





AQA A Religious Studies Paper 2: Relationships and Families

Religious teachings about human sexuality


-  **Human sexuality**- how people express themselves as sexual beings.
-  **Heterosexual relationships**- between a man and a woman.
-  **Homosexual relationships**- between members of the same sex.

	Christianity	Buddhism/ other views
General attitudes to sexual relationships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teaches to not have sex before marriage- sex requires a deep, loving commitment. 2. Not all agree with this, but all are against being unfaithful. 3. Heterosexual relations are part of God's plan: Genesis teaches men and women should be united and 'increase in number. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Doesn't favour one form of sexuality over another, or teach that sex before marriage is wrong. 2. Most important thing for Buddhists is to not harm others through sexual activity. 'Sexuality is fully acknowledged... without the need to indulge in actions which lead to suffering'- Daishin Morgan.
Views on homosexual relationships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some oppose them as it goes against God's plan. 2. Catholic Church teaches it is sinful: '...that is detestable'- Leviticus 18:22 3. CofE welcomes homosexual relationships, but doesn't allow marriage. 4. Some do, and think they're just as holy as heterosexual relations. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not oppose homosexual relationships or marriage. 2. They are not morally different from heterosexual relationships. 3. Important to have consent and respect. 4. Many people in the UK believe homosexuals should have the same rights as heterosexuals (e.g. same-sex marriage is now legal in the UK).

Sexual relationships before and outside marriage



-  **Sex before marriage**- sex between two unmarried people. Common in British society.

Christian views	Buddhist views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shouldn't be casual/ temporary. • Anglican and Catholic Churches teach it is wrong. • Liberals think it is okay. • It is wrong to use people for sex, to spread STIs or risk pregnancy out of marriage. <p>'Flee from sexual immorality'- Corinthians 6:18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is acceptable. • However, it is wrong to cause harm to others through sex. • Some Buddhists wait until marriage to have sex, but usually for personal/ cultural reasons, rather than religious ones.

-  **Sex outside marriage (adultery)**- sex between two people where one or both of them is married to someone else.

Christian views	Buddhist views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against it- breaks marriage vows made before God. • Jesus forgave a woman for adultery but had to leave her life of sin (John 8:1-11) • Forbidden in Ten Commandments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unskilful as it involves deceit and is likely to cause harm.


Contraception and family planning


-  **Contraception**- methods to prevent a pregnancy taking place e.g. pill, condom or the 'morning after' pill (MAP).
-  **Family planning**- controlling how many children couple have and when they have them.

- **Catholics**- goes against natural law/ purpose of marriage. Sex should be open to creating new life. Only natural methods e.g. rhythm method.
- **Anglicans/Non-conformists**- allowed to space out pregnancies, to avoid harming mother's health. In 1930, the CofE approved artificial contraception. Against MAP as this is seen as abortion and a sign of murder. Prefer the pill/ condoms.
- **Buddhists**- accept contraception but not MAP- seen as killing and against first moral precept (may make exceptions, though). Prefer the pill/ condoms.
- **Atheists**- Accept contraception to help family planning as it's responsible.

Religious teachings about marriage



 **Marriage**- legal union between a man and a woman (or in some countries e.g. UK, the same sex) as partners in a relationship.

 **Cohabitation**- a couple living together and having a sexual relationship without being marriage. Common in Britain today.

What is marriage?


- **Christians**- gift from God, a covenant before God, allows possibility to create new life e.g. 'the Church sees marriage between a man and a woman, as central to the stability and health of human society'- House of Bishops of the CofE.
- **Buddhists**- social contract rather than sacred act, civil ceremony, can be same-sex, helps wellbeing of community and society by cementing strong relationships that provide support.
- **Atheists**- legal union between two people in a relationship, serious, life-long commitment, legal/financial benefits.


Cohabitation

Opposed by Catholic and Orthodox Churches (sex within marriage only). Anglican and Protestant Churches accept it. Buddhist teachings do not go against cohabitation or sex before marriage.

Divorce and remarriage



 **Divorce**- legal ending of a marriage. Allowed after one year if a marriage can't be saved. Reasons: no communication, adultery, violence.

 **Remarriage**- when someone marries again while their former husband or wife is still alive.

- **Christian**: breaks sanctity of marriage vows, marriage is a sacrament (Catholic Church), lesser of two evils, Protestants accept civil divorce and allow remarriage. Mark 10:11 says divorce is wrong by Matthew 5:32 says it's acceptable in cases of unfaithfulness.
- **Buddhist**: no teaching on it, most disapprove of divorce but clinging to something that produces suffering is against Buddha's teaching.

Responses to marriage problems: counselling, prayer, practice five moral precepts.

Religious teachings about the nature of families



 **Families**- people related by blood, marriage or adoption.

Nuclear family- mother, father, children. Most common in the West. Fulfills God's plan for men and women to be together and procreate (Genesis 1:28).

Same-sex parent families- some Christians disapprove but others, and most Buddhists, think it's important for children to be raised in a loving family.

Extended family- includes other relatives as well. People lived like this in Biblical times. Still common in Buddhist countries e.g. Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Polygamous family- when a man has two wives. Illegal in the UK. Goes against God's plan and can lead to sexual immorality. Buddhists disagree- can lead to suffering.

- **Role of parents**: love and care for children, encourage positive morals/values, educate about the faith, teach children right from wrong.
- **Role of children**: support for parents in old age, love and respect parents, keep traditions (Buddhism): 'obey your parents'- Colossians 3:20


Religious teachings about the purpose of families



- **Procreation**- emphasis in Christianity on procreation (making babies). No religious pressures/expectations to have children in Buddhism.
- **Stability and protection of children**- 'within the family we care for the young'- CofE website.
- **Educating children in faith**- Christian and Buddhist parents should be good role models and teach good morals and values. May go to faith school.

Religious beliefs about gender equality



 **Gender equality**- men and women should be given the same rights and opportunities.

 **Gender prejudice**- biased opinions about people based on their gender.

 **Sexual stereotyping**- a fixed idea/image of how men and women should be.

 **Gender discrimination**- acting against someone because of their gender.

Examples: some women paid less than men for same job, in Catholicism, women can't be priests, in Theravada Buddhism, nuns are seen as subservient to monks.

UK- gender roles are more flexible today, but prejudice may still occur.

Christian- all people created equal (Genesis 1:27). Discrimination is wrong.

Buddhist- women inferior to men but many today support gender equality.