

Paper 2: Thematic Studies

A: Relationships and families

Vocabulary

Topic target words	
Cohabitation	A couple living together without being married/in civil partnership
Contraception	Precautions taken to prevent pregnancy and to protect against contracting or transmitting STIs
Divorce	Legal ending of a marriage
Homosexuality	Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the same gender
Marriage	A legal union between a man and a woman (in the UK: between two people) as partners in a relationship
Monogamy	The practice of being in a committed relationship / married to one spouse
Polygamy	The practice of having multiple spouses (wives or husbands)
Procreation	Having a child; seen as a duty in many religions
Remarriage	Marriage for the second time, after divorce ending an earlier marriage

Useful words	
Anglican	A member of the Church of England (a Protestant Church)
Blessing	God's favour and protection
Church of England	The established Church in England
Catholic Church	The tradition within the Christian Church which is led by the Pope
Civil marriage	A marriage performed as a civil contract without religious ceremony

Useful words	
Compassion	Sympathy and concern for the suffering of others
Extended family	Family unit comprising two parents and their children, but also grandparents, cousins etc
Family planning	Planning when to have a family and how big a family to have by use of birth control practices and/or contraception
Gender discrimination	Acting on prejudices against someone because of their gender
Gender equality	Belief that all genders have equal status and value, so discrimination against any is wrong
Gender prejudice	Negative thoughts, feelings or beliefs about a person or group based on their gender
Heterosexuality	Being physically/sexually attracted to persons of the opposite gender
Non-conformist Protestants	An English protestant who is not a member of the Church of England
Nuclear family	Family unit made up of two parents and their child(ren)
Protestant	Christian denominations in which authority is generally based on the Bible rather than Church tradition / teaching
Quakers	A protestant faith group
Reconciliation	Making up and rebuilding relationships
Sin	Behaviour which is against God's laws and wishes
Vows	Promises made during a marriage ceremony

Paper 2: Thematic Studies		A: Relationships and families		Marriage and divorce	
Christian attitudes		Muslim attitudes		Christian sources of belief	
Marriage	1. Marriage helps the stability of society and is blessed by God . 2. It is considered to be nature and is therefore expected. 3. Catholics Church : marriage is a sacrament that give God's grace and reflects the sacrificial love of Jesus.	Marriage	1. Marriage is the foundation of family life. 2. Believed that when a man marries he completes half of his religious responsibilities.	“This is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wide and they become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)	
	Divorce		1. Divorce is allowed as a last resort but is hateful to God . 2. The Qur'an guarantees the rights of men and women to divorce 3. Couples are encouraged to reconcile .	“No human being must separate what God has joined together.” (Mark 10:9)	
Divorce		1. Some Christians: divorce is allowed if it is the lesser of two evils . 2. Catholics : God has joined the couple together so a civil divorce cannot dissolve a marriage. 3. The Church will offer support to couples who are having problems in their marriage.	Divorce	“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her.” (Luke 16:18)	
	Remarriage	1. Muslims are permitted and encouraged to remarry after divorce if they wish to. 2. A man must support his ex-wife until she remarries.		Islamic sources of belief	
Remarriage		1. Divorced Anglicans can remarry in church with permission from the Bishop . 2. Non-conformist Protestants : the Church should reflect God's forgiveness , therefore they allow remarriages in church. 3. Civilly divorced Catholics are not allowed to remarry in church and are expected to remain celibate .	Remarriage	“There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer [to God] than marriage.” (Hadith)	
	Marriage ceremonies			“The throne of Allah shakes due to divorce.” (Hadith)	
Remarriage	Christianity	1. The ceremony reflects the importance of marriage and give's God's blessing . 2. The couple make promises to each other in front of God.	“If they both desire reconciliation, Allah will cause it between them.” (Qur'an 4:35)		
		Islam	1. The ceremony is called a nikkah . 2. A marriage contract is signed.	“Divorced women shall also have maintenance as is considered fair.” (Qu’ran 2:241)	

Paper 2: Thematic Studies		A: Relationships and families		Human sexuality	
Christian attitudes		Muslim attitudes		Christian sources of belief	
Sex before marriage / cohabit-ation	1. Liberal Christians: it is a valid expression of life if the couple are monogamous and intend to marry . 2. Sex should be part of a loving trusting relationship and should only happen in marriage. 3. Catholic Church: sex is only for procreation .	Sex before marriage / cohabit-ation	1. Sex is seen as a gift from God and sexual relationships should only happen between a man and woman who are married . 2. Muslims should avoid situations that could lead to sexual sins .	"The sexual act must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it constitutes a grave sin." (The Catholic Church)	
				"Flee from sexual immorality." (1 Corinthians 6:18)	
				"Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28)	
Adultery	1. Christianity strongly disagrees with adultery . 2. It involves secrecy, lies, and a betrayal of trust. 3. It breaks the promises made before God during the marriage ceremony . 4. Lust , which could lead to adultery, is also wrong.	Adultery	1. Adultery is a very serious crime. 2. It involves secrecy, lies, and a betrayal of trust. 3. Married couple should not need to find sexual fulfilment outside their marriage .	"Other methods may be used, provided that this is done in the light of Christian principles." (The Church of England)	
				"Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28)	
				"Every sexual act should have the possibility of creating new life." (The Catholic Church)	
				Islamic sources of belief	
Artificial contracept-ion	1. Church of England: is acceptable for family planning . 2. It allows couples to develop their relationship before having children. 3. Catholic Church: teaches artificial contraception is a sin because it prevents God's plan. 4. Children are a blessing from God and should not be prevented.	Artificial contracept-ion	1. Children are a gift from God . 2. Contraception can be used for family planning. 3. Some Muslims think that it is wrong because it interferes with God's plans .	"Let those who find not the wherewithal for marriage keep themselves chaste until God gives them the means." (Qur'an 24:33)	
				"And do not go anywhere near adultery: it is an outrage and an evil path." (Qur'an 17:32)	
				"God wishes to lighten your burden." (Qur'an 4:28)	
				"Do not kill your children for fear of poverty - we shall provide for them and for you - killing them is a great sin." (Qur'an 17:31)	

Paper 2: Thematic Studies		A: Relationships and families		Homosexuality
Christian attitudes		Muslim attitudes		Christian sources of belief
Homosexual-ity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liberal Christians: Jesus taught acceptance and that includes of gay people and their relationships. 2. Quakers: the quality and depth of feeling between two people is the most important part of a loving relationship. 3. Catholic Church: Homosexual sex is a sin and separates people from God. 	Homosexual-ity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sexual orientation is considered to be a choice. 2. The Qur'an teaches it is unnatural and against the will of God. 	<p>"Love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:31)</p> <p>"You shall not lie with a male as with a female; it is an abomination." (Leviticus 18:22)</p> <p>"This is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife and they become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24)</p>
Same-sex marriage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Same-sex marriage is not legally performed in English churches. 2. Anglican vicars are permitted to bless civil marriages. 3. Quakers support same-sex marriage because the quality and depth of feeling is the most important thing. 4. Church of England & Catholic Church: Marriage is between one man and woman. 	Same-sex marriage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As Islam does not accept homosexuality, it does not accept same-sex marriage. 	Islamic sources of belief
Same-sex parents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a Christian accepts same-sex marriage they will also accept same-sex parenting. 2. Many Christians believe the ideal is for children to grow up with male and female role-models as parents. 	Same-sex parents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As Islam does not accept homosexuality, it does not accept same-sex parents. 	<p>"Must you ... list after males and abandon the wives that God has created for you?" (Qur'an 26:165)</p> <p>"And as for the two of you men who are guilty of lewdness, punish them both. And if they repent and improve, then let them be. Lo! Allah is merciful." (Qur'an 4:16)</p>

Paper 2: Thematic Studies		A: Relationships and families		Families and gender equality	
Nature of families		Polygamy		Christian sources of belief	
Nuclear family	1. One that contains a mother, father, and children. 2. The ideal for Christians and Muslims.	Christian attitudes	1. Church of England: marriage is between one man and one woman. 2. Men should only have one wife.	"Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28) "Honour your father and your mother." (Exodus 20:12)	
Extended family	1. Grandparents and other relatives living together. 2. The basis of society for Muslims.	Muslim attitudes	1. Men are allowed up to four wives as long as they can treat each one equally. 2. Muhammad was polygamous after the death of his first wife Khadija.	"Here [the family] one learns endurance and the joy of work, love, generous - and even repeated forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer..." (The Catholic Church) "Let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth." (Malachi 2:15)	
Single-parent family	1. Where one parent brings their children up without the other parent.	Gender roles and equality		"Children are indeed a heritage from the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is His reward." (Psalm 127:3) "With painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you." (Genesis 3:16)	
Purpose of families		Christian attitudes		Islamic sources of belief	
Procreation	1. Having children. 2. The purpose of families for Catholics.			"Marry women of your choice, two, or three, or four: but if you fear that you shall not be able to deal justly (with them), then marry only one." (Qur'an 4:3) "For every tree there is a fruit and the fruit of the heart is the children." (Hadith)	
Stability and protection	1. Providing a secure, stable environment for children. 2. Islam: The foundation of human society as it provides a secure, healthy nurturing environment for parents and children.	Some traditional Christians: men are the head of the family and should earn the money, women have and care for children.		"He who is good to his parents, blessings be upon him..." (Hadith) "People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognise one another." (Qur'an 49:13)	
Faith	1. Bringing children up in their faith is an important part of family life for Christians and Muslims.	Muslim attitudes	1. Men and women are equal in the eyes of God . 2. They have different roles: men provide for the family, women look after the home and children.		