

GCSE Religious Studies

Theme A: Relationships and Family Revision Booklet

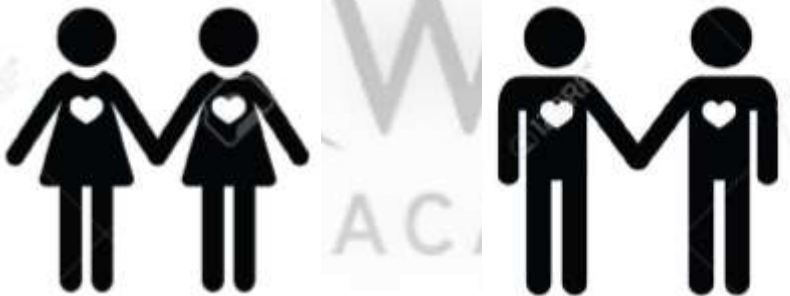


Sexuality

Heterosexual: Having/wanting sexual relations with someone of a **different** sex. E.g. Male and female.



Homosexual: Having/wanting sexual relations with someone of the **same** sex. E.g. male and male or female and female.



Celibate: Choosing not to have sexual relationships at all or for extended periods of time e.g. being a priest or nun.

Chastity: Choosing not to have sexual relationships for now e.g. waiting until you are married.

Sexuality Key words

The Age of Consent

This is when you are old enough **by law** to choose to have sex. **It is 16 for anyone in the UK.** Of course, people do have sex before then – but you are not considered mature enough to be responsible enough and it is **against the law.**



Adultery

This means having an affair. Somebody who has a sexual relationship with somebody else when they are already married is committing adultery.



Types of Contraception

Contraception is the deliberate attempt to prevent a pregnancy, using artificial or natural methods.

Artificial Methods




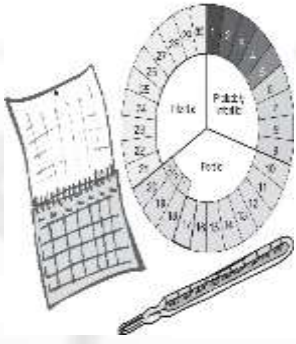
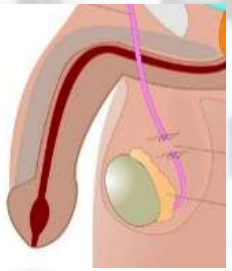
Contraceptive devices which are made and then used. They are actual physical things that can help prevent pregnancy.

Natural Methods

This involves contraceptive practices or behaviours aimed at limiting the chance of pregnancy.

Permanent Methods

These are operations that prevent the production of sex cells (sperm and eggs). They last forever.

	Name	Description	Type?
	<p>Condom</p>	<p>Provides a barrier between the sperm and the egg. A 'barrier' method is exactly that – it stops the sperm getting to the egg. It can also prevent the spread of STD's If used correctly, condoms are 98% effective</p>	<p>Artificial</p>
	<p>The Pill</p>	<p>The contraceptive pill is a hormonal pill which prevents the females egg from being released from the ovary. This way the sperm released during sex cannot reach an egg and therefore no pregnancy is possible.</p>	<p>Artificial</p>
	<p>Withdrawal Method</p>	<p>This is when a man withdraws his penis just before the sperm is ejaculated (released). This method can be very unreliable. You also run the risk of not withdrawing in time.</p>	<p>Natural</p>
	<p>Rhythm Method</p>	<p>The 'Rhythm Method' involves working out the fertility cycle of the woman to find out when pregnancy is most likely to happen. During the 'infertile' days you are less likely to get pregnant. However the possibility of pregnancy is still there. This method is often selected due to religious beliefs.</p>	<p>Natural</p>
	<p>Sterilisation</p>	<p>The reproductive organs are operated on to prevent either sperm or an egg from being released. This is a surgical procedure performed by doctors.</p>	<p>Artificial</p>





Christian attitudes to sex



Christians believe that:

- There should be **no sex before marriage** because St. Paul taught the **body is a Temple** for the soul – and by indulging in casual sex you are damaging your body (and your mind)
- They believe **fornication** (the sexual act between unmarried people) **is wrong**.
- Although some Christians think it is all right to live together if it is a permanent commitment.
- They also believe that God '**married**' **Adam and Eve** – he 'blessed them' before he told them to multiply **so sex before marriage is wrong**.
- Marriage is for the **purpose of creating children** within a stable relationship.
- Some Catholics believe that **God made sex for married love** and it should only happen to make children.
- **Adultery is wrong** because it breaks the 7th Commandment "Do not commit adultery"
- Lust is one of the 7 deadly sins and people should restrain themselves. St. Paul said if you cannot restrain your lustful thoughts you should get married – this is one of the purposes of marriage.

The Family

<p>Nuclear family</p>	<p>Two parents and their children living together.</p>	 An illustration of the Simpson family sitting on a red couch. From left to right: Marge Simpson with her blue hair, Bart Simpson, Homer Simpson with his red guitar, and Lisa Simpson.
<p>Reconstituted (blended) family</p>	<p>A family that has new people added to it, for example step parents or stepbrothers and sisters.</p>	 An illustration of a blended family. It includes Marge Simpson, a man with brown hair and a red shirt, Bart Simpson, and Lisa Simpson.
<p>Single Parent family</p>	<p>One parent raising the children in a home where they are the only adult in the house.</p>	 An illustration of a single parent family. It shows a man with a mustache and a green sweater standing next to two children, a boy and a girl.
<p>Extended family</p>	<p>A family with more than one generation living together. Grandparents, aunts, uncles cousins etc. all living as a family.</p>	 An illustration of an extended family. It includes the Simpson family (Marge, Bart, Homer, Lisa) and several other people, including a woman with blue hair and a man with a mustache, all gathered together.

The role of the family

Christian reasons for the purpose of the family

- To **educate** the young.
- To have your **first experiences** of human society.
- To encourage children to **follow religious ideas**.
- To teach **agape** and **forgiveness**.
- To provide an example of **community**.
- As a way to **care for** the very young and **elderly**.



Marriage is a gift from God; it's **part of God's plan for creation** that men and women should live together it provides a relationship through which husband and wife **support** each other; this relationship is built on **love and faithfulness**. It provides a **secure environment** for the bringing up of **children**.

Christian Teachings about the family

It is the duty of Christian parents to raise their children in the faith. Depending on their denomination, Christians are expected to ensure their children receive religious instruction, attend religious schools, participate in rites of passage ceremonies, e.g. christening/confirmation and attend church.



One of the 10 Commandments –

'Honour your father and your mother.' (Exodus 20:12)

'Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, **bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.'**

(Ephesians 6:4)



Muslim Teachings about the family



Muslim parents will ensure their children participate in rites of passage ceremonies and learn to read the Qur'an. In some religious families, father and mother have equal but different roles e.g. father working to support the family, mother at home looking after the children.

Scripture teaches Muslims to **care for elderly parents with kindness and respect because they loved and cared for their own children when they were young.** (Qur'an 17:23-24)

Duties of parents are expressed: '...a husband is a **guardian of his family** and is **responsible for it; a lady is a guardian of her husband's house and is responsible for it...**' (Hadith 3: 592)

The Prophet Muhammad said '**A father gives his child nothing better than a good education.**' This shows it is the parents duty to make sure the children are well educated.



The Purpose of Marriage

Christian beliefs



P = Procreation: men and women are created to have children.

U = Union: a loving partnership of living together supporting each other.



R = Rearing Children: Marriage is a place providing nurture and security.

P = Pattern for society: To teach forgiveness, love and commitment.

O = One flesh: Marriage is for sexual intimacy as an expression of love.

S = Sacred= It is a contract blessed by God.

E = Endless = Marriage should be a life-long faithful relationship.



Christian wedding ceremony

“The Husband should fulfil his marital duties to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. **The wife’s body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband’s body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife.**” (Corinthians)

Jesus said:

“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



A Christian Marriage ceremony

- **Hymn:** The purpose of the hymn is to focus everyone's minds on God. It shows that the marriage is done before God.
- **Declaration:** The witnesses and the couple ask if there is any reason the couple cannot get married. This makes sure that the vows will be kept and that the couple are entering into marriage with the right intentions. This makes the marriage legal.
- **Promises or vows:** The couple make their promises to God and to one another in the presence of witnesses. The couple have a responsibility to stay together and God will help them to do this.
- **Exchange of Rings:** A ring is a symbol of unbroken unity of the couple's love, trust, and devotion. It is a reminder of the promises they have made to each other.
- **Proclamation:** The couple are now husband and wife. The kiss symbolizes the first time that these bodies are united as husband and wife, and represents the seal of the bargain.
- **Prayers:** Prayers for the couple are said and often a talk or a sermon about marriage is given by the priest. This is a way of asking for God's blessing on them.
- **The register is signed:** The register is signed by the couple and witnesses. This is to record that the marriage is a legally binding contract. It shows to everyone that they have made a commitment to each other.
- **Closing worship:** Often followed by photos and a reception or party. Commemorating the day. Celebrating the act of commitment.

✝ Christianity

Christian wedding

Marriage is a sacrament in some Christian traditions; it brings a blessing from God. In the Roman Catholic ceremony marriage takes place as part of the Mass.

The couple will come to church to be united in marriage by the priest. He greets them before the whole congregation.

The priest then reads a *homily* (a moralising lecture) about marriage and what Christian marriage is.

He asks three set questions to the bride and groom to make sure they understand the responsibilities of marriage.



*'Love and cherish'
'For richer
for poorer.'*

The couple make their vows to each other.

The priest declares they have agreed to marry before God and accepts their decision. It is at this point he says: What God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

The rings are blessed and exchanged.



The priest blesses the marriage.

The couple sign the marriage register. This is the civil bit of the ceremony.



Islam

Muslim wedding

Traditionally, Muslim weddings last up to five days, because of the many cultural traditions depended upon which Muslim country or area is involved. We will concentrate on the actual wedding ceremony itself.

The ceremony, which would take place on day four of a five-day celebration, is called *nikkah*. It is always a simple ceremony and is performed by an imam. Most *nikkah* are performed at the home of the bride or groom, and not the mosque.

The groom has to declare a *mahr* (a dowry), showing his respect for the bride. It can include anything she has asked for (for example, money, clothes, even a house). The groom can pay this over time, and is not allowed to take it away; it is hers.



An imam usually leads the ceremony, but it could be any respected male. The bride does not have to be there, she will have given her consent beforehand.

Some couples take vows. They will have signed marriage contracts beforehand about what they expect from the marriage and what the rights of their partner will be.

The imam announces their intention to marry and asks if anyone has any objections. He also recites some verses from the Qur'an, and the *Nikkah Khutba*, which is about the purpose of marriage.

The consent of the bride is asked for three times by the imam. After it is given, the marriage is complete.

Cohabitation

Cohabitation is a couple living together as if married. The only difference is the couple **have no marriage license** and legally they do not have the same rights as a married couple (for example, to each other's pension). Not everyone feels the need to go through the marriage ceremony. People that choose to cohabit have sexual relationships, sleep in the same beds and behave as if they are married but just have not gone through the ceremony.



Civil Marriage

Civil marriage registration is about being married, but not through a religious ceremony. It is done at a registry office, and may include promises, but it is not religious. Since March 2014, same-sex couples have been able to marry, meaning they have exactly the same rights as any other married couple.



Lesbian and
Gay Christian
Movement



Civil Partnerships

Civil partnership is the legal registration of a same-sex couple. This means that in law they are treated as if married and they have many of the legal protections which a married couple are entitled to.

Christian view on Homosexual relationships

Most Christians believe the Bible to be the word of God and believe homosexuality to be a sin.

Roman Catholics



RC's believe homosexuality to be sinful. If someone is homosexual they have a duty to **remain celibate** so as not to live in sin. Sex is only to take place within marriage between man and wife.

The Church of England



The CofE is **divided** on this issue. Some may accept practicing homosexuals. There is a Gay Christian movement within the CofE. Some priests will bless civil partnerships but it is up to the individual and there is no church policy.

Quakers

Quakers in the UK **fully accept homosexuals** into their community and do not condemn those who have homosexual relationships.

“We feel that the quality and depth of feeling between 2 people is the most important part of a loving relationship, not their gender or sexual orientation.” They point out that in Genesis it says that **all people are created in the image of God** – which must include homosexuals.

Christian teachings AGAINST homosexuality

‘No man is to have sexual relations with another man; God hates that’
Leviticus, Old Testament

Direct teaching saying God is against male homosexuality.

‘Go forth and multiply.’
Genesis, Old testament

Homosexuals cannot multiply and this is what God intended for us/wanted us to do.

‘You shall not lie with a man as with a woman...those that do shall be put to death’
Leviticus, Old Testament

Death is a punishment for homosexuality

Christian teachings SUPPORTING homosexuality

‘Love your neighbour as you love
yourself’

Jesus, New Testament



**Treat others how you would like to be treated
e.g. let people choose who and how to love
others.**

Jesus never spoke about
homosexuality.

**Jesus hung out with outcasts and went against
many attitudes of his times. He did not think it
important enough to talk about homosexuality.**

Agape.
Christian love

**The Christian way to show love is to allow
people to have loving relationships with each
other no matter their gender.**

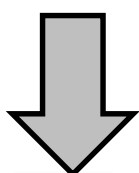
Divorce



Christian beliefs on why divorce is wrong:

- **The Old Testament** says that “**God hates divorce**”
- Jesus taught that no-one should break up a marriage: “**let no man separate what god has joined**”
- God blesses the marriage and the **vows**/promises were made **in front of God** and should be kept no matter what the circumstances: *To love & to cherish; for richer or poorer; for better or worse; in sickness or health; till death us do part.*
- St. Paul taught “**a man must not divorce his wife**”
- The Bible teaches that God intended people to be married “**one flesh**” and because he blessed/married Adam & Eve.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.” **Matthew 5:31-3**



You shall not commit adultery.

The 10 commandments





Catholics are **against divorce** because:

- **Marriage** is a sacrament – it is **a sacred act blessed by God** and only God can undo it.
- If the couple want to they can live apart but if they start to have a **sexual relationship with someone else they are breaking their marriage vows** and some Catholic Priests will not allow them to take Mass.
- They do accept an **annulment** which is the religious ending of the marriage – saying that the marriage never happened.
- The Pope has to agree for this to happen and it can only happen if:
 - one of the partners did not understand what was happening
 - one of the partners cannot fulfil the duties of marriage
 - if the marriage was not consummated (the couple has not had sex). This is because Catholics believe the marriage is not a proper marriage until sex has taken place – the couple has become “one flesh”.
 - To get an annulment the couple have to have a civil divorce.

Christian beliefs that **allow divorce**:



- The Old Testament teaches that a man **can divorce** his wife if **she commits adultery**.
- Jesus said that because it says this in the Old Testament **divorce was allowed for adultery**.

However he also you would be committing adultery if you married someone else whilst your partner was still alive.

- Some Churches allow it if marriage is completely broken down (abuse etc.) – they **see divorce as a necessary evil** and an **act of agape** (Christian love).
 - However divorce should be a matter of a **last resort** – the couple should have gone to their vicar for help and to counselling (such as RELATE).
 - Couples should also **pray** and remember their vows at the wedding.
 - Couples could also renew their vows and **ask for God's help** because he is there at the wedding.

Relate

Relate offer relationship counselling to all people, no matter their faith, sexuality or beliefs.

They are a **non religious organisation** that aim to help people have healthy and happy relationships.

Many Christians would support people using this service to help them if their marriage is unhappy.

How can Relationship Counselling help me?

For some people, we transform their relationships and their lives; for others we help them solve a specific problem and move forward with more confidence and less anxiety. Each session usually lasts 45 minutes to an hour, and your counsellor will ask you questions so that you can talk about what's going on and how you feel. They may offer you advice or ideas to try at home. If you don't like to talk a lot then they might try different things like drawing or mapping out your thoughts. It all depends on what's right for you.

relate

the relationship people

Accord

ACCORD is a well known, respected and experienced agency that has in excess of 50 years experience working with couples and individuals supporting them in their Marriages and Relationships.

ACCORD offers a professional counselling service throughout the island of Ireland, through its 55 centres, facilitating couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and work to resolve difficulties that arise in their marriages and relationships.

ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service provides Marriage Preparation courses for couples choosing to get married in the Catholic Church. We wish to express our congratulations and best wishes to you both as you prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.



Remarriage

Remarriage in a Church?

Reasons for remarriage in a Church

- Everyone makes mistakes and Jesus taught that **Christians should forgive**; also God forgives: *the parable of the Lost Son/Lost Sheep*
- The couple will work harder at the marriage this time.
- Maybe the divorce was not the fault of one of the partners – e.g. abuse so the wronged partner is allowed happiness.



Reasons against remarriage in a Church

- Marriage is seen as a sacrament – a special holy union and so it should be up to God to break up the marriage by death – not for the couple to change their mind and want to marry someone else.
- Jesus was against divorce “*let no man separate*” so therefore it shouldn't happen.
- Jesus taught that if you marry someone else while your first partner is alive this is adultery (7th commandment).
- The promises were made in front of God and therefore it is an insult to break them and make them with someone else.
- Christians should work at a marriage – they should remember their vows.

Gender equality



Gender equality is treating men and women as equals in every aspect of life.

Currently women are treated less well than men in many situations e.g.

- In the UK women get paid roughly £5000 (17.5%) less per year for the same job as men.
- Up to 30,000 women are sacked each year simply for being pregnant and each year an estimated 440,000 women lose out on pay or promotion as a result of pregnancy.
- At least 75% of mothers have primary responsibility for childcare in the home.

Religious teachings supporting gender equality

God created man **and** woman in his image (Genesis 1: 28).

“Neither male nor female, we are all one in Christ.”

Religious teachings NOT supporting gender equality

Cod created eve to be a **companion** for Adam because he was lonely (Genesis 2).

St. Paul taught that women should be **silent** in church and should **obey** their husbands.

For the **husband is the head of the wife** even as Christ is the head of the church.

Women and the Church

Catholics believe that women should **not be Priests**:

- the **twelve Apostles of Jesus were men**
- the priest at Mass takes on the role of Christ blessing the bread and wine and because **Christ was a man** a woman cannot take on this role.



- **Eve was the first to sin** thus showing that women are weaker than men.
- St. Paul said that **women should be silent in church**.
- However although they do not accept that women should take a teaching or leadership role within the church, they still believe **women can do other things in the church e.g. flower arranging, Sunday school etc.** Catholics also believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, played a very important role and often pray to her (Hail Mary, full of Grace)

Protestants believe women should have **the same role as men** in the church:

- Jesus had women followers .
- At his resurrection Jesus appeared first to women (Mary Magdalene)
- In his letter to the Galatians St. Paul said that everyone was equal in the eyes of God.



4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Question 3

The 4 mark questions in Theme A can be either:

- Explain 2 **contrasting** beliefs about...
- Explain 2 **similar** beliefs about...
- Explain 2 **contrasting** views in **contemporary British Society** about... You **MUST** discuss the main religious tradition of GB: **CHRISTIANITY**.

Contrasting views in **Contemporary British society** can **only** be on...

- **Sex before marriage**
- **Contraception**
- **Homosexuality**



4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Sex before marriage

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

Christian teaching generally is that sex should only be experienced within marriage, so sex before marriage is wrong. Sex is a gift from God, for the **purpose of procreation**, but also as a sign of their loving bond. However, this is a **gift to a married couple**. Sex before marriage is seen by many Christians as **fornication**, which is a sin.

St Paul said:

*'Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. **But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.**'* (1 Corinthians 7:9)

Contrasting belief 1

The General Synod of the Church of England recognises the variety of family forms today. It stresses that whilst marriage is the ideal context, sexual relationships must be **within permanent, loving relationships** (which allows sex before marriage).

Contrasting belief 2

The Quaker Society sees marriage as the ideal context, but accepts changing society norms. It accepts that a couple can be **faithful to each other in a loving, non-exploitative relationship outside marriage**.

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Contraception

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

The Roman Catholic Church's teaching on contraception is that **all sexual acts must be open to procreation – this is natural law**. Anything done to prevent natural law is wrong. In *Humanae Vitae*, the Pope declared that '**any act which deliberately prevents procreation is an intrinsic evil**'. Use of artificial contraception is a deliberate act, and that is a sin. The Church teaches that 'individual conscience' arguments used by anyone are simply 'individual disobedience'.

Contrasting belief 1

The Church of England does not regard contraception as a sin or against God's teaching. The Lambeth Conference in 1968 stated that **sexual love is good in itself**, and that there can be **good reasons for limiting or delaying parenthood**.

Contrasting belief 2

Islamic teaching from Muhammad ﷺ is that Muslims should practise **responsible parenthood**. They should only have the children they can care properly for.

4 mark CONTRAST Questions

The religious tradition of GB: Christianity

Homosexuality

Christian (general or denomination) – this is required by the question.

Quakers in the UK fully accept homosexuals into their community, and do not condemn those who have homosexual relationships.

*'Quakers were one of the first churches to talk openly about sexuality ... We feel that the **quality and depth of feeling between two people is the most important part of a loving relationship, not their gender or sexual orientation.**'*

The true consideration should be whether there is **genuine (selfless) love** between the couple. They point out that Genesis says that **all people are created in the image of God** – which must include homosexuals.

Contrasting belief 1

The Roman Catholic Church does not accept homosexual relationships. Church teaching classes homosexuality as an 'objective disorder' (only inclining toward sin), **homosexual relationships are a 'moral disorder' (committing a sin).**

Contrasting belief 2

Islam sees homosexuality as a **crime against Allah**. Under Shariah Law, it is punishable by execution. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:
'If you find anyone doing as Lot's people did, kill the one who does it, and the one to whom it is done.'

Paper 1: Theme A Relationships and family- PLC

This personalised learning checklist (PLC) is to help identify what and how to revise. The middle column asks how confident you feel about each topic.

Red – Help!

Amber – Not 100% but nearly there.

Green - Bring it on! I know this!

What you need to know	Red Amber Green	How can I revise this topic?
I can define key terms linked to sexuality e.g. consent, celibacy, adultery etc.		Flashcards Poster
I can list and explain different forms of contraception.		Mind map, colour code artificial and natural
I can give religious views (Muslim and Christian) on sex.		Label a stickperson with attitudes to sexual matters.
I can give reasons why people marry.		List, poster, mind map
I can describe the different types of family e.g. nuclear, extended etc.		Flashcards or poster
I can explain marriage ceremonies in religions (Muslim and Christian.)		Create a guide to each service
I can give different views on cohabitation and same-sex marriage.		Poster on each with opinions and teachings
I can explain the purpose of families.		List with pictures for memory link
I can suggest reasons why people divorce.		List, poster, mind map
I can give religious perspectives on divorce (Muslim and Christian.)		Flashcards showing arguments supporting and arguments against
I can give perspectives on remarriage including Christian and Muslim views.		Flashcards showing arguments supporting and arguments against
I can suggest reasons for gender prejudice.		Mind map reasons and statistics.
I can give religious views on gender equality (Muslim and Christian.)		Quote sheet, poster
I can give different roles of men and women.		Stick people with roles around the edges.

