

Revision Booklet Unit 2: – Relationships

Key Concepts

Responsibilities

Duties you should carry out

Commitments

Promises you make and keep

Conflict

Disagreements and quarrels

Reconciliation

Apologising and becoming friends again

Love

Four different types of Love:

Eros – romantic/sexual love

Agape – Unconditional love

Philos – Friendship love

Storge – Object love



Key Bible Passage

'This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, that someone should lay down his life for his friends'. [John 15](#)

In this passage Jesus is teaching that an important part of love is sacrifice. He showed his love for the world by sacrificing his life to save others (crucifixion).

Example of Love

There are many people who showed that love can conquer all. Martin Luther King was one such man – no matter how white people treated black people he encouraged his followers to remain pacifists and show love and forgiveness to those who attacked them.

Sex

- Both Muslims and Christians believe that sex is one of God's greatest gifts to the human race.
- However, they also agree that it was God's intention that the gift should be used wisely.
- Today there are many different viewpoints on sex and when it should happen and who with.



Christianity and sex

- There is some disagreement between the religious denominations on when a couple should have sex.
- However, generally it is believed that sex should only occur within a marriage and should be to create life.

Roman Catholic Viewpoint

- **Pre marital sex** means sex before marriage. The Catholic Church believes that sex should only happen once a couple are married. They are against **Pre marital** sex completely.
- **Extra marital sex** means having sex with extra people once you are married. The Catholic Church is against this completely, it is known as adultery.

Key bible passage

'If they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion'.

(1 Corinthians 7)

This quote is by St Paul who was celibate. He believed celibacy was the best way, but it is better to be married and have sex than risk having sex outside of marriage.

Islam and sex

- Muslims believe that sex is right and natural within a marriage. Muslims believe that both partners have a duty to make themselves attractive to the other and meet each other's sexual needs as part of their marriage agreement.
- However, the prophet Muhammad warned that misusing sex for anything unnatural would be punishable from Allah on the Day of Judgement.

Key Qur'an passage

*'Do not come near to adultery, it is a shameful and evil way which opens the way to other evils'. **Surah***

This quote is explaining that sex is for marriage and only the two people exclusively. Adultery (an affair) is always wrong.

- o Most Muslim societies punish sex outside marriage severely as it upsets the peace of the Ummah and is against Allah.
- o In some countries it is punished by beating or death.

Hijab/Burka

- Muslim women wear either the Hijab (headscarf) or the Burka (covering face). Muslim women wear this clothing so that men respect them for who they are rather than what they look like.



Christian Marriage

What is marriage?

- 💜 Marriage is a public declaration by two people that they intend to spend the rest of their lives together.
- 💜 It is a social occasion in that society is witness to what is happening.
- 💜 Marriage is a legally binding contract.
- 💜 Marriage is the beginning of a new family unit – the couple, any children they might have, their extended families, etc.

Christians believe that marriage is.....

- S = it is a sacrament
- P = it is permanent
- E = it is exclusive
- L = it is Life
- G = Giving

Why do people get married?

- Celebrates the joy of sex
- Shows their commitment to the world
- Have their relationship blessed by God
- Strenghtens the relationship

A typical Roman Catholic ceremony

1. Hymn
2. Priest explains the importance of marriage
3. Declaration (3 questions given to the couple: L.F.C (do you Love your partner? Are you marrying freely? Will you accept children from God?)
4. Vows
5. The giving of rings (symbol of eternity/everlasting love)
6. Priest declares the couple are married
7. Prayers
8. Sermon
9. More hymns and prayers
10. Signing the register (the legal part of the ceremony)

Vows explained

"I, (name), take you, (name) to be my husband/wife,
To have and to hold from this day forward;
For better, for worse,
For richer, for poorer,
In sickness and in health,

To love and to cherish,
'Till death us do part."

Christians believe the vows are extremely important – they are the promises the couple make to each other and show their commitment to one another.

Key bible quote

'Have you not read he who made them, from the beginning made them male and female'. (Matthew 19)

Christians believe that this bible passage shows Christians that God intended for men and women to be together in marriage.

Muslim Marriage



- The Qur'an encourages all Muslims to see marriage as a life-long partnership. Because of this the Muslim community emphasises the importance of choosing the right partner.
- Muslims are expected to marry within their own faith.

Arranged marriage

- In most Muslim countries the close family are involved in making this decision. This is called arranged marriage.
- However, the marriage can only go ahead if the two people to be married fully agree.
- A marriage is only genuine in front of Allah if it is entered into voluntarily.

The Muslim Ceremony

The Muslim wedding ceremony is very simple. It is a civil rather than a religious ceremony. The service can be conducted anywhere, however in the UK it is usually carried out in a Mosque with the ceremony being conducted by an Imam.

- The Imam opens the ceremony by reciting ayahs (surahs) from the Qur'an. The passage which is read usually is the passage entitled 'The woman'.
- The Imam asks the couple three times if they are freely consenting to the marriage arrangement.
- The couple exchange their vows.
- The couple exchange their rings. The ring that is placed on the man's finger must not be made of gold. Gold is considered to be a womanly metal.
- The contract is exchanged between the bride and groom in the presence of two male witnesses. The contract is then signed.
- Guests then congratulate the couple saying to them, 'May Allah bless you and invoke his blessing on you'.

The prophet Muhammad

- Muhammad said a woman should be taken in marriage for three reasons:
 1. For her **beauty**
 2. For her **family connections**
 3. For the lure of her **wealth**

The Dowry

- This is a very important part of a Muslim wedding agreement.
- A certain amount of money is taken into the marriage by the bride (this is to give her some financial independence).
- This is very important as many Muslim women do not work.
- Part of the Dowry is paid to the woman on marriage.
- If the couple divorce the rest is paid to the woman.

Polygamy

- In Islam a man can have more than one wife, this is called polygamy.
- However, he can only have more than one wife if he can financially care for them in exactly the same way.
- A common reason for a man to have more than one wife is if his wife can't have children as family is very important in Islam.

Christians and Muslims believe Adultery is wrong

Against the 10 commandments

Damages lives

Undermines marriage

Lets others down

Trust is broken

Ends family security

Relationships harmed

You'd best avoid it!

Alternatives to Marriage

Cohabiting

- Many couples now live together as an alternative to marriage.
- Years ago this was frowned upon but now it's much more accepted.
- Around 60% of couples live together with about 50% of them marrying at a later date.

Polygamy

- Polygamous lifestyles are rare but do exist in some societies.
- Muslim men are allowed to marry more than one wife.



- Usually because the first wife was unable to have children and having a family is important to Muslims.
- However, the husband must treat all wives the same.
- In most countries this is illegal!

Single lifestyle

- There are many people in society who choose to live a single lifestyle.
- This may be for many reasons – career, they may have lost a partner, divorce or personal reasons.

State marriage

- Non religious people would choose to be married in a registry office.
- This is known as a civil service.
- Homosexual couples are now able to marry and have a civil ceremony in a registry office.
- However, at present, a religious service is not recognised for them.

Celibacy

- Celibacy means a lifestyle without marriage and any sexual relationships.
- This is almost always linked with a religious commitment.
- For centuries it has been a feature of the RCC – priests, nuns, monks all live a celibate lifestyle.
- If men and women are free from the distractions of marriage and sex they can devote their time to God more effectively.

Contraception

There are various different types of contraception which people use to protect themselves against sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy.

Examples of contraception

- Condoms
- The contraceptive pill
- The contraceptive injection
- The implant
- The coil
- Sterilisation



Why do people use contraception?

- To control population (political)
- To protect from sexually transmitted diseases.
- To avoid underage pregnancy.
- To control the growth of their family.
- To avoid unwanted pregnancy.

- To cut down on the amount of abortions.
- Large families can lead to poverty as there are too many mouths to feed and children to clothe.

Christianity and contraception

- The different branches of Christianity are divided on whether contraception is morally right.

Catholic Church

- Believes contraception to be wrong and has always had this viewpoint!
- In 1968 a document outlining the Pope's thoughts called **Humanae Vitae** was published.
- This document said all forms of artificial contraception were morally wrong.

Key passage from Humanae Vitae

'Each and every married act must be open to the transmission of life'. This means that the act of sex should always be about potentially creating life. Therefore the Pope is saying contraception is wrong.

Pope's reasons

- It is wrong to interfere with the natural processes of conception.
- God put in place a natural law that sexual intercourse should be open to the possibility of life.
- It is wrong to use sex for solely pleasurable reasons.
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They only allow natural family planning (**The rhythm method**).

Protestant Church

- Until the 1930's contraception was considered morally wrong in the Protestant Church.
- However, due to issues such as poverty and disease contraception is no longer an issue for the Protestant Church.
- This branch of Christianity now leaves it up to the couple to decide.
- What method to use, if any, should be guided by their conscience.
- This approach is often called 'responsible parenthood'.

Christianity and Divorce



Divorce is the legal dissolving of a marriage so that partners are free to marry s

Annulment is a declaration that a valid marriage never existed. Many Catholic seek an annulment if they can prove the marriage wasn't real. For example, no sex or if you were not mentally capable of making the decision.

Roman Catholics

- Roman Catholics regard marriage as a Sacrament and therefore believe divorce is wrong.
- They only allow annulments.
- They believe it is better to remain married and separate.

Protestants

- Accept divorce is sometimes necessary.
- However, they do not allow remarriage in their church.
- They will accept that people will remarry in a registry office.
- They then will allow a blessing of the couple.

Key bible passage one:

'Anyone who divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another, commits adultery'. Matthews Gospel

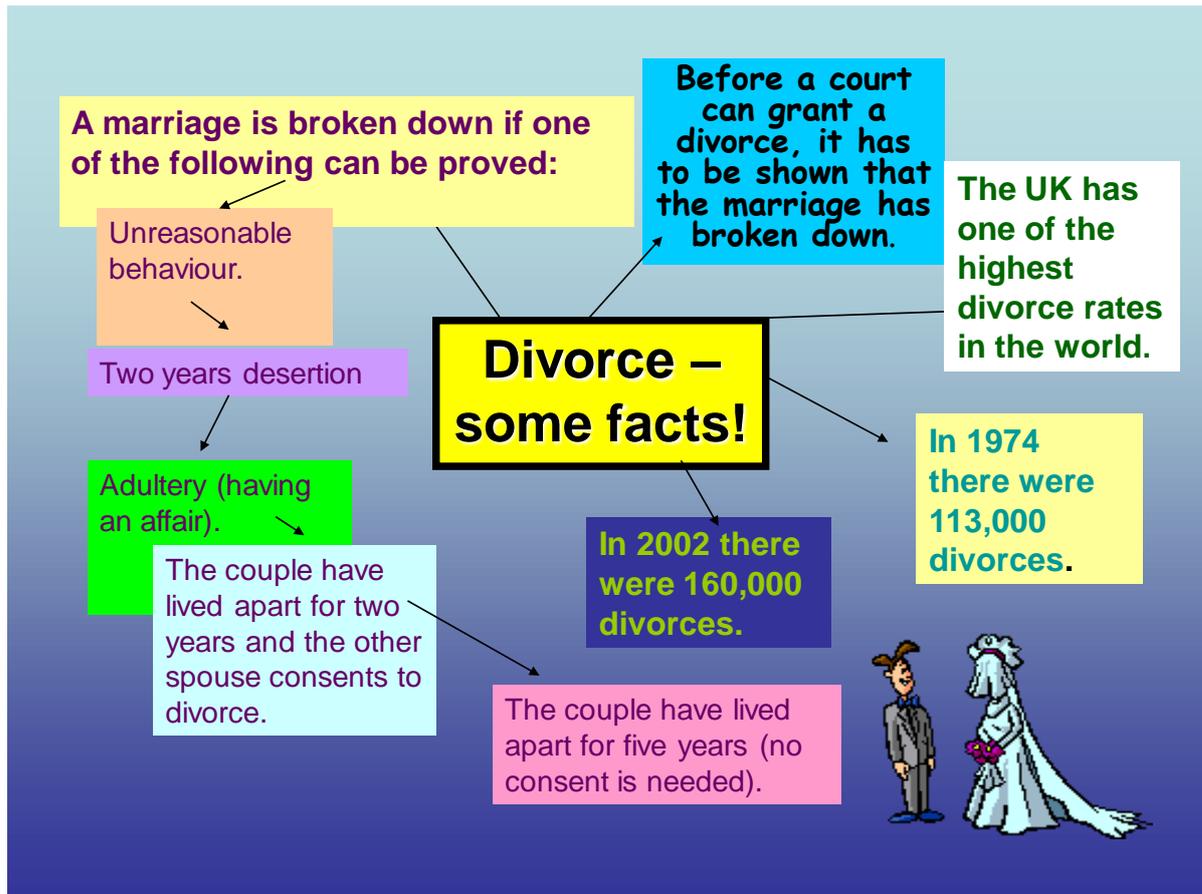
- Jesus taught that divorce was generally wrong. However, he did allow it for one reason, unfaithfulness.
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Key bible passage two:

'To the married I give charge, not I but the Lord, that the wife must not separate from her husband and that the husband should not divorce his wife'.

The book of Corinthians.

Here St Paul is saying that divorce is always wrong, no exception is given.



Islam and Divorce



Muslims are allowed to divorce but they do believe it is a very bad thing to do. Muhammad said:

'Of all things that have been permitted divorce is the most hated by Allah'.

It should only happen as a last resort after all forms of reconciliation have been tried!

The steps to Muslim divorce

1. The final part of the dowry must be given to the wife. They must treat each other with respect during the divorce.
2. The couple must make an attempt to save their marriage – 1st attempt at reconciliation.
3. If this fails, the couple must select two friends/relatives to help them sort out their differences – 2nd attempt at reconciliation.
4. If this fails, the husband has to, on 3 separate occasions in front of witnesses, state the marriage is over.

5. The couple then wait 3 months (called the iddah) to see if the wife is pregnant. If she is then the baby must be included in any divorce settlement. This time also lets the couple reflect if a divorce is really what they want. The couple remain in the same house during this time – this is the third attempt at reconciliation.

Reconciliation

A couple having problems in their marriage may need some outside help to support them in sorting out their differences.

1. Parents/family/friends
2. Professional counsellors – Relate (both husband and wife need to agree to this help: more info at – www.relate.org.uk)
3. Religious community – the couple can speak to their priest or imam, talk to other people in their church/mosque community, attend a course run by their religious community to support them with their marriage problems.



Exam practice Questions

1. What does the word conflict mean? (2)
2. What does reconciliation mean? (2)
3. Explain 2 reasons why a relationship may break down(4)
4. Explain 2 reasons why someone may choose to use contraception. (4)
5. Describe from two different viewpoints the view of divorce (6)
6. 'Love is the most important aspect to any relationship'. Do you agree? (6)
7. Describe the main features of a Christian marriage ceremony. (6)
8. Explain how people marry in TWO different wedding ceremonies. (6)