



GCSE Religious Studies

Relationships & Families

Workbook



Name:

Sex and Sexuality

People have sex for many reasons: love, lust, fun, money, to create life, etc. Society's views to sex have changed over time – as it has done with most things, however you will need to know both secular (what society says/does) and religious attitudes.

Age of Consent

This is when you are old enough by law to choose to have sex. It is sixteen for anyone. Of course you could have sex before then – but you aren't considered mature enough to be responsible enough and it is against the law.

Celibacy

This is when a person chooses to have no sexual partner. Either they decide to wait until marriage to have sex (chastity) or they will never marry and never have sex (celibacy).

Heterosexuality

People of opposite genders in a relationship

Homosexuality

People of the same gender in a relationship

Adultery

Having an affair (a sexual relationship) with someone who is not your marriage partner.

Sex Before Marriage

Having a sexual relationship before marriage. Some people feel that marriage is no longer relevant in today's modern world, choosing to cohabit instead.



Tasks:

1. Why might a person have sex?

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2. What is the age of consent?

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3. Why shouldn't you have sex before the age of consent?

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4. What is celibacy?

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5. What is chastity?

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6. What is heterosexuality?

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7. What is homosexuality?

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8. What is adultery?

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9. What is 'sex before marriage'?

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10. Why might someone choose to have sex before marriage nowadays?

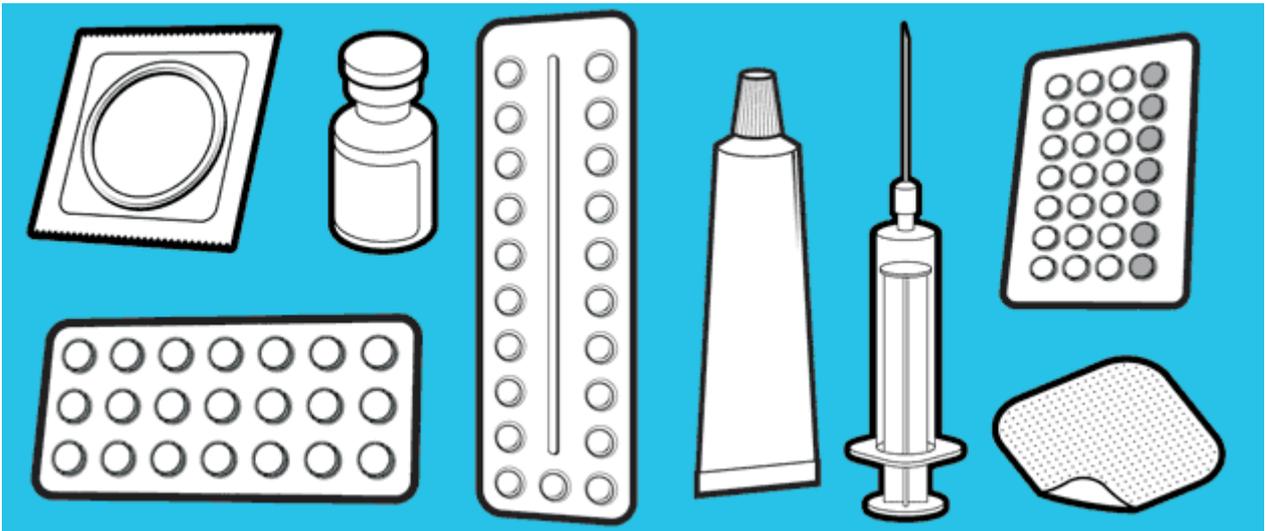
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Contraception and Family Planning

Contraception: Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant during or following sexual intercourse

There are two types of contraception:

- **Natural contraception:** This can include *Natural Family Planning*. This is when a person doesn't have sex during the time of the month when they are most likely to become pregnant. Natural contraception also includes the *Withdrawal Method*, where the man 'pulls-out' before he ejaculates. However this is an extremely unreliable method of contraception.
- **Artificial contraception:** These methods include the pill, injection or condom to prevent contraception.



Christian Attitudes to Contraception

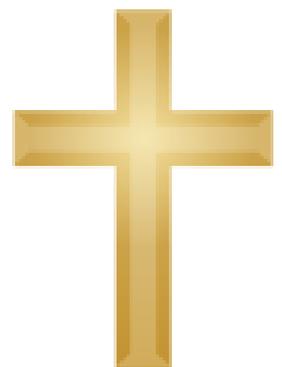
Most Christians believe that only married couples should have sex and only with each other. Chastity (not having sex until marriage) is a virtue. Attitudes to the use of contraception vary. In addition to views on contraception, there is a celibate tradition in Christianity for those who follow the monastic life, and the priesthood.

Roman Catholic:

The Roman Catholic Church believe that every sexual act must be within the framework of marriage; only married couples should have sex and the most important reason for sex is to have children. There should be a chance of pregnancy within every sex act. The Roman Catholic Church opposes artificial contraception. However, population growth is currently a debate throughout the planet, so some Catholics will consult their consciences when making a decision about using contraception.

Sex before marriage is called fornication, and is a sin. The same goes for masturbation, because it cannot lead to pregnancy.

For some Christians, homosexual sex is thought to be unnatural, and again cannot lead to pregnancy, so it is a sin. In places, the Bible also says it is wrong for a man to sleep with another man, which has also been used to show homosexuality to be wrong.



Many Catholics also want to enjoy sex without the worry of having more children that they can't look after or afford.

St. Thomas Aquinas developed a theory on **Natural Law**, which many Catholics consult when making moral decisions. Aquinas said there are some fundamental laws laid down by God and are the basis of how human should live and carry out their lives. There are five primary precepts:

1. Self-preservation/preservation of the innocent
2. **Continuation of the species** through reproduction
3. Education of children
4. To live in society
5. To worship God

From these primary precepts, Aquinas set out secondary precepts that fulfil and maintain the primary precepts. For example, the second precept says that we should reproduce, therefore contraception is wrong as it would prevent reproduction.



Natural Law should always be followed. If Natural Law states that we should continue the species, then contraception is going against that! - Aquinas

The Catholic Church takes an **absolutist** view of Aquinas's Natural Law, meaning that the rules Aquinas laid down should always be followed. Therefore, contraception should not be used as it goes against Natural Law.

Church of England

Natural Law is not an absolute set of laws, but a relative set of laws. God gave humans intelligence and creativity so that they can use their consciences to decide what is right in any given situation. There might be some situations where using contraception is the **moral and responsible thing to do**, e.g. where the parents already have children and cannot afford any more, or when considering global over-population.

In addition, contraception doesn't just prevent pregnancy, but the spread of STIs/STDs, so it is a good thing for this reason.

For some Christians, the use of contraception is to be encouraged as it leads to responsible parenthood.

Humanism

Contraception is allowed so that people can enjoy their lives and limit the size of families. Sex is regarded as an **expression of human affection** and love between two people and it has no religious or sacred aspect.

Science should be used to improve the quality of life for human beings, therefore is the use of contraception limits the size of families and leads to an improvement in the quality of life it should be used.



Tasks:

1. What is natural contraception?

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2. What is artificial contraception?

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3. What do most Christians believe about contraception?

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4. Explain in detail the Roman Catholic views about contraception.

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5. Explain St. Thomas Aquinas' Natural Law.

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6. What do Church of England Christians believe about contraception?

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7. What do humanists believe about the use of contraception?

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Buddhist Attitudes to Sexual Matters

Sexuality has to be put aside. It is about desire and craving, which the Four Noble Truths explain we must stop if we want to achieve enlightenment

Buddhism, in all its forms, has a very strong celibate tradition, with many monasteries and convents. The energy which might have been put into sexual activity is channelled into spiritual activity to try to reach enlightenment. Having said that, there are many lay Buddhists who live as families. Sex is seen as natural, but most rewarding as part of a loving, caring relationship, so chastity is encouraged. Couples should use contraception to limit their family size, and so practice family planning. This can also prevent the suffering of a new life, which is not forced to be born unwanted



Buddhism encourages people to follow the Precepts, including the Precept to avoid sexual immorality, including adultery. Breaking the precept will lead to suffering, causing bad karma. Karma is what determined the quality of the next life.

Buddhists do not condemn sex before marriage or homosexuality, as long as it is part of a loving, caring relationship. Where sex is just based on lust, like a one-night stand, then this is craving, which causes bad karma.

Tasks:

1. What do Buddhists believe about sexuality?

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2. Why is celibacy important in Buddhism?

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3. In Buddhism, how is sex most rewarding?

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4. What do Buddhists believe about contraception?

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5. Which specific Precept does Buddhism encourage people to follow?

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6. What will breaking the Precept lead to?

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7. What do Buddhists believe about homosexuality or sex before marriage?

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Hindu Attitudes to Sexual Matters

For a Hindu man, life is split into four Ashramas or stages. Sexual relationships can only happen in the second stage, which is that of the married householder (grihastha). For the other three stages, the man should remain celibate. This means that women also have sexual relationships only within marriage. Sex before marriage and homosexuality are both against the religion. Sex is seen as a gift from the Ultimate Reality (God), and must be treated with care and respect. It is for enjoyment and to have children.



Chastity is important in Hinduism and all are expected to be virgins before marriage, with their only sexual partner being the person to whom they are married. Two important Hindu virtues are self-discipline and respect, and adultery goes against both of these. Since adultery causes others to suffer, it brings bad karma to the adulterer, and negatively affects their rebirth.



Hindus do not object to using contraception; rather, they encourage it. Family planning is stressed, though Hindus need to have a son to carry out certain religious rituals and this often leads to less use of contraception. During the year, there are many days when couples should avoid having sex, for example, festivals, full/new moon, holy days. There are up to 208 holy days in total, and this obviously will act as a form of birth control.

Tasks:

1. Which Ashrama can sexual relationships happen in?

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2. What does this mean for women?

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3. What do Hindus believe about sex before marriage or homosexuality?

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4. What is sex seen as?

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5. What do Hindus believe about adultery?

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6. What do Hindus believe about the use of contraception?

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7. When should a couple avoid having sex in Hinduism?

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Muslim Attitudes to Sexual Matters

Islam does not agree with choosing never to marry or with monastic lifestyles. It is a religious duty to marry and have children. Every person should be a virgin before marriage, and observe chastity before and during marriage. Celibacy as a life choice is wrong.

If only those who are married have sex, then it is thought that society is protected, because all the issues linked to sex outside of marriage are gone. The message is very clear in Islam: only married couples may have sex, and then only with each other. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) spoke of sex as being special within marriage. He said it was a source of pleasure and provided the blessing of children from God, if the couple so wished. This means that Muslims can and should use contraception. Muhammad (PBUH) also said that couples should only have as many children as they could properly look after – responsible parenthood.



The Qur'an sets out specific punishments for those who have sex before marriage, or who commit



adultery, or have homosexual relationships. It calls these people 'fornicators' and punishment is severe (flogging if single, execution if married). This is still part of Shari'ah law, and a punishment used in some Muslim countries. In several places, the Qur'an specifically mentions adultery, always saying it is wrong: "Do not commit adultery. It is shameful and an evil way to act." (Surah 17:32)

Tasks:

1. Why do Muslims disagree with celibacy or monastic lifestyles?

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2. How is society protected in Islam?

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3. What did Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) say about sex?

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4. What do Muslims believe about contraception?

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5. For which crimes does the Qur'an set out punishments for?

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6. What are the punishments for sexual misconduct?

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7. What does the Qur'an say about adultery in Surah 17:32?

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Jewish Attitudes to Sexual Matters

The family is very important in Judaism. Anything which goes against this ideal is wrong. Marriage is highly recommended, whereas a life of celibacy is not. The Torah states that woman was made from man to be his companion. This is interpreted to mean marriage.

A sex drive is a healthy and sex within marriage is for pleasure and having children. The first command G-d gave was to be fruitful and multiply, which is understood to mean that couples should have at least one boy and girl. Different branches of Judaism have different attitudes to contraception. Orthodox Jews will accept it for medical / health reasons. They often use the pill because it



does not interfere in the actual act of sex, and does not directly cause the wasting of seed (forbidden in the Torah). Reform Jews accept contraception also for social or economic reasons, so use more forms. For all Jews, sex is forbidden at certain times within the menstrual cycle. This acts as a form of birth control.

The Torah lists punishments for sex before marriage, adultery and homosexuality,, which are all considered to be wrong. Jews are expected to be virgins before marriage and observe chastity all their life. Committing adultery breaks one of the Ten Commandments.

Jewish law calls homosexuality an abomination. Orthodox Jews still believe this, though they state that homosexuals should not be persecuted. Many Reform and Liberal Jews accept homosexuality if in a loving relationship.



Tasks:

1. What is very important in Judaism?

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2. What does the Torah state about how women were made and for what purpose?

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3. What was the first command that G-d gave to the Jews?

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4. What do Orthodox Jews believe about contraception?

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5. Why is the Pill the ideal method of contraception in Judaism?

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6. What do Reform Jews believe about contraception?

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7. What does the Torah say about sex before marriage, adultery and homosexuality?

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Sikh Attitudes to Sexual Matters

Sexuality is seen as a gift from God, because all beings have sexual urges. However, Sikhs warn against being controlled by your sex drive and believe it should be controlled by marriage. So sex before marriage is wrong, and Sikhs try to protect even against the temptation of it. For example, discouraging dancing with the opposite sex in case it leads to evil thoughts. In the Adi Granth, Sikhs are warned to avoid that which produces evil thoughts in the mind. Married life is seen as the norm and celibacy as a life choice is not encouraged. Chastity, though, is a virtue and highly valued before and within marriage as a form of self-control. Although most Sikhs see homosexuality as wrong (a form of haumai or selfishness) some accept it as part of what God has created in a person.



In the wedding ceremony, Sikhs make promises, including to be faithful. Those promises are made in front of God. The Rahit Maryada forbids adultery, saying the touch of another man's wife is like a poisonous snake, and adultery is one of the Four Abstinences of Sikhism.

When it comes to deciding on which contraception to use, Sikhs can choose for themselves. They are encouraged to follow responsible parenthood (only having as many children as you can properly look after). Sikhs would not use permanent forms of contraception though, except for medical reasons, since these change the body God has given you.

Contrasting Beliefs: Contraception

<p style="text-align: center;">Roman Catholics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All sexual acts must be open to procreation – this is natural law - Anything done to prevent natural law is wrong - The Pope said, “any act which deliberately prevents procreation is an intrinsic evil.” - Use of artificial contraception is a deliberate act, and that is a sin. Catholics should not use contraception 	<p style="text-align: center;">Anglican</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The church of England does not see contraception as a sin, nor is it against God's teaching - Sexual love is good in itself - There can be good reasons for limiting or delaying parenthood 
<p style="text-align: center;">Islam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Muslims should practise responsible parenthood - Muslims should only have the children they can care properly for 	<p style="text-align: center;">Judaism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orthodox Judaism accepts the use of contraception for medical/health reasons - The 'wasting of seed' is forbidden in the Torah, so the Pill is an acceptable form to use 

Marriage and the Family

Marriage is the joining of two people as a legal couple. When done religiously, it is done before God for God's blessing on the covenant.

Why do people marry?

People marry for many reasons, for example: love, money, family expectations, religious duty, to legitimise a relationship, to legitimise a child, for sex, for companionship, etc.

Some families expect a person to marry someone who their family approves of or someone who shares the same religion. This is not always the case, however.

Roles in Marriage

The marriage vows can help us understand the different roles within marriage. In marriage, a couple promise to each other, either through vows/promises or through a contract, to be good to each other through good and bad, until the marriage is ended by death. If you were setting up an agreement with someone about how you would live the rest of your life together as a couple, you would probably come up with the same or similar set of values.

Additionally, roles might include who keeps house (cooking, cleaning, etc.) who leads the upbringing of the children, or their discipline, who earns money for the family. Traditionally, the man went out to work and the woman stayed at home looking after the home and family. In our society, it is becoming more common for all these tasks to be shared by the man and the woman and even for them to be reversed from what is seen as traditional, e.g. a man who stays at home and a woman who goes out to work.

What is a family?

- Foundation for all human activity
- Where human relationships begin and develop
- Procreation, which develops new purposes and responsibilities
- Where children have stability and ensuring they have a good education
- Where children have a duty to obey their parents, which is a part of showing respect to them
- Where the norms and values of society are lived out and practiced
- Where new generations are brought up into adulthood
- Educating children in faith
- Same-sex couples who have a faith may also choose to raise their children within their religious faith



Types of Family

Nuclear

Two parents and one or more children living in the same house

Extended Family

Number of adults and children who are related living in the same home, e.g. aunts, cousins etc.

Reconstituted Family

Divorced adults remarried or cohabiting and may include children from the new relationship.

Single Parent Family

One parent raising one or more children alone. Increased rates of divorce has led to more single-parent families.

Childless Family

Married or cohabiting couple without children due to choice or inability to conceive.



Strong Stepfamilies



Contrasting Beliefs: Sex Before Marriage

Christianity

- Sex should only be experienced within marriage
- Sex is a gift from God for the purpose of procreation, but is also a sign of a couple's loving bond
- Sex before marriage is seen 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)



Buddhism

- Buddhism does not have marriage as a rite of passage- marriages are culturally-based events
- Sex before marriage is acceptable, so long as it is within the context of a loving relationship



Anglicans

- 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)



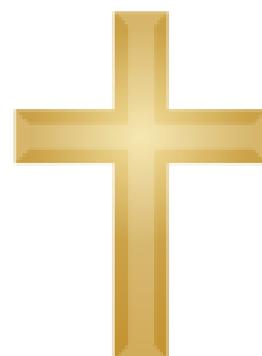
Quakers

- 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 of marriage.



Marriage Ceremonies

Christian Marriage Ceremonies



In some branches of Christianity, marriage is a sacrament; 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.
- The priest 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 the marriage.
- The couple make vows to each other, e.g. "to love and to cherish."
- The priest declares they have agreed 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

Tasks:

1. What is a sacrament?

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2. In Christianity, who are the couple united in marriage by?

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3. What is a homily?

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4. Why does the priest ask three set questions to the bride and groom?

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5. What is an example of the vows that couples say to each other?

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6. What does the priest say about the permanence of marriage?

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7. What part of the marriage is the 'civil' bit?

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Buddhist Marriage Ceremonies

- Buddhism does not have a set ceremony for marriage, so the ceremonies are completely non-religious.
- A couple will visit a monk to have their fortunes read and a lucky date is decided from that reading for the wedding
- Buddhists will follow the local customs of their country for marriage, which may include registering their marriage officially
- Later, the couple might visit the monastery or temple to invite a monk to bless their marriage. He does this by reciting verses from Buddhist scriptures. He also gives them advice about being a married Buddhist.
- The couple might then invite the monk to a feast, as a sign of their thanks for his blessing



Tasks:

1. What are Buddhist ceremonies usually like – and why?

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2. Who might a Buddhist couple visit?

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3. What will be decided from this visit?

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4. Which customs will Buddhist couples follow?

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5. Why would a couple visit a monastery?

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6. What does the monk give advice about?

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7. What might the couple do, as a sign of thanks?

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Hindu Marriage Ceremonies

- The wedding ceremony is part of a whole set of ceremonies, which lead up to and form the actual ceremony
- The groom, his family and friends arrive for the wedding to be received by the bride's family
- Under a specially built canopy, the priest begins the ceremony with a blessing on the couple. The bride and groom give each other garlands
- The father pours out sacred water to show he gives away his daughter, whilst the priest recites hymns from the Vedas. The groom also accepts his duties and responsibilities as a husband
- The bride and groom face each other. The end of her scarf is tied to his shirt to symbolise their eternal union. They exchange rings.
- Holding hands, the couple throw samagree (a mix of sandalwood, herbs, sugar, rice and ghee) into the sacred fire to ask for the deities' blessing on their marriage
- The bride and groom walk three times round the fire, reciting hymns and prayers
- At the end of the circuit of the fire, they both step onto a stone to pray they their marriage will be strong like the stone
- They then take seven steps round the fire, and with each one make a wedding promise
- The ceremony ends with a prayer that the marriage cannot be broken



Tasks:

1. What is a Hindu wedding a part of?

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2. What happens under the canopy?

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3. Why does the father pour out sacred water?

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4. Why does the bride tie the end of her scarf to the groom's shirt?

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5. What is samagree?

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6. What do the couple do whilst walking around the fire?

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7. What does the ceremony end with?

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Muslim Marriage Ceremonies

- Traditionally, Muslim weddings last up to five days, because of the many cultural traditions depending upon which Muslim country or area is involved.
- 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 or 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 males. The bride does not have to be there, she will have given her consent beforehand
- Some couples take vows. They will have signed marriage contract 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



Tasks:

1. How many days do Muslim weddings traditionally last?

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2. What is 'nikkah'?

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3. What is a 'mahr'?

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4. Who usually leads the ceremony?

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5. What will have been signed beforehand?

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6. What is the Nikkah Khutba about?

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7. How many times must the bride give consent?

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Jewish Marriage Ceremonies

- Jewish weddings begin with the signing of the ketubah (wedding contract) in front of four witnesses. It details the legal terms of the marriage
- The bridegroom places a veil over the bride's face, to show he will protect and look after his wife
- They go to the chuppah (wedding canopy), where the bride walks around the groom up to seven times
- They drink a glass of wine; the first of seven to represent the seven days of creation, and the start of the building of a marriage
- A ring is given to the bride or rings are exchanged. Rings must be an undecorated, unbroken circle, showing the hope for a harmonious marriage
- The rabbi makes a speech about the responsibilities of marriage, and about the couple. Prayers will be said. The cantor will sing



- Finally, the groom crushes a glass under his foot to remember the destruction of the temple, but also to hope that bad luck will not come to the marriage. With this act, the marriage is complete.



Tasks:

1. What is a ketubah?
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2. What is the symbolism of placing a veil over the bride's face?
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3. What is a chuppah?
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4. What do the seven glasses of wine represent?
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5. What does the ring represent?
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6. What does the rabbi make a speech about?
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7. Why does the groom crush a glass with his foot?
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Sikh Marriage Ceremonies

- Sikh marriage is called anand karaj. Only Sikhs can have this ceremony. Anyone who is a full Khalsa Sikh can lead the ceremony
- The groom listens to kirtan in the gurdwara as he waits for his bride to arrive. When she arrives she sits on his left in front of the Guru Granth Sahib
- The Ardas prayer will be said to begin the ceremony. This prayer begins and ends all ceremonies
- The end of the scarf is placed in the hands of the bride, whilst four lavan (verses of a hymn written by the fourth Guru, Guru Ram Das) from the Guru Granth Sahib are read
- When the second lavan is reached, the couple stand, and groom first, walk slowly around the Guru Granth Sahib. They do this for each lavan
- The Ragis read out the Anand Sahib, and a randomly chosen hymn from the Guru Granth Sahib is read out
- The ceremony ends with the Ardas prayer, and the distribution of karah parshad (blessed food) to all



Tasks:

1. What is Sikh marriage called?

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2. When the bride arrives, where does she sit?

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3. What begins and ends all Sikh ceremonies?

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4. What do the couple do for each lavan?

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5. What does the Ragis read out?

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6. What is distributed at the end of the ceremony?

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Cohabitation and Same-Sex Marriage

Cohabitation is 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 marriage couple (for example, to each other's pension). Not everyone feels the need to go through the marriage ceremony.

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.

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.

Different Attitudes to Marriage and Cohabitation

- Marriage is just a piece of paper
- Marriage gives the couple protection if the relationship fails, but also tax benefits whilst in the relationship
- Same-sex couples can become legal next-of-kins because of Civil Partnership
- If a couple love each other, then marriage is key. Marriage is the only appropriate setting for sexual relationships and having children
- Cohabitation is important to find out whether you are compatible with your partner, without making the commitment of marriage

Contrasting Beliefs: Homosexual Relationships

Quakers

- 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
- The quality and depth of feeling between two people is the most important part of a loving relationship, not their gender or sexual orientation
- There should be genuine, selfless love between the couple
- Genesis says that all are created in the image of God – including homosexuals



Roman Catholics

- Does not accept homosexual relationships
- Homosexuality is an 'objective disorder' (only leading towards sin)
- Homosexual relationships are a 'moral disorder' (committing a sin)



Divorce

Many marriages fail and are legally dissolved. This is what is meant by the term 'divorce'. In the UK, more than one in three first marriages ends in divorce. Marriages fail because of many difficulties, which may put a strain on the marriage. For example, money, arguments, different attitudes or beliefs, affairs, illness, job issues, abuse, etc. when those difficulties become too great for one or both to cope with, they might turn to divorce as a solution.



Should it be easy to get a divorce?

Many religious people believe that divorce is always wrong. Many of them do see a need for divorce, but feel that it should not be an easy option as this might encourage people to not even try at their marriage. In 1969 the Church of England was key in getting the divorce laws relaxed. The situation at the time meant that people were living in loveless marriages, or separating and being unable to move on. Jesus taught compassion, forgiveness and second chances – allowing divorce is compatible with that. Religions argue that people made a serious commitment, so they should work hard at their marriage and work even harder when it is in difficulty. Divorce should only be the last option.

Support for marriages in difficulty

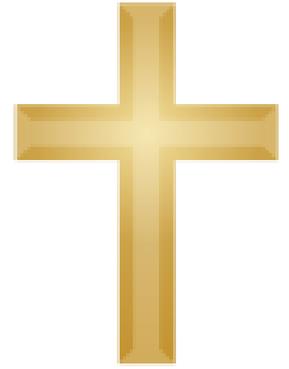
Since divorce is not a welcome option, religions try to support couples in these times. Obviously, families will support them, for example, look after the children, listen and help them solve problems, and so on. Religious people will also do those things, but they might also encourage them through their religion, such as through prayer, reading holy books, and so on.

UK society also provides marriage counselling services, which allow couples to try to talk through problems or to come to amicable agreements ahead of divorce. This is important because many people feel anger and negative emotions when their relationship ends, which they need help to get through.



Christian Attitudes to Divorce

For Roman Catholics, divorce is always wrong. Marriage is a sacrament, which cannot be broken. Promises are made to God and each other to stay together 'until death do us part', and these promises are binding. It is possible to have an annulment, which is where the marriage is set aside, as if it was never real.



For most other Christians, divorce is discouraged, but accepted as a last resort. It is sometimes the lesser of two evils, and also a necessary evil so divorcees should not be made villains.

Christianity teaches:

- God hates divorce (Old Testament)
- 'Whoever divorces...then marries another; it is as if he committed adultery' – Jesus
- We should forgive those who wrong us, and show love to all – Jesus

Tasks:

1. What do Roman Catholics believe about divorce?

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2. What promise is made to God that cannot be broken?

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3. What do other Christians believe about divorce?

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4. What does Christianity teach about divorce?

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Buddhist Attitudes to Divorce

Any vows made are serious and should not be broken easily. Marriage is seen as a thing which keeps society stable, and divorce is discouraged. It is not against Buddhist teachings though.

Buddhism teaches:

- Keep the Five Precepts
- Be compassionate
- Thoughts, deeds and actions should always be positive, because they have a karmic value which shapes our next lifetime



Divorce has to be seen as the right option. If two people are causing themselves and others great suffering by staying together, this breaks Precepts, creates bad karma and goes against Buddhist principles of compassion and ahimsa.

Tasks:

1. What do Buddhists believe about the marriage vows?

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2. Explain what Buddhism teaches about divorce.

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Hindu Attitudes to Divorce

Hindu law forbids divorce to the Brahmin caste, but it is available to all others. It does happen throughout Hindu society, though is frowned upon.

Hinduism teaches:

- "I promise never to abandon her, whatever happens" – wedding vow
- Marriage is one of the greatest spiritual stages in life
- Divorce is granted for specific reasons – Hindu Marriage Act (1955) and Manusmriti scriptures



The Manusmriti scriptures said that a man couple replace any wife who was quarrelsome or difficult; the law allows for divorce in the case of cruelty, non-production of children and other reasons. However, divorce is not common and it carries great stigma and it is especially difficult for women who have been divorced. Couples tend to stay together because of these pressures.

Tasks:

1. Which caste is forbidden to divorce in Hindu law?

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2. Explain what Hinduism teaches about divorce.

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Muslim Attitudes to Divorce

Divorce is acceptable to both men and women. However, it is seen as the absolute last resort. Islam teaches:

- o Marry and do not divorce; the throne of Allah shakes due to divorce (Hadith)
- o If you fear a breach between a man and his wife, appoint two arbiters (Qur'an)



A Muslim couple and their families are expected to work hard to fix any problems in a marriage to avoid divorce. There has to be mediation between them, and they have to give time for reflection and to solve problems. If divorce is still the solution, then the man states, "I divorce you" three times before witnesses. He must then wait three months – to be sure his wife is not pregnant, and perhaps to resolve the problems. After that, he must pay the second part of the dowry to show the marriage has ended.

Tasks:

1. What is divorce seen as in Islam?

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2. Explain what Islam teaches about divorce.

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Sikh Attitudes to Divorce

Divorce is not the Sikh way, but is accepted by the faith. Sikhism teaches:

- ❖ Marriage is a sacrament
- ❖ Marriage is the union of two should and a lifelong commitment
- ❖ If the husband and wife dispute, their concern for their children should reunite them (Adi Granth)



If marriage is in difficulty, both families will try to help solve the problems – after all, given this was likely to have been an arranged marriage, its collapse reflects badly on the families as well as the couple. Divorce carries a stigma, and is avoided if possible. It is a matter for a person's individual conscience.

Tasks:

1. What do Sikhs believe about marriage?

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2. IF the husband and wife are in conflict, what should reunite them?

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3. Why do both families of a married couple try to solve the problem?

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Remarriage

This is when a person marries a different partner after a divorce from someone else; this is their second (or more) marriage. It is also sometimes the case that people who divorced later remarry each other. Some people talk about marriage after the death of a partner as being remarriage, others call this a second marriage.

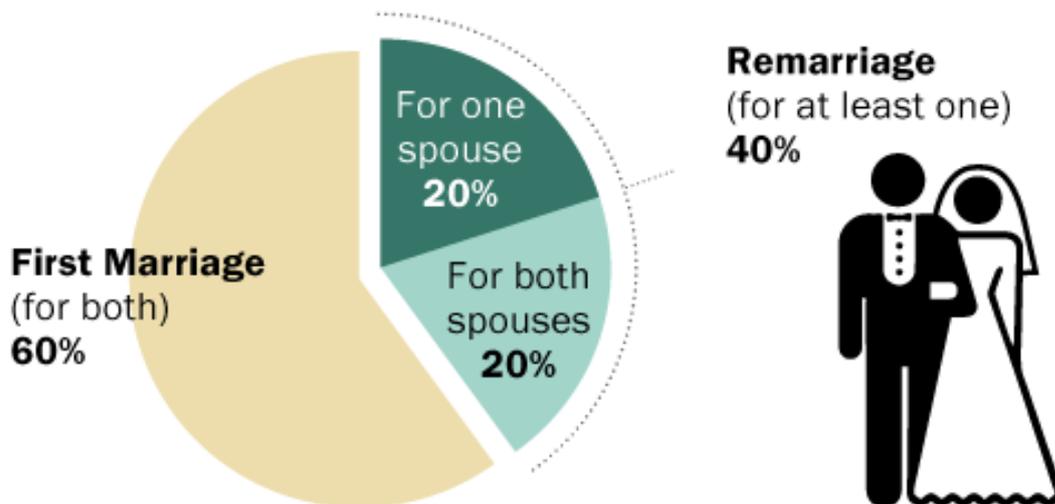


Attitudes to remarriage

For most Christians, getting married again after the death of a first partner is not an issue. The vows state, "Till death us do part". They believe the person deserves to be happy and remarriage might help them to be happy. Some, however, disagree with remarriage because a person has eternally vowed themselves to one person.

4-in-10 New Marriages Involve Remarriage

Percent of new marriages in 2013



If it is marriage after divorce, Christians have a variety of opinions. For Roman Catholics, remarriage is wrong because the original marriage still exists. Divorce is not recognised by God, so remarriage is not allowed.

Other Christians might allow remarriage, but not allow a religious ceremony. Many Anglican vicars will not perform a marriage ceremony for divorced persons. They recognise that people might have found new happiness, and do believe that marriage forms the basis of a strong, good society. However, they also see the original ceremony as having a sanctity and vows made before God cannot just be laid aside to remake with someone else.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, it is possible to get an annulment of the marriage. This means that the marriage was never proper, usually because it was not consummated (there was no sexual relationship) or because one or both did not properly understand the responsibilities of marriage. Technically, any marriage after an annulment is not remarriage as there was no first marriage.

Tasks:

1. What is remarriage?

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2. What do Christians generally believe about remarriage?

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3. What do Roman Catholics believe about remarriage?

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4. If a Christian remarries, what might they not be allowed? Why is this?

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5. What is an annulment?

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6. When might someone be granted an annulment?

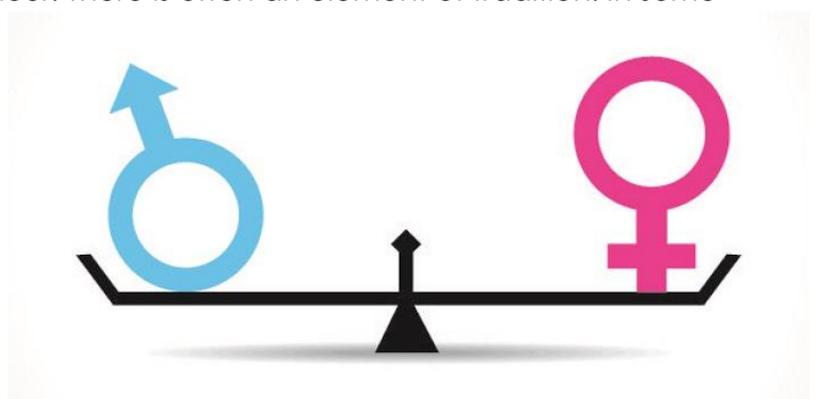
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Gender Equality – Gender Prejudice

Gender prejudice is prejudice against someone because of their gender.

Why are some people prejudiced?

Prejudice is the pre-judgement of others based on a characteristic they have, rather than what they are really like. People are often prejudiced because of the way they were brought up; they were taught this kind of attitude and behaviour. There is often an element of tradition. In some societies, women don't hold positions of power and so they are seen as less important. Attitudes are changing but in some cultures that change is very slow. It may also be because of an experience they have had, so their attitude to women was shaped by the women/men they



met, or the situations they were in which made them think women/men should be treated in a certain way.

What is the effect of gender prejudice against women?

It can lead to different treatment (discrimination), so that women are given fewer opportunities, for example, by not getting the same chances or promotions at work. It may be that the culture within which they live sets stricter rules for women than for men, for example, where women are not allowed to leave the house, or can only leave when chaperoned, or where girls are not allowed education beyond a certain age; they seem not to have the same rights as men.



It may be that women are not allowed to contribute to decision-making or leadership roles, so a female perspective is never considered. Prejudice within power structures can mean that when women are treated negatively, there is no consequence for the perpetrator, and this further encourages that negative behaviour.



If you read the newspapers or watch TV shows, you get the impression that women are the usual victims of violent crime. 2014 saw a string of stories about the gang-rape of women in India with little justice served, which has become such an issue that it has led to campaigns and actions by women's' groups. When no punishments are given to men who commit these crimes, the message seems to be that violence against women is not so bad, which encourages more of it. Gender discrimination spans from unkind comments to murder; it definitely has an impact.

Ultimately, gender prejudice (when experienced through discrimination) makes women feel powerless, which affects their confidence and self-esteem. However, in society, it keeps women less powerful, and makes society work for men rather than for the balance of society. It is true that in the UK, laws exist to prevent gender discrimination, and that employment law is being changed to equalise pay and conditions, so things are getting better for women.



The sexualisation of women even stretches to our Prime Minister and politicians – no station of female is beyond sexist judgements.

Tasks:

1. What is gender prejudice?

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2. Explain why some people are prejudiced?

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3. What is the effect of gender prejudice against women? Name three effects.

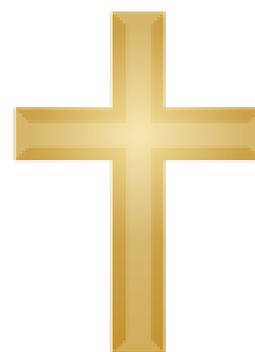
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4. In the UK, what exists to prevent gender discrimination?

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Christian Teachings about Gender Equality

- Some of the earliest converts, and leaders of the churches, were women, for example Priscilla and Ephesus
- "There is neither slave Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)
- "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)



Tasks:

1. Who were Priscilla and Ephesus?

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2. What does Galatians 3:28 state about equality?

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3. What does Genesis 1:27 state about equality?

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Buddhist Teachings about Gender Equality

- If a man denies the possibility of enlightenment of women, then his own enlightenment is impossible (Lotus Sutra)
- There is no legal basis in Vinaya (monastic) law to deny a woman the right to full ordination
- The practice of Buddhism is the same for men and women, showing no inequality of demands on either



Tasks:

1. What happens if a man denies the possibility of enlightenment to a woman?

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2. What is there no legal basis for in Vinaya law?

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3. What doesn't the practice of Buddhism show?

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Hindu Teachings about Gender Equality

- Good treatment of women is seen as a blessing (Laws of Manu)
- Where women are honoured, there the gods are pleased (Manusmriti)
- There are no differences between men and women on a spiritual level, differences only exist at a physical level because of past lives. (Sruti)



Tasks:

1. What is seen as a blessing?

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2. What does the Manusmriti say?
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3. What differences exist between a man and a woman?
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Muslim Teachings about Gender Equality

- Men and women have the same spiritual nature, according to the Qur'an
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, 'I command you to be kind to women.'
- I shall not lose sight of the labour of any of you who labours in My way, be it man or woman; each of you is equal to the other (Qur'an 3:195)



Tasks:

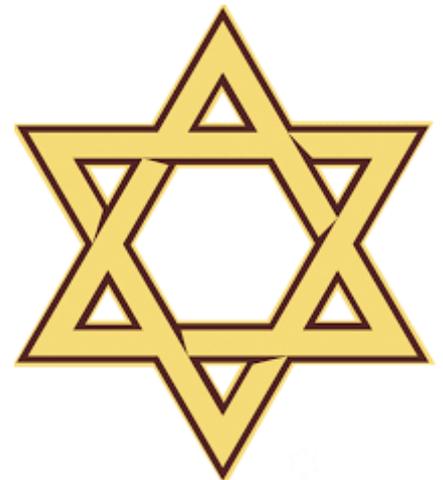
1. What do men and women share the same of?
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2. What did Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) say?
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3. What does the Qur'an 3:195 say?
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Jewish Teachings about Gender Equality

- In Progressive Judaism, women can become rabbis
- The quality of men and women begins at the highest possible level, as God has no gender. Both men and women were created in G-d's image (Genesis)



- Men and women were created equally; their methods of connecting to God through the mitzvot are different but of equal value

Tasks:

1. Which denomination of Judaism allows women to be rabbis?
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2. What does Genesis say about the quality of men and women?
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3. What is the importance of the male and female methods of connecting to God?
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Sikh Teachings about Gender Equality

- Men and women may take the role of granthi in the Gurdwara, leading the religious services
- Man is born from a woman... woman is born from a woman; without woman, there would be no one at all (Guru Granth Sahib)
- Waheguru (God) is neither male or female (Guru Granth Sahib)



Tasks:

1. What may men and women take the role of in Sikhism?
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2. What does the Guru Granth Sahib say would not exist without women?
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3. What does Sikhism say about the gender of God?
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Attitudes to the Role of Men and Women

Traditionally, men have held positions of authority in most religions. They usually are the decision-makers, the leaders in the home, community and religion and generally have more power. This is true in society generally. Even looking at newspaper headlines can tell us that men often have greater responsibilities because of their leading roles.

Within religion, there is a debate about the role of women. They are treated differently to men and there is often the accusation that women are being discriminated against, despite the fact that all religions condemn any kind of discrimination. Here are some examples:

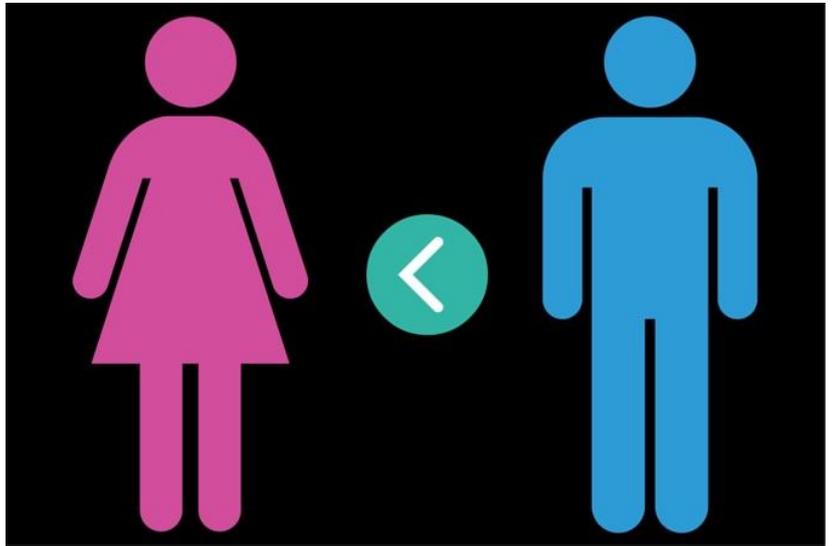


- In Christianity, women cannot be priests in the Roman Catholic Church and the first female bishops in the Anglican Church were appointed in 2015
- In Islam all religious leaders are men and women do not pray at the front of the mosque
- In Judaism, many women sit separately to men, often upstairs, and do not take part in synagogue services
- With the exception of ISKCON (the Hare Krishna movement) in Hinduism, all Brahmin priests are male
- In Theravada Buddhism, women will pray that their rebirth will be as a man
- In Sikhism, whilst either gender may read the Guru Granth Sahib at services, it is unusual to see women fulfilling this role



If women are denied access to certain roles then this could be said to be discriminatory. However, religion would just say that roles are different, but equal. If women are happy with their roles and what they are permitted to do and not to do then to them discrimination is not an issue. The issue arises when a woman wants to do something as part of her religion but is not allowed because rules or traditions say they cannot.

As time moves on, there are changes being made to traditions but women have to fight hard for those changes. They would argue that if we are all creations of God, then if, for example, a woman wants to devote herself to the service of God and serve the community of believers, would God not want her to simply because she is a woman? Perhaps a woman could deal with community issues and help people in a different way to a man? Compassion and understanding are key qualities and many women have these.



It all depends on how you view these issues. It is not the same as other forms of prejudice where people inflict hurt and pain on others. However, if you desperately want to do something or be part of something, being denied that because of being female is hurtful.

Tasks:

1. What is the traditional role of men in society?
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2. What is an example from Christianity of women being discriminated against?
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3. What is an example from Islam of women being discriminated against?
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4. What is an example from Judaism of women being discriminated against?
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5. What is an example from Hinduism of women being discriminated against?
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6. What is an example from Sikhism of women being discriminated against?
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Exam-style questions

1. Which word describes the practice of having more than one wife? (1 mark)

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2. Which word describes a sexual relationship between a man and a woman? (1 mark)

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3. Which word describes a sexual relationship between two people of the same gender? (1 mark)

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4. What is meant by the term divorce? (1 mark)

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5. What is meant by the term adultery? (1 mark)

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6. What is meant by the term celibacy?. (1 mark)

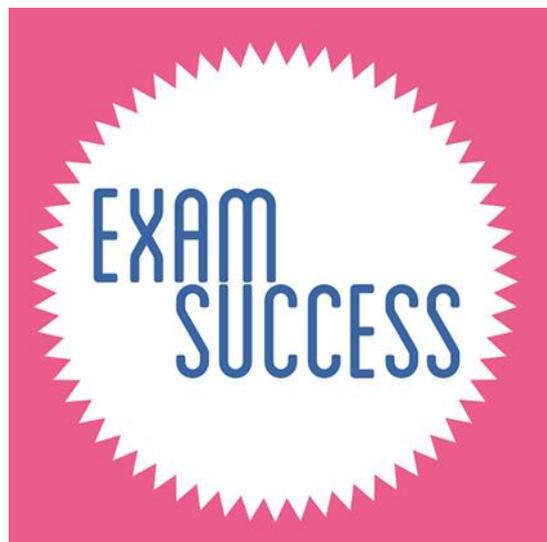
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7. What is meant by the term chastity? (1 mark)

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8. What is meant by the term gender prejudice? (1 mark)

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9. Can you explain what is meant by marriage vows? (2 marks)

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10. Can you explain what religious believer mean when they say that marriage is a contract? (2 marks)

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11. Can you explain what is meant by the term commitment? (2 marks)

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12. Give two religious beliefs about the use of contraception. (2 marks)

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13. Give two religious beliefs about the remarriage. (2 marks)

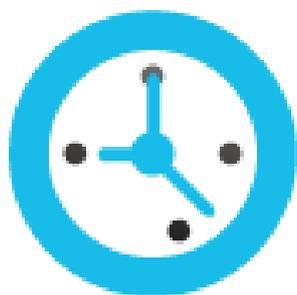
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14. Give two features of a religious wedding ceremony. (2 marks)

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15. Give two effects of gender prejudice against women. (2 marks)

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Time + Effort = Success

16. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about sex before marriage. (4 marks)

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17. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about contraception. (4 marks)

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18. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about remarriage. (4 marks)

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19. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about divorce. (4 marks)

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20. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about same0sex relationships. (4 marks)

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21. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about cohabitation. (4 marks)

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22. Explain two religious beliefs about gender equality. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

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23. Explain two religious beliefs about the role of parents. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

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24. Explain two religious beliefs about adultery. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

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25. Explain two religious beliefs about the purpose of sex. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

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26. Explain two religious beliefs about marriage. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

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27. Explain two religious beliefs about same-sex relationships. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

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28. Explain two religious beliefs about remarriage. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

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29. Explain two religious beliefs about the use of contraception. Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer. (5 marks)

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