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	1. Teaches to not have	1. Doesn't favour one
attitudes to	sex before marriage-	form of sexuality over
sexual	sex requires a deep,	another, or teach that
relationships	loving commitment.	sex before marriage is
	2. Not all agree with	wrong.
	this, but all are against	2. Most important thing
	being unfaithful.	for Buddhists is to not
	3. Heterosexual	harm others through
	relations are part of	sexual activity.
	God's plan: Genesis	'Sexuality is fully
	teaches men and	acknowledged without
	women should be	the need to indulge in
	united and 'increase in	actions which lead to
	number.	suffering'- Daishin
Views on	1.Some oppose them as	Morgan. 1. Do not oppose
homosexual	it goes against God's	homosexual
relationships	plan.	relationships or
retationships	2. Catholic Church	marriage.
	teaches it is sinful:	2. They are not morally
	'that is detestable'-	different from
	Leviticus 18:22	heterosexual
	3. CofE welcomes	relationships.
	homosexual	3. Important to have
	relationships, but	consent and respect.
	doesn't allow marriage.	4. Many people in the
	4. Some do, and think	UK believe homosexuals
	they're just as holy as	should have the same
	heterosexual relations.	rights as heterosexuals
		(e.g. same-sex marriage
		is now legal in the UK).

Sexual relationships before and outside marriage

828



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

Christian views	Buddhist views
 Shouldn't be casual/ temporary. 	 It is acceptable.
 Anglican and Catholic Churches teach it is wrong. Liberals think it is okay. 	 However, it is wrong to cause harm to others through sex.
 It is wrong to use people for sex, to spread STIs or risk pregnancy out of marriage. 	 Some Buddhists wait until marriage to have sex, but usually for personal/ cultural
'Flee from sexual immorality'- Corinthians 6:18	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
 Against it- breaks marriage vows made before God. Jesus forgave a woman for 	 It is unskilful as it involves deceit and is likely to cause harm.
adultery but had to leave her life of sin (John 8:1-11)	
 Forbidden in Ten Commandments. 	

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

marriage can't be saved. Reasons: no communication, adultery, violence.

- (Catholic Church), lesser of two evils, Protestants accept civil divorce and allow remarriage. Mark 10:11 says divorce is wrong by
- to something that produces suffering is against Buddha's teaching.

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. Fulfils God's plan for men and women to be together and procreate (Genesis 1:28).	Extended family- includes other relatives as well. People lived like this in Biblical times. Still common in Buddhist countries <u>e.g.</u> Sri Lanka and Thailand.
Same-sex parent families- some	Polygamous family- when a man has
Christians disapprove but others, and	two wives. Illegal in the UK. Goes
most Buddhists, think it's important	against God's plan and can lead to
for children to be raised in a loving	sexual immorality. Buddhists
family.	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

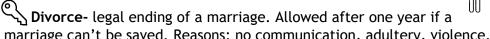


₽

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.



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

- **Christian:** breaks sanctity of marriage vows, marriage is a sacrament Matthew 5:32 says it's acceptable in cases of unfaithfulness.
- **Buddhist:** no teaching on it, most disapprove of divorce but clinging

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

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.

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

Cender 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.