

AQA Religious Studies A – Theme A: Relationships and Families

Key Words			
Adultery	Having sex with someone who is not your husband or wife, outside of marriage	Gender Prejudice	Holding biased opinions about people based on their gender
Artificial Contraception	Methods of preventing pregnancy e.g. condoms, the pill, the coil	Heterosexual	Sexual attraction to the opposite gender
Cohabitation	Living and starting a family with someone who you are not married to	Homosexual	Sexual attraction to the same gender
Divorce	The legal ending of a marriage	Marriage	A legal and religious ceremony joining two people together in love
Family Planning	Using a woman’s natural cycle of fertility to try and avoid pregnancy	Procreation	Bringing babies into the world
Gender Discrimination	Acting against people based on their gender	Remarriage	Marrying someone else after divorce

Key Ideas	
<p>Religious Views on Sexuality</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sexual Orientation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Roman Catholic church teaches that sex between people of the same gender is ‘disordered’ - They argue that homosexual relationships are banned by the Bible - Liberal Christians teach that Jesus wanted people to love each other and show mercy and that we should be accepting of homosexuals - Gay marriage is banned in the Catholic Church and Church of England - <i>“Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman” – Leviticus 18:22</i> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Adultery and Sex Outside Marriage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roman Catholics argue that all sex before marriage and after a divorce is unacceptable. Sex should only take place inside a marriage which is a lifelong, loving relationship. - Adultery means the act of having sex with someone who is not your husband or wife. - It is prohibited by the Bible and Christians argue it is wrong as it undermines marriage involves lies and secrecy. - <i>“You shall not commit adultery” - Exodus 20:14</i>
<p>Artificial Contraception</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Artificial contraception means using something to stop yourself from getting pregnant. This could be a condom, the pill or a device like the coil. - Family planning means using the natural cycle of fertility which women go through to predict when a woman would be least fertile. It is much less effective than artificial contraception. - God tells Adam and Eve (the first couple) to <i>“be fruitful and multiply”</i> (Genesis 1:2) which encourages them to have children. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Catholic Church argues that all sexual acts inside marriage must be open to procreation (having babies) and that a baby is a gift from God. They may use family planning as it is a natural method. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Church of England argues that contraception should be allowed so that couples can take time and consider if they want to have children.
<p>Marriage and Divorce</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marriage is a religious and legal ceremony in which two people make vows (promises) in front of their friends and family and (if in a church) in front of God - During the ceremony you agree to be together for life saying <i>“til death do us part”</i> (Marriage Ceremony) - Divorce is the legal break-up of a marriage. It is legal in the UK and many marriages currently end in divorce. - Many Christians do not like it as it is seen to break the promises made in a marriage. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Catholic Church do not support divorce. They believe that sex after divorce is a form of adultery and you cannot get remarried in a Catholic Church once you have been divorced. Jesus says <i>“if a man divorces his wife [...] he involves her in adultery”</i> (Matthew 5:32) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Church of England accepts divorce, especially if it is for reasons of abuse but you have to receive special permission to get remarried in a church. They might see it as a merciful option.
<p>Family</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Types of Family</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nuclear Family is a family with a mother, father and children – some Christians argue this is the ideal - Extended Family is a family where grandparents and other relatives are involved - Single Parent Family this is a family where one parent brings up the child <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Purpose of the Family</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procreation – the family should be for the purpose of having and bringing up children - Stability – the family should be for providing a secure, stable environment for children - Faith – the family should be a way of bringing children up as good Christians
<p>Gender</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender equality means that men and women should be equal and given the same rights and opportunities as each other - In the UK women can face gender prejudice and discrimination where they are not treated equality - The Catholic Church argues that women have a special role as mothers and they do not allow women to be priests - The Church of England has allowed women priests since 1994