

Relationships and family – Revision Notes

Christianity	Islam
Explain teachings about human sexuality, including heterosexual and homosexual relationships.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe marriage is the only place for sex. • 'increase in number' [Genesis 1:28] • Leviticus chapter in Bible bans homosexual acts • Some believe it is love that is important & allow homosexuality • Some believe that homosexuals should remain chaste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homosexuality is against the Quran. • Homosexuality is seen as against God's law. • Some contemporary Muslims believe God has forbidden lust and not love in the Quran. Therefore if a homosexual couple love each other, they should be allowed to be together
Explain beliefs and teachings about sexual relationships before and outside marriage.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex expresses deep commitment and only should take place in marriage. • Catholics believe every act of sex should be within marriage • Some believe sex before marriage is a valid expression of their love for each other • Adultery is wrong, banned in Ten Commandments & breaking the sacrament/vows of marriage made before God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslims believe sex is a gift from God. • It should only happen in marriage. • Adultery is wrong, which is seen a grave sin. • Sex before marriage is wrong- can lead to promiscuity/rape/deception • Muslims should avoid environments which may lead to temptation/sinful acts • In Muslim countries, people who commit adultery are stoned to death
Explain attitudes to family planning and the use of different forms of contraception.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roman Catholics are against artificial methods – goes against natural law/preventing Gods plan • Procreation = purpose of marriage 'Go forth & multiply' [Genesis] • Contraception encourages sexual immorality • Other Christians think it is okay in marriage – expression of love for each other/develop relationship/helps to avoid harming mothers health • Morning after pill = can be seen as a form of abortion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be used within marriage, but should not be used to prevent children for life – children are a gift from God • Some may use natural methods of contraception. • Quran contains no direct teaching about contraception • Contraception is needed in marriage to fulfil sexual desires
Explain understanding of the nature and purpose of marriage.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage is a gift from God and a sacrament/lifelong union blessed by God • Safe place to bring up a family and children as good Christians • Many believe sex before marriage is wrong. • Some think that living together in a faithful marriage is important/express love for each other/reflection of the love of God • Some Christians allow cohabitation if they truly love one another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faithful partnership is the best way to bring up children. • Marriage prevents Muslims from sinning (sexual immorality) • It is what God intended - Husbands and wives are to support and care for one another • Maybe arranged by parents/elderly • Muslims should not cohabit – no commitment.

Explain teachings about divorce	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some believe divorce is seen as adultery according to what Jesus says in the Bible • Roman Catholics are always against as marriage involves making life long vows in front of God • Other Christians think that it is okay in some circumstances, 'lesser of 2 evils' • Divorce is better than adultery • Support is given to those who are experiencing problems. • Views differ on remarriage- some believe Christians should reflect the idea of forgiveness and allow a couple to have another chance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslims see divorce as a last resort – most hated by God • Support from the family and community is given. • Methods of divorce can differ for men and women: A woman applies to the Islamic court for a divorce/A man must declare it verbally or in writing over a period of three months • There must be a waiting period of 3 months to ensure that the woman is not pregnant as the man would have to provide for that child. • People can remarry – Muhammad married a divorced woman
Explain beliefs and teachings about the nature of families	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus taught everyone to love one and another. • 'Honour your father and mother' (10 commandments) • Families are where children learn to love and Christian values. • Extended family passes on religious traditions. • Some Christians oppose same sex parents as children need a father and mother as role models. • Some Christians allow same sex parents as love is what is important in bringing up children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslims live in extended families, who work to support together – Children care for the elderly as the elderly cared for them when they were younger • Quran commands Muslims to 'be kind to your parents' • Traditionally – fathers provide for family, mothers look after the home/raise children
Explain beliefs and teachings about the purpose of families	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families are seen as the building block of society. • Brings stability and protection of children. • Families have responsibilities to treat each other with human dignity and love. Husbands are commanded to love their wives in the Bible • Children should take care of their elderly parents & obey them • Children are seen as gifts from God. Parents are expected to be good role models & teach them moral/religious values • Some may send their children to church/faith schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families provide a stable environment. • Children should show respect to adults – 'obey your parents' • Elderly relatives should be looked after. • Family is responsible in providing an Islamic environment for children to grow up in – Islamic laws are expected to be followed (food/drink/clothes/prayer etc)
Explain beliefs, teachings and moral arguments about the roles of men and women	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone was created as equal in 'the image of God' (Bible) • 'Love your neighbour' excludes any discrimination against women • Jesus treated women with respect – Mary and Martha were 2 great followers of Jesus and mentioned in the Bible • Some traditional Christians see the father as the head of the family & women should stay at home and care for the children • Many see marriage as an equal partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men and women are equal but have different roles – fathers to provide for family/mothers to raise children (traditionally) • Women's rights are protected in marriage. • Women should have financial support by their husbands • Both men and women will be judged equally by God

