

RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILIES

Adultery – having an affair

Age of Consent – the age at which a person is considered old enough to have sexual relationship

Annulment – the cancellation of the marriage

Civil marriage – non religious marriage ceremony

Civil partnership – the legal union of two people of the same gender

Commitment – the act of making a promise or pledge

Celibacy – refraining from sexual relations

Chastity – keeping oneself sexually pure

Cohabitation – living with someone without being married

Contraception – precautions taken to prevent the fertilisation of the egg

Contract – a legally binding agreement between two or more people

Covenant – a promise made between God and humankind

Divorce – the termination of the marriage contract

Extended family – relatives of the nuclear family

Family – parents and children as a group

Family planning – planning when to have children

Gender discrimination – acting no prejudices associated with gender

Gender equality – the belief that the various genders should have equal rights

Gender prejudice – judging someone unfairly due to their gender

Heterosexuality – attraction to someone of the opposite gender

Homosexuality – attraction to someone of the same gender

Nuclear family – Two parents and children

Polygamy – the practice of having more than one wife

Procreation – the biological process of a couple producing children

Remarriage – getting married again after divorce

Key Quotations:

Sex outside of marriage:

'You shall not commit adultery.'

'Flee from sexual immorality.'

Homosexuality:

'Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; it is detestable.'

'Love thy neighbour.' 3. 'Treat others as you would like to be treated.'

Contraception:

The sanctity of life.

'Love thy neighbour.' 3. 'Be fruitful and increase in number.'

Marriage:

'That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.'

'Be fruitful and increase in number.'

Divorce:

'Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.'

'Love thy neighbour.'

Nature of Families:

1. 'Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.' 2. 'Honour your mother and father.'

Gender Equality:

'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

'Love thy neighbour.'

'So God created mankind in His own image; in the image of God. He created them; male and female he created them.'

Framework for Evaluation questions:

- a. State your opinion
- b. Explain two or more arguments counter to your own.
- c. Explain your view countering these arguments
- d. Make at least one reference to religious teachings
- e. Conclusion: brief summing up

Criteria for questions 3 and 4

2 marks for detailed explanation of each point

1 mark for reference to scripture (Q4 only)

You can be asked to explain two **similar** or two **contrasting** views. Two **contrasting** views might be *two different reasons for believing the same thing* e.g. A Christian might be against capital punishment because Jesus emphasises that everyone should have the opportunity to reform as in the parable of the Prodigal son. A Buddhist might be against capital punishment as it contradicts the principle of ahimsa (non-harm) and executing a sentient being might lead to negative karma for the executioner.

Past Exam Questions

1. Some religious believers may use methods to prevent a pregnancy taking place. Which one of the following describes that practice? (1)
2. Give two religious beliefs about same-sex marriage. (2)
3. Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about the roles of men and women. In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. (4)
4. Explain two religious beliefs about divorce. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. (5)
5. 'For religious believers, sexual relationships should take place only within marriage.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
6. Many religious people live in nuclear families. Which one of the following best describes a nuclear family? (1)
7. Give two religious teachings about gender discrimination. (2)
8. Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about unmarried couples living together (cohabitation). In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. (4)
9. Explain two religious beliefs about the purpose of families. (5)
10. 'It is wrong to disapprove of homosexual relationships.' (12)
11. Which one of the following means a man having more than one wife at the same time? (1)
12. Give two religious teachings about divorce. (2)
13. Explain two contrasting religious beliefs in contemporary British society about sexual relationships before marriage. In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions. (4)
14. Explain two religious views about same-sex parents. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. (5)
15. 'Gender discrimination is always wrong.' (12)
16. Which one of the following describes the practice of having more than one wife? (1)
17. Give two religious beliefs about the use of contraception. (2)
18. Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about same-sex parents. In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. (4)
19. Explain two religious beliefs about sexual relationships outside of marriage (adultery). Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. (5)
20. 'Men and women should not have equal rights.' (12)
21. Which one of the following best expresses the religious view that one purpose of marriage is to have children? (1)
22. Give two religious beliefs about the nature of the family. (2)
23. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the use of artificial contraception within marriage. In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions. (4)
24. Explain two religious beliefs about the role of parents in a religious family. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. (5)
25. 'Divorce is never right.' (12)

Sample Answer

Question 23

Roman Catholics are against contraception as they believe that every sexual act should have the possibility of a child so to follow God's plan and to follow the Genesis teaching that man and woman should unite together to increase numbers. Buddhists may support contraception as it can be seen as family planning which is in the best interest of people so seen as right intention and right action from the eightfold path. If a couple does get pregnant but does not wish to, this could cause suffering which they wish to avoid as they must rid themselves of suffering as seen in the dhammapada 'he who has done to eightfold path to escape suffering' so support the use of contraception

