




Component 1 Themes – Issues of Relationships

Key words

Adultery – voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person who is not their spouse.
Divorce – to legally end a marriage
Cohabitation – to live together in a sexual relationship without being married or in a civil partnership.
Commitment – a sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something.
Contraception – methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant during or following sexual intercourse.
Gender equality – people of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in all aspects of their lives.
Responsibilities - actions/duties you are expected to carry out.
Roles – position, status or function of a person in society, as well as the characteristics and social behaviour expected of them.
Patriarchal – a family or society controlled by men.
Matriarchal – a family or society controlled by women.
Promiscuity – having many casual sexual relationships
Fidelity – two people being sexually faithful to each other.
Procreation – reproduction
Bigamy – entering into a marriage with someone while still being legally married to another person



Types of family	Roles of men & women in the family	Religion and the family
<p>Nuclear family –two parents and one or more children in the same house. Extended family –cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. Reconstituted family – divorced adults remarry or cohabit. A mix of step-parents and step-children. Single parent family – one parent raises one or more children alone. Childless family – married or cohabiting couple choose not to have children or cannot.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring for children • Caring for elderly relatives • Maintaining the home • Earning money to support <p>Traditional Christian and Muslim views are that the man provides through work and the mother looks after the children and home. However, this is changing, and men and women are seen more as a partnership. It is common to see the roles reversed.</p>	<p>Christian and Muslim parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take children to a place of worship • Teach them to read and understand sacred texts • Teach them how and when to pray • Join in the celebration of festivals • Understand the importance of rites of passage. <p>Humanists believe children should be free to make their own minds up. Christians call the worldwide family the Church and Muslims the ummah.</p>
Marriage	Christian wedding ceremony	Muslim wedding ceremony (nikah)
<p>For Christians and Muslims, it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God given • Best environment for children • Lifelong commitment <p>Humanists value a special ceremony for commitment but don't include religion. Christians see marriage as a sacramental gift from God. Jesus teaches on the importance of marriage as the 'two become one in flesh' in lifelong union. They take place in a church. Muslims see marriage as the basis for family life. The Qur'an shows it is a gift from Allah. They take place in a mosque but sometimes can be at the bride's home. Some Shi'a Muslims (Twelver Shi'as) practise Nikah Mut'ah, a temporary unannounced marriage. It allowed historically, men to take a wife when travelling away from home. Sunni and other Shi'a Muslims disagree with this idea.</p>	<p>The vicar welcomes everyone with a short sermon on the purpose of marriage</p> <p>The couple exchange vows to each other</p> <p>The couple exchange rings to show commitment</p> <p>The vicar declares them husband and wife</p> <p>Prayers, Bible readings, hymns/songs and a sermon take place.</p> <p>The registers are signed and witnessed which makes the ceremony legal in Britain.</p>	<p>The wali (bride's guardian) offers her to the groom</p> <p>Two adult witnesses who are good Muslims are present.</p> <p>The mahr (dowry/marriage gift) is paid by the groom to the bride.</p> <p>Marriage contract is signed by the bride/groom & witnesses. Both consent.</p> <p>Sermon is given by the imam to bless the marriage.</p> <p>Vows are not necessary but might exchanged</p> <p>Ceremony ends with prayers for the bride & groom, families, local & worldwide ummah.</p> <p>The walima (banquet) is held by the groom after the nikah (contract) for family & friends to share in his happiness & give thanks to Allah.</p> <p>A separate civil ceremony takes place to make the marriage legal.</p>
Inter-faith marriage	Cohabitation	Adultery
<p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious dietary rules (halal food) • Festivals are different • Which religion should the child be? • Moral differences (contraception) • Family & community might reject 	<p>Christians traditionally prohibit cohabitation, but liberal Anglicans accept it if they couple are committed and will consider marriage at a later point. However, Catholics and conservative Anglicans believe it devalues sex and couples should only have sex once married. Islam says it is always wrong, but some Muslims still choose to cohabit.</p>	<p>Christians say adultery is wrong because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage is a sacrament • It destroys the special relationship • It harms the family unit <p>Islam teaches adultery is wrong because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex outside of marriage is wrong • Marriage is a life-long union • Vows promising faithfulness might be exchanged • It is harmful to society and the ummah • It is a form of theft • The Qur'an teaches it is wrong

<p>Pressures on marriage</p> <p>Why some marriages fail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of communication • Lack of appreciation • Unemployment/financial issues • Alcohol/drug problems • Affairs (infidelity) • Sexual problems • Religious differences • Interference from in-laws • Lack of children • Work or career focused 	<p>Divorce & separation</p> <p>The Catholic Church does not accept divorce as marriage is a lifelong commitment. If it breaks down, there are two options: annulment or separation. If Catholics separate, they are not to cohabit with anyone. If they do get divorced it is not recognised by the Catholic Church. Annulment is when a court says the marriage is not legally valid. Catholics teach this is the only way a marriage can be dissolved. Acceptable reasons for an annulment might be if the marriage was never consummated (no sex) or evidence shows it should never have taken place.</p> <p>All other Christian denominations accept divorce but prefer it to be on the grounds of adultery and as a last resort for other reasons.</p> <p>Muslims believe reconciliation should take place first. An imam and the Muslim community seeks to help a couple. If divorce is necessary, a civil divorce takes place as well as a religious divorce. They apply to the Shari'ah council who give them 3 months to reconcile and ensure the woman is not pregnant.</p> <p>Humanists say couples should try to work through their differences especially when children are involved. But, when this is not possible and staying married would lead to unhappiness, divorce is permissible.</p>	<p>Remarriage & arranged marriage</p> <p>Catholics who get a civil divorce are not allowed to remarry in a Catholic church. They will have to get remarried elsewhere.</p> <p>The Anglican Church don't usually remarry people who are divorced, but some priests might do so depending on the reason for divorce. Some may choose to give a church blessing for a civil ceremony instead of having the wedding in the church.</p> <p>In Islam, remarriage is acceptable because divorce is acceptable. In fact, it is encouraged because there is no place for celibacy in Islam.</p> <p>Some Muslims decide to have an arranged marriage, where parents choose a suitable partner for their son/daughter. For strict Muslims societies, arranged marriages allow men and women to remain separate until marriage and parents are trusted. Islam teaches that Muslims should never be forced into a marriage.</p>
<p>Purpose of sex</p> <p>Religion regards sex an important part of being human and a gift from God. It is important for procreation and love between those who are married.</p> <p>Christians believe sex should take place within marriage and a holy sacred act. Promiscuity devalues sex, is a sin and not stable for children born outside of marriage.</p> <p>Muslims believe sex should be within marriage. It is an act of worship for married partners to meet each other's sexual needs. Sex outside of marriage leads to promiscuity.</p> 	<p>Chastity & celibacy</p> <p>For Christians and Muslims, they must remain chaste until marriage. There is a young Christian movement in America called 'the silver ring thing' to promote chastity. Wearing a silver ring on their wedding finger reminds them to remain pure.</p> <p>Catholic monks, nuns a priest take a vow of celibacy to dedicate their lives to serving God. Islam teaches that adults are meant to have a companion for life, so celibacy is not required.</p> 	<p>Contraception</p> <p>Protestant Christians use many forms of contraception to plan for families. The Catholic Church opposes all artificial methods. St. Thomas Aquinas' Natural Law ethical theory guides Christians on making moral decisions. He formed 5 primary precepts (rules) and then secondary precepts to adhere to the primary ones. One secondary precept says that humans must reproduce which means contraception is wrong. The Catholic Church believe these rules to be absolute and always followed. Other Christians and some Catholics believe they should use their conscience and sometimes break the rules such as overpopulation or STIs.</p> <p>The Qur'an doesn't mention it, but it was used during the time of Muhammad. It is allowed if it doesn't harm the body and both husband and wife consent. Permanent sterilisation is not allowed.</p> <p>Humanists say it can bring happiness to a family. Sex is not sacred, and science should be used to improve the quality of life.</p>
<p>Same-sex relationships</p> <p>In 1967 homosexuality was decriminalised in Britain. The Civil Partnership Act 2004 enabled same-sex partners to have similar legal rights as married couples. The Marriage 2013 Act legalised same-sex marriage in England and Wales. Many Christians oppose same-sex marriage quoting the Bible which condemns homosexual acts. Some Christians believe the Bible was speaking to a culture and society that doesn't exist today and are fine with same-sex marriage. The Catholic Church prohibits it stating a marriage is between a man and woman. The Anglican Church does not legally allow same-sex marriages to happen in their churches. Some priests accept it and perform a blessing in their church instead. The United Reform Church allows same-sex marriages to take place.</p> <p>Islam forbids same-sex marriages and homosexual relationships. Marriage is a sacred contract between a man and woman. Since homosexuality is immoral, so are same-sex marriages.</p> <p>Humanists argue humans should be happy in their life, therefore same-sex marriages/relationships are positive.</p>	<p>Roles of men & women in religion</p> <p>UK law, 2010 Equality Act protects from discrimination based on sex. In religion, Some Christians argue that men were in authority during Jesus' life. All the disciples were men. Women should be quiet in church. Other Christians say all are equal, Jesus respected women, the Good Samaritan teaches against discrimination, all are created in God's image. Catholics allow women to take active roles in worship, they can become nuns; but cannot be ordained priests. Men & women are equal but have different roles. The Anglican Church allowed women priests in 1994 and then bishops in 2014. Other churches see some women as ministers.</p> <p>Muslims are against discrimination. Muhammad's wives led prayers. Imams are traditionally men but nothing in the Qur'an says they cannot be women. Men should have authority over women in a divorce. Muhammad's first wife, Khadijah, was a strong businesswoman who proposed to Muhammad.</p>	

