

# GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## TOPIC 6

# FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS

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## TYPES OF FAMILIES

Nuclear	A family unit where two parents live with their biological children or adopted children.
Single-parent	A family unit where just one parent looks after their child or children. This can be due to the death of one parent, the end of a relationship between parents, or (in recent times) where a woman has become pregnant with donated sperm or a single person has adopted a child.
Blended	A family unit where at least one member of the couple has children from a previous relationship. The children, therefore, live with one parent and one step-parent, and any children of the new couple live with their half-sibling(s).
Extended	A family unit where extra members of the family live with parents and their children; for example, grandparents or aunts, uncles and cousins.



Katie and Suri Holmes – Single Parent



SAME SEX PARENTS



The Simpsons – Nuclear



Elton John married David Furnish in December 2014. They have two sons together that were born to a surrogate mother.

Some people don't approve of same sex parents as they feel it denies a child access to role models of both genders.

Many people support the idea of same sex parents as they feel that the most important thing a child needs is love, regardless of the gender of a person providing it.

### POLYGAMY

When a man is married to more than one woman at a time. In Britain, a man is only legally allowed to be married to one woman at a time.

In some societies, polygamy was allowed as a way of ensuring that women whose husbands had been killed in battle had someone to look after them. It is important to understand that at these times, there were no opportunities for women to be able to support themselves and so they needed to be married to be protected and survive.



The Banks' – Extended



The Kardashians - Blended

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### RESPONSIBILITIES

## FAMILIES - CHILDREN

#### It is a parents responsibility to...

- Give their child love and support
- Provide them with what they need to be happy and successful. E.g. clothes, shelter, food etc.
- Bring them up in a faith?

**'Honour your mother and father'**  
*Bible*

#### It is a child's responsibility to...

- Respect their parents
- Follow the instructions of their parents that are for their own benefit

**'Be dutiful and kind to your parents'**  
*Qur'an*

### ROLES OF MUSLIM PARENTS

#### Father:

Muslims believe that the financial needs of all the family must be met by the father.

They are expected to work and take responsibility for major decisions.



#### Mother:

Women also have an important role to play in looking after the home.

A Muslim mother commands great respect in Islam and they are often seen as the most important person in the family.

#### Both:

- Muslim parents are expected to love and care for their children and set a good example for them.
- Bring them up in the Muslim faith.
- They will sometimes support their children in finding a suitable marriage partner.
- Some Muslim parents will send their children to a Mosque school to learn how to read the Qur'an in Arabic.

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## FAMILIES - PARENTS

### SHOULD CHILDREN CARE FOR THEIR ELDERLY PARENTS?

#### Yes because...

- It is a way of thanking parents for the care they gave us when we were younger
- The Qur'an teaches that Allah will punish people if they don't care for their parents themselves

#### No because...

- People may have other commitments such as a work and their own children to look after
- An elderly person might need specialist care which their family are unable to provide

**'Honour your mother and father'**  
*Bible*

**'May his nose be rubbed in dust who found his parents approaching old age and lost his right to enter Paradise because he did not look after them'**  
*Qur'an*

**'Be dutiful and kind to your parents'**  
*Qur'an*



### SHOULD CHILDREN BE BROUGHT UP IN A FAITH?

Yes	No
Parents want what is best for their children, if they choose their religion for themselves then they must see it as the best way of living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forcing the religion on the child may make them close-minded to other religions/ways of life that could suit them better or make them happier</li> <li>• Some people may see this as limiting the child's free will and argue that they should have the choice to make these decisions for themselves</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious teachings include good moral codes on how to behave like 'love thy neighbour' this will help the child grow up to be a good person</li> </ul>	

### RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO FAMILIES

Muslim View	Church of England View	Roman Catholic View
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many Muslims live in an extended family.</li> <li>• The family has ultimate responsibility for shaping the moral values and character of children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many Church of England Christians would view a nuclear family as the best way to bring up children, provided that the relationship between mother and father is healthy and happy.</li> <li>• Many Church of England Christians would accept any type of family however, as long as the children are being looked after properly and in the best possible environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many Roman Catholic Christians would view a nuclear family as being the best and most stable way to raise children.</li> <li>• Many Roman Catholics would not agree with a blended/reconstituted family unless there has been a death of a spouse previously. This idea would apply to single-parent families also.</li> </ul>



### RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO THE ELDERLY

Muslim View	Roman Catholic View	Church of England View
There is a specific duty for children to care for their elderly parents themselves.	Elderly parents are to be respected and cared for.	Elderly parents are to be respected and cared for.
Not to care for elderly parents is considered to be a sin.	The care given to the elderly may come from their own families or from care homes etc if this is better for everyone concerned.	The care given to the elderly may come from their own families or from care homes etc if this is better for everyone concerned.

# SEX BEFORE AND OUTSIDE MARRIAGE

WAITING FOR MARRIAGE	
Advantages	Disadvantages
Encourages <b>respect</b> for each other	Some people may <b>not want to wait</b> until they find a life partner before they have sex
Sex is seen as something <b>special</b> that you only share with one person	Some people may worry about not being sexually <b>compatible</b> with their husband/wife if they have not had sex before they marry.
Reduce the spread of <b>sexually transmitted infections</b>	
All <b>pregnancies</b> , even if unplanned, will occur within a committed relationship	

**ADULTERY**  
When someone is married but has a sexual relationship with someone else.

This is considered by many people to be betrayal of trust and completely breaks the promise made when the couple married that they would not have relations with anyone else.



Muslim View	Roman Catholic View	Church of England View
Sex outside of marriage is a sin so co-habitation is not allowed.	A couple should wait until they are married and so co-habitation is considered a bad idea.	As long as people are treated with love and respect, it is not necessarily important if they have sex before they are married.
Adultery is one the most serious sins a Muslim can commit and in some Muslim countries is punishable by death.	One of the Ten Commandments is <b>'Do not commit adultery'</b> which suggests that it is a sin.	Christians are supposed to treat others like they would like to be treated and no one wants to be cheated on.

**COHABITATION**  
When a couple lives together without being married. In countries like Britain this is common place and many people think it is a good idea as it gives people the chance to see if they really are suited before they get married.




In Muslim countries, co-habitation is not allowed. Some people do not approve of co-habitation as they believe that living with a partner and having a sexual relationship with them is something that should be saved for marriage to keep it special.

# MARRIAGE



Many Christians may choose to get married because it is a sacrament and an important commitment between themselves, their husband/wife and God. Marriage within Christianity should be monogamous (between two people) and should be treated as a gift from God.

*"A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*  
Bible

PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE WITHIN CHRISTIANITY	
	Procreation and raising a family. Most Christians believe the family (nuclear) is the best environment to raise a family.
	To express love and friendship; to care for and support each other through life.
	A benefit of marriage for many believers is being able to have sex within a loving and committed relationship.

Muslim View	Roman Catholic View	Church of England View
Muslims have a duty to marry and have children.	Sex is only allowed within marriage and marriage is only allowed between a man and a woman.	Couples can marry if they want to but it is up to them.
Sex is only allowed within marriage and marriage is only allowed between a man and a woman.		Sex can take place in a loving relationship – with or without marriage.
		Many churches allow same sex marriage.

Many Muslims believe marriage is a good basis for family life and by getting married, people are fulfilling their religious responsibilities. Marriage should be a partnership between two people who are faithful to each other, providing stability.

In Islam, some Muslim parent assist the marriage of their son or daughter by finding them a suitable partner. Parents know their children well and look for someone of good character, similar background and education and the same religion. This is not the same as a forced marriage, according to Islamic teaching, sons and daughters have the right to refuse their parents choice for them.



*"There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer to Allah than marriage."*  
Qur'an

## 4 DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
Divorce - There is no reason to make people stay together if they are unhappy.	Divorce - Promises were made (in the case of religious weddings, to God) and these should not be broken.
Remarriage – People deserve a second chance to find happiness.	Remarriage – People have made marriage vows previously and broken them, there is nothing to stop them breaking them again.

*"What God has joined together, let no man put asunder (separate)."*  
Bible



*"Treat other as you wish to be treated."*  
Bible

*"Of all the things that are allowed, divorce is most hated by Allah."*  
Qur'an

Muslim View	Roman Catholic View	Church of England View
Will accept divorce as a last resort if a couple have tried all they can to make their marriage work.	Do not allow divorce as they consider this would be breaking a promise to God.	Does not like divorce but accepts that in some situations, it might be the most loving thing to do, eg if there is domestic abuse in the marriage.
Once divorced, Muslims are encouraged to remarry.	Will allow an annulment if the marriage was not a real marriage (eg, if the couple were too young or one of the parties was forced into it).	Will allow people to remarry if they tried to make the first marriage work or if it was not their fault the first marriage failed.
	If someone does divorce their partner the Catholic church will not allow remarriage because they still see that person as already married.	

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# SEXUALITY

<b>Heterosexual</b>	When people are attracted to members of the opposite sex.
<b>Homosexual</b>	When people are attracted to members of the same sex.

**"Judge not and you shall not be judged"**  
Bible



It is important to note that the part of the Bible that forbids homosexuality also forbids eating shellfish yet this is now widely eaten.

**"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman"**  
Bible

**"Must you lust after males and abandon the wives that God has created for you? You are exceeding all bounds."**  
Qur'an



## RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO SEXUALITY


Muslim View	Roman Catholic View	Church of England View
Sex should only take place within marriage and it can be for pleasure as well as procreation.	Sex should only take place within marriage and the purpose of sex is procreation.	Sex can be for pleasure as well as procreation.
A married Muslim couple have a duty to have children.	Homosexual sexual relationships are not permitted as they cannot lead to children.	Homosexual relationships harm no one, so should not be stopped.
Homosexual sexual relationships are not permitted as they cannot ever lead to children.		There is no record of Jesus condemning homosexuality, and he taught people not to judge others.

**Family Planning** – when a couple makes decisions about if and when to have children

# CONTRACEPTION

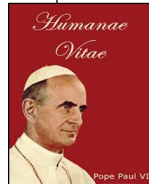
**Contraception** – methods use to prevent a pregnancy from happening

ARGUMENTS FOR	RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It allows for family planning and for couples to limit the size of their family.</li> <li>It prevents unwanted pregnancies.</li> <li>It reduces the risk and spread of sexually transmitted diseases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contraception encourages one-night stands because there is not the risk of pregnancy.</li> <li>The natural result of sex is to have children. Therefore, artificial contraception breaks God's natural law.</li> </ul>

ARTIFICIAL	NATURAL
Things like condoms and the pill.	Things that couples can do themselves such as withdrawal, charting a woman's cycle and abstinence.
	It is important to note that with the exception of abstinence, natural methods of contraception are not considered to be very reliable.

**"Every sexual act should have the possibility of creating new life"**  
**Humanae Vitae**

There are no direct references to artificial contraception in the holy books but this quote from the **Humanae Vitae** (writings of the Roman Catholic Pope Paul 6<sup>th</sup>) count as a quote



## RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES TO CONTRACEPTION

Muslim View	Roman Catholic View	Church of England View
Sex should only take place within marriage but it can be for pleasure as well as procreation.	Sex should only take place within marriage and the purpose of sex is procreation.	Sex can be for pleasure as well as procreation.
A married Muslim couple do have a duty to have children but are allowed to use natural and artificial methods of contraception to plan and limit the size of their family.	Artificial methods of contraception are not allowed as they are seen as interfering with God's plans.	Couples have a responsibility not to have children if they cannot afford to look after them.
		Couples can use natural and artificial methods of contraception to plan and limit the size of their family.

- Gender prejudice**  
Unfairly judging someone because of their gender
- Gender equality**  
Giving males and females the same rights and opportunities
- Gender stereotyping**  
Having a fixed idea of how men and women should behave
- Gender discrimination**  
Acting against someone because of their gender

# GENDER EQUALITY



**PAY AND INEQUALITY**  
On average, men in Britain earn more money than women; some would argue that this is evidence of gender inequality.

Some people believe that this gap in pay is because women are being discriminated against and not being given the more highly paid jobs.

Other people argue that the difference arises because women are more likely to take time out of their careers or work part time to raise children.

**WOMEN'S BRAINS AND MEN'S BRAINS**  
Research has shown that men's and women's brains work in different ways.

Women's brains have more connectivity between the left and right hand side and so their brains are better suited to multi tasking and analysis.

Men's brains have a faster chemical response which means that their brains are better suited to decision making and perception.

**"Nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus"**  
Bible

**"For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church"**  
Bible

- EQUAL PAY ACT 1970**  
Men and women must be paid the same amount and have same working conditions for same job
- SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT 1975**  
Discrimination on the grounds of gender is illegal
- EQUALITY ACT 2010**  
Merged the two previous rulings into one law  
Positive action made legal (e.g. allowing gender preference for a position if that gender is under represented)  
Allows occupational requirements (e.g. a male actor for a male role)

Muslim View	Roman Catholic View	Church of England View
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Genders are equal but have different roles</li> <li>Women are not allowed to lead men in prayer but a man can lead women (although it would have to be from a different room as men and women pray separately to preserve modesty).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional roles expected of women – raise children etc</li> <li>Catholic Catechism mentions 'sinful inequalities' and Catholics say to fight against this</li> <li>However, women are still unable to become priests. Catholics defend this by claiming a priest stands in the place of Jesus who was a man.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men and women have equal roles within marriage and together they strengthen the family life</li> <li>Jesus taught that women should be treated equally as he showed them respect and dignity</li> <li>Women have been able to be vicars since 1994</li> </ul>

**"Be it man or woman; each of you is equal to the other."**  
Qur'an

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