.
- d) Financial security is the odd one out. This is because marriage is not about money in Christianity, but about love and family. The purposes of marriage have been set by the Church.
- Quote a) is the odd one out, because it comes from the Old Testament, as part of the Law of Moses. The next two are attributed to Jesus, and the last two to St Paul.

Bible Quote References

‘When a man and a woman are married, he shall not go out with the army or be charged with any public duty; he shall be free at home one year, to be happy with the wife whom he has married.’

‘But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason the father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh and one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’

‘... when [people] rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage in heaven.’

‘... he who marries his fiancée does well; and he who refrains from marriage will do well.’

‘Wives, be subject to your husbands... Husbands, love your wives...’

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Activity 5– Sexuality, Sex, Contraception, Marriage & Cohabitation

Traditional Catholic View	E	Traditional Protestant View	A	T
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Modern Christian View	B	Modern Secular View	C
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Extension:

Possible answers:

- The tolerant Protestant view is held because tolerant Protestants think that sex with multiple partners is acceptable because this is taught in the Bible, but the most important thing is the God's will.
- Many non-religious people do not think sex with multiple partners is a problem because they have no concept of 'sinful' sex, if the sex is consensual. Because they are not trying to impose their views on others, the decision of those involved, rather than due to God's decision as to whom one should have sex with. They may not see marriage as important because cohabiting couples can also provide a stable family for society.

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Activity 6– Divorce and Remarriage, including Ethical Arguments

Example answers:

Advantages to divorce and remarriage / Reasons divorce and remarriage are acceptable			Religious
Christian	Non-religious	Christian and Non-religious	Christian
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God is forgiving and will forgive mistakes and failings, such as marrying the wrong person and divorce. While churches such as the Church of England expect people to be serious about marriage, they will accept divorce and allow remarriage. Jesus seemed to accept divorce and remarriage in the case of unfaithfulness (e.g. Matthew 19:9). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People should be able to be with whom they want to be with, and should never feel tied to anyone, even if they made a commitment. People should be free to remarry when they want to if there is no reason to believe they will not be happy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing divorce is compassionate. It may be better to be divorced than to live in a loveless relationship. It may be better to be divorced than to live with an unfaithful or abusive partner. Remarrying can be beneficial, as it allows people another chance at a relationship. Remarrying can be beneficial because it provides stability for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus taught against divorce and said that divorcees who remarried were committing adultery (e.g. Matthew 5:32, Matthew 19:9). The Catholic Church forbids divorce; churches may take a different view (however, the Church of England allows divorce and the cancelling of marriage, in some circumstances, if it was forced). Certain churches allow people to remarry after divorce. If marriage is seen as a promise to God, breaking that promise is breaking that promise to God. If marriage is seen as a sacrament, it is seen as more serious and marriage has sacredness so should not be broken.

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Activity 7– Nature and Purpose of Family

Possible answers:

- 1)
 - Families are important in the Old Testament, e.g. Adam and Eve had a family, Joseph and Mary had Jesus, Jesus' parents are very important in the birth stories at the start of Matthew and Luke, Jesus travels with his family to Jerusalem for Passover in Luke 2
 - Christians are described as 'God's family' in several New Testament letters
 - Ephesians 6:1–4 talks about families, children obeying parents and parents loving children
- 2)
 - Parents should love and care for children
 - Parents should teach children – in general and about faith
 - Parents are responsible for children
 - Children should obey their parents and learn from them
 - Many people feel that children should look after their parents in their old age
- 3)
 - To procreate, to have children, because God told people to be fruitful in Genesis
 - To provide a safe and caring environment in which to raise children (stable home)
 - To bring children up in the Christian faith
 - To care for the members of the family, to love and support each other
- 4)
 - So that children are safe and well looked-after
 - Because the family provides a basis for a stable society
 - Because it provides a loving environment for all
 - Because the human family reflects God's family
 - Because Jesus took part in family life, showing he approved of the family
- 5)
 - It provides all-age worship so that families can worship God and live out their faith
 - It provides Sunday schools to help teach children about God and the Bible
 - It provides baptism or thanksgiving services to celebrate the birth of children
 - It provides support at marriages and funerals and other family occasions
 - It may provide parents with couples or family counselling
 - Members of the church may help families with childcare responsibilities

Activity 8– Types of Family

Am I likely to contain two parents who are the biological parents of all the children in the family?

Yes Nuclear, Extended

No Single-parent (not two); Same-sex (impossible to procreate without male partner); Blended (each parent may have their own children, but at least one has had a child with a partner)

Am I likely to contain two parents?

Yes Nuclear, Same-sex, Extended, Blended

No Single-parent

As they are, is it possible for the parents in the family to conceive naturally?

Yes Nuclear, Extended, Blended

No Single-parent (needs a partner/fertility treatment); Same-sex

Does this type of family involve extra relatives than parents and children?

Yes Extended (grandparents, etc.)

No Nuclear, Single-parent, Same-sex, Blended

Does this family contain children who are not biologically related to the parents?

Yes Same-sex, Blended (parent has children from previous relationships)

No Nuclear, Extended, Single-parent

Am I possibly formed by bereavement?

Yes Single-parent (may have lost partner); Extended (a family member may be bereaved, e.g. a grandparent or aunt/uncle); Blended (a bereaved partner in a new family)

No Nuclear, Same-sex

Extension – Possible answers:

Nuclear

- Christians approve of a family with two parents and children
- Christians may disapprove if the couple are unmarried

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Single-parent

- Christians may approve if one partner raises their child(ren) alone after a bereavement
- Christians may disapprove if someone is a single parent due to being promised a relationship when they conceived, or if they have left their spouse

Same-sex

- Christians may approve if a same-sex couple have given an unwanted child a home
- Christians may disapprove of a same-sex couple in general, or if they are not good models of both genders in their life

Extended

- Christians may approve of families where all relatives and helping each other
- Christians may not approve of extended family members scrounging off their relatives

Blended

- Christians may approve that bereaved or separated partners have formed a new family
- Christians may disapprove if a child has lost a parent and then raised by a step-parent
- Christians may disapprove of divorced partners remarrying

Activity 9– Contemporary Family Issues

Same-sex parents are parents of the same gender – a **homosexual** couple with children. They may have children **naturally**, so they have several different ways of becoming parents. One of the women could become pregnant using donated sperm (they might or might not be a same-sex couple, one of the couple could father a child via surrogate. There are several ways a **surrogate** could use their own egg or a donated egg from someone else. Only certain surrogates are allowed in the UK, and there are many laws governing this. Alternatively, same-sex couples can have children – this is now legal in the UK.

The children of same-sex parents may wish to meet their **biological** parents when they grow up. This can be difficult (as it is for heterosexual couples who have children with donated eggs/sperm).

Same-sex parents are not accepted by everyone in society. Many **religious** people disapprove of same-sex couples being parents, e.g. the Catholic Church feels that the **heterosexual nuclear family** is the only acceptable family in society. However, many same-sex couples are now parents, including some famous couples.

Polygamy is when one person is married to more than one person. In some cultures it is normal for men to marry more than one woman and in others for women to marry more than one husband (there can also be group marriages where men and women are married to each other). Polygamy is **illegal** in the UK, though the UK recognises polygamous marriages which have been performed in other countries.

Christians generally disapprove of polygamy. Some **Muslims** accept and approve of polygamy – men can marry up to four wives – providing he can treat them all **equally**.

Polygamy can result in **jealousy** of other spouses, and/or in children being able to identify their parents (if they have multiple households). There may be legal issues with polygamous families. The UK does not recognise polygamy.

However, polygamous families can help to control the size of the population, and reduce the number of more **parent** figures.

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Activity 10– Roles of Men and Women

Possible annotation, and possible alterations and additions to improve the answer

Good reference to Mary and her role as a real-life example



Good to give different attitudes, rather than just one point of view

'Christians who think there should be gender roles justified in thinking this.' Evaluate this statement. (12 marks)

¹ Some Christians think that women should be **subordinate** to men because St Paul said that husbands should be in charge of their wives. ⁴ **Genesis 2** says that woman was created after man. They also think that the woman's role is in the home as a mother, because this is traditional and because Mary is an important figure within Christianity and she is important because she was Jesus' mother. ⁵

Some Christians do not think that men and women should have different roles in the family because St. Paul said that gender does not matter to Jesus/God ⁶ and because Jesus was kind to women. ^{7, 8, 9, 10, 11}

- 1) The answer could refer to the term 'gender role' more explicitly in the answer by saying 'Some Christians think that men and women have different gender roles that women should be subordinate to men...'
- 2) The answer could add that St Paul said husbands should be in charge of their wives and quote it.
- 3) The answer could explain why woman being created after man was important as a companion for man.
- 4) It might be worth saying that in Genesis 1 the **creation** of man being created first.
- 5) It is very important that the answer says that the roles are justified! The Christian attitude seems justified because Christians follow the teachings of the Bible assign men and women different roles.'
- 6) It would be good to justify what St Paul said, with a reference to Galatians 3:28 and **feeling** that all of you are one in Christ Jesus' (NRSV), and use this to say that if we are all one in God, then gender should not affect someone's role.
- 7) It would be good to give an example of Jesus interacting with women in a family. Jesus supporting a woman called Mary listening to him rather than helping him with tasks in Luke 10:38–42.
- 8) Again, it is important to justify that these Christian attitudes to gender roles are justified.
- 9) The answer could refer to non-religious views, e.g. gender roles are justified because of differences between genders, or there is no reason for gender roles as religious views.
- 10) This answer only talks about gender roles in the family – it could also refer to gender roles in the church, and whether they should be allowed to be ordained or not.
- 11) There is no conclusion, or personal opinion, which is asked for in the question marks – a good end to the question would be to say 'Christian attitudes which see the need for different gender roles can be justified by the Bible, but I do not think that the Christian attitude that there should be different gender roles is justified overall. This is because Christianity is a religion of love where Jesus is supported and so men and women should not have different roles. Also, Jesus did not conform to gender roles in the Bible, so I think that the religious attitude in the Bible is outdated.'

!



Adding the word 'equal' or 'equality' into the answer would be good as it shows the student understands the relevant terminology, as would using any other key words.

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Activity 11– Gender Equality

Possible answers:

- 1) **Not all / some** Christians treat women equally to men.
Bonus example: 'Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the church is the body of which he is the Savior, just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior, to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husband, love the church (Ephesians 5:22–25 NRSV) (for 'not all' Christians treat women equally)
- 2) Women are seen as spiritually **unequal** to men in the family.
Bonus example: 'So God created man in his image, in the image of God male he created them' (Genesis 1:27 NRSV)
- 3) Mary is important to many Christians because of her role as Jesus' **mother**.
- 4) Galatians 3:28 claims that there is no longer male or **female**.
- 5) Genesis 1:27 says that men and women were both created in the image of God. / 'male and female he created them' and women were both created in the image of God.
- 6) Teaching in the New Testament from St Paul about the different roles of men and women in the 21st century.
- 7) Men and women **cannot** do all of the same things physically. (e.g. childbirth)
- 8) The Catholic Church has **not** led the way with promoting gender equality. / The Church has been slow with promoting gender equality.

Activity 13– Summary: Revision Questions

Possible answers:

- 1) Christians might disapprove of promiscuous relationships, because the Bible teaches about monogamous commitment. Christians might disapprove of adultery because it may hurt the spouse of the unfaithful person and because faithful Christians disapprove of homosexual relationships, if they believe they are sinful because they cannot naturally produce children.
- 2) Christians may allow contraception because they believe that sex is given for pleasure and that people should be able to plan the size of their family.
- 3) Christians might not allow contraception if they believe that sex was given by God to be open to the possibility of conception.
- 4) Christians may marry to procreate and in order to enjoy lawful sex.
- 5) Christians might think that cohabitation is a bad idea because couples may be seen as committing adultery easily without necessarily thinking about the future of their relationship.
- 6) One advantage to divorce for Christians is that it might free them from an unhappy marriage. One disadvantage to divorce for Christians is that Jesus taught against divorce.
- 7) The purpose of the family for Christians is procreation, looking after children, and supporting their faith.
- 8) A nuclear family is a family made up of two parents and their children (who may or may not be biological).
- 9) Polygamy is marrying more than one person.
- 10) Christians might think that women and men have different roles in the family because wives should submit to their husbands in Ephesians 5.
- 11) Christians might think that men and women should be treated equally because both men and women were created in the image of God.
- 12) Christians might disapprove of gender prejudice and discrimination because it is not fair and it is not matter to God in Galatians 3.

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