

<b>Theme A: Relationships &amp; Families – personal learning checklist</b>	
Students should study religious teachings, and religious, philosophical and ethical arguments, relating to the issues that follow, and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of contrasting perspectives in contemporary British society on all of these issues.	
They must be able to explain contrasting beliefs on the following three issues with reference to the main religious tradition in Britain (Christianity) <b>and one or more other religious traditions:</b>	
Contraception	
Sexual relationships before marriage	
Homosexual relationships	
<b>Sex, marriage and divorce</b>	
Human sexuality including: heterosexual and homosexual relationships.	
Sexual relationships before and outside of marriage	
Contraception and family planning	
The nature and purpose of marriage	
Same-sex marriage and cohabitation	
Divorce, including reasons for divorce, and remarrying	
Ethical arguments related to divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion	
<b>Families and gender equality</b>	
<b>The nature of families, including:</b> • the role of parents and children • extended families and the nuclear family	
<b>The purpose of families, including:</b> • procreation • stability and the protection of children • educating children in a faith	
<b>Contemporary family issues including:</b> • same-sex parents • polygamy	
Gender equality	
Gender prejudice and discrimination, including examples	

<b>Command words</b> are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell you how you should answer the question.	
<b>Evaluate</b>	Tests evaluation. It requires you to consider different viewpoints and arrive at a judgement.
<b>Explain</b>	Tests knowledge and understanding of beliefs, teachings and practices. It requires you to identify relevant points and demonstrate understanding by adding detail/development.
<b>Explain how X may influence Y</b>	Tests knowledge and understanding of (eg) how a religious belief or practice influences individuals or groups. This means how it would make them think feel or act.
<b>Give</b>	Tests recall of knowledge, eg two examples or two beliefs.
<b>Similar</b>	Nearly the same/lots in common
<b>Contrasting</b>	Different/opposite

<b>Theme A: Relationships and families glossary</b>	
<b>Adultery</b>	A married person having a sexual relationship with someone they are not married to.
<b>Apostolic tradition</b>	Jesus chose men to be his disciples so some Christians would say only men should lead worship.
<b>Annulment</b>	A formal declaration that marriage was not valid
<b>Artificial contraception</b>	An artificial (man-made) method of controlling the amount of children a couple has e.g. condoms, the pill
<b>Atheist</b>	A person who does not believe in God
<b>Blended family</b>	A family group that includes the parents and children from their previous relationships
<b>Celibate</b>	Unmarried and abstaining from sexual acts, especially because of a religious vow e.g. St Paul and the Pope
<b>Civil partnership</b>	A legal ceremony that gives same-sex couples the same rights as married couples (since 2004 in the UK)
<b>Cohabitation</b>	Living together as partners and having a sexual relationship without being married
<b>Commitment</b>	A bond between a couple.
<b>Contraception</b>	The prevention of pregnancy by using artificial methods such as condoms or the pill, or natural methods such as avoiding sex during the fertile periods
<b>Divorce</b>	The legal ending of a marriage
<b>Equality</b>	Two people or groups of people equal in status, rights and opportunity
<b>Extended family</b>	A family group including more than the nuclear family e.g. grandparents living together
<b>Family planning</b>	A method of controlling the amount of children a couple has
<b>Gender discrimination</b>	When someone has a different status, rights or opportunity because of their gender
<b>Gender prejudice</b>	When someone is believed to have a different status, rights and opportunity because of their gender
<b>Genesis</b>	The first book in the Bible, beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve.
<b>Heterosexuality</b>	To be attracted to members of the opposite sex to you.
<b>Homosexuality</b>	Sexual attraction to someone of the same sex
<b>Humanae Vitae</b>	A document written by Pope Paul VI and issued on 25 July 1968 about relationships, procreation and contraception.
<b>Humanism</b>	A non-religious view that puts logic, reason and evidence at the centre of their outlook
<b>Marital</b>	Something that refers to the married relationship of a couple
<b>Marriage</b>	The legally and religiously recognised union of two people as partners in a personal relationship
<b>Natural family planning</b>	A natural method of contraception when a couple does not have sex during the least fertile part of a woman's menstrual cycle
<b>Nuclear family</b>	A family group consisting of parents and children only
<b>Parish</b>	A Church area cared for by a local minister/priest/vicar
<b>Pre-marital sex</b>	Having a sexual relationship before marriage.
<b>Procreation</b>	To have children; reproduction
<b>Regulation of births</b>	Controlling the amount of children a couple has and when they have them (family planning)
<b>Remarriage</b>	Another marriage after a previous marriage has ended
<b>Rites of passage</b>	Ceremonies to mark important stages of life e.g. a christening, wedding, funeral
<b>Sacred bond</b>	A joining together sanctified by God which cannot be broken by humans
<b>Same-sex family</b>	A family group consisting of parents who are the same gender and children only
<b>Sanctity</b>	Something that is holy or sacred e.g. The sanctity of marriage
<b>Single parent family</b>	A family group consisting of one parent and children only
<b>Situation ethics</b>	Whether something is right or wrong depends upon the situation and you should do the most loving thing
<b>St Paul</b>	Early Church leader who was celibate and unmarried. Key person in this topic
<b>Unitive</b>	Results in a union - used to refer to married or sexual relationships
<b>Vows</b>	Sacred promises a couple make at their marriage e.g. "until death do us part"



## **Theme A Relationships and families SofAs**

### **Old Testament**

- “God created mankind in his image” Genesis 1:27
- “Be fruitful and multiply” Genesis 1:28
- “Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him” Genesis 2:18
- “For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh” Genesis 2:24
- “Honour your father and mother” Exodus 20:12 and “Thou shall not commit adultery” Exodus 20:14
- Song of Songs

### **New Testament**

- “Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate” Matthew 19:6
- “Anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and remarries another woman commits adultery” Matthew 19:9
- “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female’ ‘for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh so they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate” Mark 10:7 - 9
- “There is neither ... male nor female... for you are all one in Christ” St Paul in his letter to the Galatians 3:28
- “Wives submit to your husbands as to the lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is head of the church” St Paul in Ephesians 5:22-23
- “Children, obey your parents... parents do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the instruction of the Lord” Ephesians 6:1-4
- “I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man, she must be quiet” St Paul in 1 Timothy 2:12
- “Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral” Hebrews 13:4

### **Other SofAs**

- “(The Church) teaches that each and every marital act must of necessity retain its intrinsic relationship to the procreation of human life” Pope Paul VI in *Humanae Vitae*
- “...to love and to cherish, till death do us part” (wedding vows)

### **Islam**

- “There is no institution in Islam more beloved and dearer [to God] than marriage” 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

**Sexual relationships before and outside marriage.** Paul said to “flee from sexuality immorality” which highlights the view that sex should not be done irresponsibly. Instead, it is a symbol of love and should be done within a loyal, loving marriage. Although Anglican and Catholic churches say that sex should be saved for marriage, more liberal churches accept it before marriage in a loving relationship. Some Christians may choose to wear a purity ring before marriage to highlight they are saving sex for their husband/wife to be. The white dress at a wedding also represents being pure, a virgin. In the 10 commandments it says “thou shall not commit adultery” highlighting the importance of a loving stable relationship. Jesus also taught that lust could lead to adultery, so it is also wrong.

**Christian teachings about sexuality.** In the past, the church was more powerful so the teaching that sex should be within marriage was accepted by most of society. However, times have changed e.g. attitudes to contraception, abortion and in the law with same-sex marriage etc which broadly reflect societal views.

However, many Christians still see heterosexual relationships as part of God’s plan, reflected in his command to “increase in number”. So many are opposed to sex outside of marriage and some are strongly against homosexual relationships. In Leviticus it states, “that a man should not lie with a man”. Therefore, the Catholic church teach that homosexuals are not sinful, but they should avoid sex.

Other Christians are more accepting of homosexuals in loving, faithful relationships, but won’t allow them to marry in a church.

**Contraception and family planning.** Contraception is a way of preventing a pregnancy when a couple have sex. In modern Britain, many approve of the use of contraception and view it as a responsible way of avoiding unwanted pregnancies/abortions.

Christians believe having a child is a gift from God so the Catholic church teach that artificial methods of contraception are wrong as “every sexual act should have the possibility of creating new life”. They permit natural methods e.g. the rhythm method to space out when they have children (despite this not being a reliable method). However, many disapprove of this and say that as long as contraception does not cause an abortion e.g. morning after pill, then it is a responsible decision.

In 1930, the Church of England permitted artificial contraception “provided that this is done in light of Christian principles” e.g. to develop a couple’s relationship before having children (intimacy), to space out pregnancies to protect the health of the mother.

**Religious teachings about marriage.** Since 2015 same-sex marriage has been permitted in the UK. Many Christians opposed this as they believe marriage is a union between a man and a woman, as taught in the Bible. Christians believe in the sanctity of marriage - it is a gift from God at creation for couples to be “one flesh” and to bring life into the world. Catholics also see marriage as a sacrament, a lifelong union blessed by God that reflects Jesus’ sacrificial love. The purpose of marriage is to provide a stable, secure environment for family life, to love each other “as Christ loved the church”. In British society, many couples choose to cohabit (live together unmarried). Some want to ‘test’ their relationship before marriage, others choose not to marry. Christians are opposed to sex before marriage so many do not agree with cohabitation. Other churches accept that although marriage is the best, couples may live together in a faithful, loving and committed way without marriage.

**Christian teachings about the nature of families.**

Family life has changed over the years, but most agree it is the best environment to raise children. Parents should love, care, and raise their children to know right from wrong. For Christians love is central as they are taught by God to love one another. One of the commandments is to “honour your father and mother” so many Christians believe you should support your parents too, especially when they are old. Most Christians believe that the traditional nuclear family is ideal. However, some same that it is more important for children to be loved regardless of the parent’s gender.

**Divorce and remarriage.** Just under half of marriages in Britain end in divorce. Many Christians say that the vow “till death do us part” is sacred and shouldn’t be broken, however others might be more compassionate and open to divorce e.g. if there is domestic violence.

Jesus taught that remarriage was wrong after stating “... marries another woman commits adultery” however he seems to allow divorce under the grounds of divorce. The Church of England allow divorce although they will encourage marriage counselling (e.g. through Relate) to help the couple stay together. They view divorce in some cases, as the lesser of two evils.

The Catholic church teaches that a couple can separate, but not remarry as they’ve made promises to God to be in a lifelong, exclusive marriage. They can have their marriage annulled if it fits the criteria and are free to marry again.

**Christian teachings about the purpose of families.**

The protection of children is a key aspect of family life. An important part within a Christian family will be to educate children in their faith by being good role models, perhaps attending church/Sunday school and having God parents too. The church teaches that both parents and children have responsibilities to one another. Children are considered a gift from God so should be loved and children should “obey your parents in everything.”

**Christian beliefs about gender equality.** Gender equality means that men and women should be given the same rights and opportunities as one another. Gender prejudice is often based on sexual stereotyping e.g. thinking that women are naturally more caring and weaker, so they should look after the home and men should go to work. This can lead to gender discrimination e.g. not employing a man to look after young children or a woman to work in a building site.

Christians believe that God made all people as equals and his image. Jesus also treated women with respect and Paul stated, “there is no male nor female... for you are all one on Christ”. However, some traditional Christians believe that the man is the head of the home and women should stay at home. This may come from literal interpretations in the Bible, such as when Eve is punished, and Adam is “to rule over” her. Most Christians see marriage as an equal partnership where different gifts of each person strengthen the family.

## How to write in Religious Studies – 12 Mark questions



→ Icing – turn the statement into a question

→ Layer 1 – Argument **for** the statement

→ Layer 2 – A **different** point of view

→ Layer 3 – which is the best argument? Why?

## How to write in Religious Studies – 4 Mark questions

