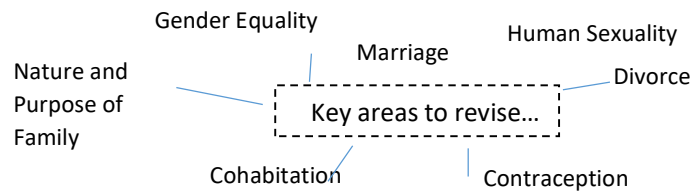


GCSE R.S. Revision
Theme: A
Relationships & Families



Adultery	Sexual intercourse between a married person and someone who is not their spouse (husband or wife)
Cohabitation	A couple living together without being married/in civil partnership.
Compassion	Sympathy and concern for the suffering of others.
Contraception	Precautions taken to prevent pregnancy and to protect against contracting or transmitting STIs (sexually transmitted infections).
Divorce	Legal ending of a marriage.
Extended family	Family unit comprising two parents and their children, but also grandparents, cousins etc.
Family planning	Planning when to have a family and how big a family to have by use of birth control practices and/or contraception.
Gender discrimination	Acting on prejudices against someone because of their gender.
Gender equality	Belief that all genders have equal status and value, so discrimination against any is wrong.
Gender prejudice	Negative thoughts, feelings or beliefs about a person or group based on their gender.
Heterosexuality	Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the opposite gender.
Homosexuality	Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the same gender.
Nuclear family	Family unit made up of two parents and their child(ren).
Polygamy	The practice of having multiple spouses (wives and/or husbands).
Procreation	Having a child; seen as a duty in many religions.
Remarriage	Marriage for the second time, after divorce ending an earlier marriage.
Vows	Promises made during a marriage ceremony.

Tip – You may be asked to compare beliefs between the main religious tradition of Britain and another religious tradition! Try and always make one view Christian to avoid losing marks.

Sex before marriage

Sex before marriage is now widely accepted in British society and is not against the law, although it is against the beliefs of many religious people.

Christian Views	Buddhist Views
For many Christians sex expresses a deep lifelong union that requires marriage and the Catholic church teaches sex before marriage is wrong.	For many Buddhists, especially in the West, sex before marriage is acceptable, as long as it does not cause harm to others.
Liberal Christians may feel that sex before marriage is a valid expression of love, especially if engaged or planning to get married.	Many Buddhists will still wait to have sex until they are married, but this is more personal and cultural than for religious reasons.

Same sex relationships

Many people in society are accepting of same sex relationships and feel that a same sex couple should have the same rights as a heterosexual couple. Same sex marriage is now legal in the UK since 2013, and the first gay marriage in 2014.

The Bible says 'Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman'

Different Christian views

- ✚ Some Christians consider same sex relationships to be wrong as a homosexual couple cannot have children in the natural way. **Roman Catholics** in particular do not accept same sex relationships and consider homosexual sex a sin- sex should only take place between a man and woman, and sex should always have the possibility of procreation.
- ✚ Other Christians are more accepting and many individuals from different Christian denominations accept homosexuality as God created everyone equally.
- ✚ Some Christians argue that the Bible was written so long ago that we need to adapt it to modern day society, and therefore consider loving, faithful homosexual relationships to be just as holy as heterosexual relationships.
- ✚ **The Quakers** fully accept homosexuals into their community ... 'we feel the depth of feeling between two people is the most important part of a relationship... not their gender or sexual orientation'.
- ✚ **The Church of England** is accepting of homosexual Christians who live in a faithful, committed relationship, but they are not allowed to marry in a church.

They refer to the book of Genesis in the Bible, where it says that all people are created in the image of God which must include homosexuals

Buddhist views

- ✚ The Buddha did not give teachings related to homosexuality.
- ✚ Many Buddhists would say that the five moral precepts apply as much to homosexual relationships as to opposite-sex relationships. Many Buddhists would be accepting of same-sex relationships, as long as they did not break the precept 'Avoid sexual misconduct'
- ✚ What matters is that there is consent and respect, regardless of the gender of the people involved. Therefore, they allow homosexual relationships.

Contraception

Contraception: taking precautions when having sex to prevent pregnancy and the spread of STI's. For example, taking the contraceptive pill or using condoms.



Many couples decide to use contraception so that they can decide when they are ready to have children. They might not be ready to have children because they consider themselves too young (or too old), they might be worried that they won't be good parents, they might not be financially secure or they are just not ready to be a parent.

✚ Buddhism	✚ Christianity
In Buddhism it is NOT an expectation to have children; it is an individual choice (but they should plan for a family responsibly). So many Buddhists would say that contraception is allowed as it is a way of controlling family size. Think- Why might using contraception, and planning a family prevent suffering (Dukkha)? What Buddhist precept does this relate to?	Roman Catholic Church: Every sexual act should be open to the possibility of conception (having a baby). They believe that using artificial methods of contraception (e.g. condoms) is deliberate and wrong because it prevents humans from following God's command to <i>"Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis).</i> However, Catholics may accept the use of natural forms of contraception, such as having sex when the woman is less likely to get pregnant (calendar method). Conservative Evangelical Christians: believe that sex was given by God for procreation and so every sexual act should allow for the possibility of conception to take place. The use of contraception is encouraged by many other Christians as it is important to only have as many children as you can properly look after. The Church of England: Does not believe contraception is wrong- it is not a sin. Contraception can be used to protect a woman's health.

Cohabitation and marriage

Why do some people decide to get married? Reasons might include:

- Because they love each other
- The couple want to show they are committed to each other
- Their religion expects that they should marry and start a family
- Pressure from their family
- There is a baby on the way
- Money

Cohabitation: This is when a couple live together, but decide not to get married.

Can you think of some reasons why people might decide to NOT get married?

Why do some people decide to get married in a place of worship? Reasons might include:

- They feel in the presence of God there
- It is traditional to get married (for example in a church)
- They want to make their vows in front of God

Maybe they think marriage is just a piece of paper?

Or it is too expensive?

☸ Buddhism	✝ Christianity
In Buddhism it is NOT an expectation to get married, although many may decide to get married for love and cultural reasons. There are no Buddhist teachings that say cohabitation is wrong, so Buddhism is not against cohabitation. However, what is important is that the couple follow the Buddhist precepts, including the precept which instructs them to avoid sexual misconduct. Marriage can help to build strong and stable relationships that provides support, protection and happiness.	Some Christians, such as Roman Catholics or Orthodox Christians are likely to disagree with cohabitation. They believe the couple should be married before they live together and start a sexual relationship. Marriage is also considered the best environment to start a family. <i>The Bible teaches that a couple shall marry and become "one flesh"</i> Other Christians, such as Anglican and Protestant Christians, might accept cohabitation, as long as the couple are in a loving and committed relationship. Marriage is seen as a gift from God, and the natural path for a couple.

Divorce and remarriage

Why might some marriages fail? What reasons can you think of?

<u>Christian view</u>	<u>Buddhist view</u>
Roman Catholic view: ✝ Divorce is wrong because marriage is a sacrament that can't be broken. The couple promised (in front of God) to stay together 'till death us do part'- these promises should not be broken. ✝ As divorce is not recognised, remarriage would not be allowed. ✝ Roman Catholics will allow an annulment- the marriage can be 'cancelled', as if it never happened (in special situations only, such as if someone was forced into the marriage) ✝ Other Christians feel that divorce is discouraged (for the same reasons as Catholics) but accept it as a last resort- sometimes it is the lesser of two evils. ✝ Many Protestant Churches are likely to accept divorce and allow remarriage. Some Christians feel that allowing someone to remarry is a good way to show forgiveness and allow someone a second chance for a happy marriage. ✝ Many Christians are accepting of remarriage and they recognise that it is a positive thing if someone has found happiness again. However there are different opinions about whether a remarriage should involve a religious ceremony. In particular, many Anglican vicars will not perform a marriage ceremony for a divorced person, but it is there personal choice. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said that adultery should be the only reason for divorce.	☸ The vows that the couple made to each other should be taken seriously and not broken. ☸ Divorce is discouraged and couples should try to resolve their problems. ☸ However, there are no Buddhists teachings that say divorce is wrong. ☸ It is recognised that in some circumstances divorce may be the right option for a couple. E.g. if the couple were causing themselves great suffering by staying together. ☸ There are no Buddhist teachings that say remarriage is wrong, so it is likely that Buddhists would be accepting of remarriage. The most important thing is for the couple to ensure they keep to the 5 precepts. ☸ Remarriage can be an opportunity to start a new, happy relationship.

Gender equality

Do men and women have equal rights? Are they treated equally?

✝ <u>Christian teachings</u>	✧ <u>Buddhist teachings</u>
Christians believe that everyone is equal and should be treated equally. Therefore discrimination (treating people differently) is wrong. <i>'God created mankind in his own image ... male and female he created them' (Genesis)</i> <i>'There is neither... male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians)</i> However, women cannot be priests in the Catholic Church (some might say this is because Jesus only had male disciples). Contrastingly, this is not true of all Christian denominations and the first female priests were allowed in 1992 and female bishops in the Anglican church were appointed in 2015.	The Buddha ordained female nuns as well as male monks (although some suggest he initially refused to do this). There are many female nuns today in some branches of Buddhism. Buddhist family life tends to reflect cultural and religious values and customs. Within Asian Buddhist cultures, for example, the male-lead family is the typical structure, with clearly defined gender roles. British Buddhists, however, might be more equal in their family roles. Most Buddhists believe that men and women are both capable of spiritual development and ultimately enlightenment. Many Buddhists believe men and women should have equal status, and where gender inequality still exists it tends to be in more traditional countries and cultures.

The Nature and Purpose of Family

What are families for and why are they needed in society?

Nuclear Family	A mother, father and children. The most common family type in the west. For Christians it fulfils God's plan to be united "one flesh" and increase in number "be fruitful and multiply".
Extended Family	Includes grandparents and other relatives as well. In other parts of the world today and in Biblical times, many people live in extended families for extra support.
Same-sex parent Families	When a gay couple raise children together. Some Christians and Muslims disapprove of same-sex parents as they believe children should be raised with a male and female role model. More liberal Christians and some Buddhists believe that it is more important to be raised securely and with love, regardless of the gender of the parents.
Polygamous Families	Polygamy is not legal in the UK. When a Christian Mormon or Muslim man in other countries are married to more than one woman. For many religious people it goes against the teaching of "one flesh" and God's plan for marriage between one man and one woman and can lead to "sexual immorality" as taught in the Bible. Not favoured in Buddhism as it can be the cause of suffering.

The Role of Parents

Encourage positive morals and values through being good role models

Educate their children about their faith by going to the church, temple, mosque and things such as daily prayer

Buddhists may teach devotion to the Buddha and the importance of the Five Precepts.

Love and care for their children / Teach their children right from wrong.

Christians may possibly send their children to a faith school and Buddhists may send their children to a monastery to be educated.

The Role of Children

Support and care for parents in their old age / Preserve the traditions of the family & religion

In Christianity to love and respect their parents "honour your mother and father" – Ten Commandments, Bible

Example Questions: 4 markers

(In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions)

- Explain **two** different religious beliefs about same sex relationships.
- Explain **two** different religious beliefs about sex before marriage.
- Explain **two** different religious beliefs about contraception.
- Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about marriage
- Explain **two** similar religious beliefs about remarriage.
- Explain **two** different religious beliefs about divorce.
- Explain **two** different beliefs about the purpose of families.
- Explain **two** similar beliefs about the role of children.
- Explain **two** different religious beliefs about gender equality.

Explain **two** contrasting religious beliefs about same sex relationships (4 marks)

Many Catholic Christians do not accept same sex relationships because they believe it is a sin. They believe it is wrong for two men to have a sexual relationship and sex should only be between a man and a woman.

However, other liberal Christians accept that two people of the same sex can be in a healthy relationship together. They accept that God made us all in his image and that Jesus taught the importance of love.

Example Questions: 6 markers

To gain the 5th mark, you must refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. Remember to state if the teaching/scripture is from the Bible, Jesus, Qur'an, Buddha, Dhammapada, etc.

These responses can include two different religions (Christianity & Islam or Christianity & Buddhism) or two beliefs from Christianity!

- Explain **two** religious beliefs about same sex relationships.
- Explain **two** religious beliefs about sex before marriage.
- Explain **two** religious beliefs about contraception.
- Explain **two** religious beliefs about marriage
- Explain **two** religious beliefs about remarriage.
- Explain **two** religious beliefs about divorce.
- Explain **two** religious beliefs about the purpose of families.
- Explain **two** religious beliefs about the role of children.
- Explain **two** religious beliefs about gender equality.

Explain **two** religious beliefs about same sex relationships (6 marks)

Many Catholic Christians do not accept same sex relationships because they believe it is a sin. For example, the Bible teaches that a man and a woman should "be fruitful and multiply", and this is not possible in a same sex relationship or marriage, showing that for some Christians Same sex relationships are against God's plans for humanity.

However, other liberal Christians accept that two people of the same sex can be in a healthy relationship together. They accept that in the Bible, God made us all in his image and that Jesus taught the importance of love.

Example Questions: 12 markers

- 'Only married couples should have sex'
- 'Religion frowns upon same sex relationships'
- 'It is wrong for a religious person to get divorced'
- 'Men and women should not have equal rights'
- 'Marriage is out of date in today's society'
- 'Couples should be allowed to remarry in a place of worship'
- 'Homosexual couples should be treated equally'
- 'Divorce is never acceptable'
- 'Sex has been devalued in British society'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you:
• should give **reasoned** arguments in **support of this statement**

• should give **reasoned** arguments to support a different point of view **against the statement**

• should refer to **religious arguments**

• may refer to **non-religious arguments**

• should reach a **justified conclusion** – is the statement true or false based on the evidence given, and why

Christianity Key Teaching & Scripture

“Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does a woman; that is detestable” – Bible OT

“You shall not commit adultery” – Bible OT

“Flee from sexual immorality.” – Bible – St. Paul

“be fruitful and multiply” – Bible – Genesis

When a man and woman marry they become “one flesh” - Bible – Genesis

“The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage – CCC

“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery”
– Jesus

“Honor your parents” – Bible OT

“God hates divorce” – Bible OT

“there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ.” – Bible – St. Paul

Buddhism Key teachings and Scripture

- Buddha never taught anything about homosexuality or contraception
- There is no religious requirement to marry or have children!
- Buddhism teaches that men and women can become enlightened
- Buddha did ordain women
- The role of parents is to teach them Buddhism and show metta.
- Five Precepts – Avoid sexual misconduct
- Middle Way – avoid a life of extremes
- Metta – Loving kindness