

## Revision- Religion, Relationships and Family

### Human beings as sexual, male and female

- In both Genesis 1 and 2 the importance of human beings in creation is stressed.
- Both men and women are made in God's image and should be treated equally.
- In Genesis 2 Adam is split into two complementary parts- they give each other what the other lacks and they create harmony.
- Role of sex is seen to be marital, unitive and procreative;
  - Marital- In the sacrament of marriage they will make verbal promises to each other- this commitment is then consummated through the physical union of sex. Sex should only take place within marriage and for a marriage to be valid there must be intercourse.
  - Unitive- sex expresses a couple's love for each other and helps them to become closer.
  - Procreative- God acts through sex to create new life. All sex should be open to new life and in marriage the couple should be willing to accept the life given to them from God.

### **Links to scripture and Teaching**

- Humanae Vitae 11-12: every act in marriage should remain open to the creation of new life.
- Mark 10: 24- "and the two shall become one flesh."
- Youcat 417- husband and wife should be physically connected to deepen

their connection and allow to children to result from their love.

- Mark 10: 6-9 - man and women shall become one flesh. What God joins together in marriage should not be separated.

### Questions:

1. Why would the Catholic Church be against adultery and divorce?
2. Should a Catholic couple use contraception?

### Pope John Paul II's 'theology of the Body

- Both men and women are equal and have inherent dignity and value. This can only be properly appreciated where there is a deep relationship with the opposite sex.
- Sex is an important part of marriage as it allows men and women to completely give themselves to their partner.
- Extramarital sex and the use of contraception undermines the significance and role of sex.
- Extra marital sex stops it from being a sign of total commitment and love.
- Adultery is the breaking of a promise made in the wedding ceremony.
- True mutual love includes responsible parenthood and not having more children than a couple can properly care for. A couple should use a woman's natural periods of fertility and infertility to reduce the chances of pregnancy.
- Unfaithfulness starts in the mind- if people are in control of their mind they will not reduce people to sex objects.
- Contrasting Views- while some treat sex with the respect as the Catholic Church other choose to have sex

with many different partners. Many also place less emphasis on sex needing to create new life and use contraception.

### Links to scripture and teaching.

- Matthew 5: 28- "everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery in his heart."
- Youcat 417- although pleasure and joy are an important part of sex it must not be the only purpose of sex. If sex is not open to new life it is no longer in keeping with the nature of God.

### Questions

1. Why have attitudes towards sex before marriage changed recently?
2. Do you think contraception should be allowed in marriage? Justify your answer.

### Human Sexuality and its expression

- Sex before Marriage- sex is the total commitment between a couple and should only happen in marriage. Sex before marriage trivialises how special the act of sex is. To keep the gift of virginity for marriage makes both partners feel special and loved.
  - Contrasting Views- many British, and Christian, people choose to have sex before marriage. Many also think that casual sex is fine where it doesn't provide any emotional harm. The use of contraception has allowed sex before marriage and casual sex to become more common.
- Adultery- this is to have sex with someone who is not their husband and wife. It breaks the vow 'To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse.' It is an act

of betrayal and makes their partner feel rejected.

- Contrasting Views- many non-Catholics share the view that adultery is wrong because the commitment made between two people should be honoured. Some believe that it can be forgiven under certain circumstances e.g. if they're in an unhappy marriage.
- Homosexuality- the Church believes that sex should be open to the possibility of new life. This means that sexual relationships between the same sex is not acceptable to the Church because it cannot create new life. It also believes that all lives deserve respect and love regardless of their sexual orientation.
  - Contrasting Views- Same sex marriage was legalised in England in 2014. They are not allowed to get married in a church but the Church of England supports the idea of same sex civil partnerships. The legalisation of same sex marriage reflects the views of the majority of people who believe all people deserve equal rights.

### Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 407- because love is great, sacred and unique the Church teaches that people should wait until they are married to have sex.
- CCC 2381- Adultery is an injustice and whoever commits it has failed in their commitment.
- Secular Humanist Declaration 5- Morality does not need to be based

on religion. No church should impose its beliefs about sexual conduct and marriage onto the rest of society.

Questions:

1. What is a humanist?
2. What is a civil partnership?

### A Valid Marriage in the Catholic Church

- For a marriage to be acknowledged by the Church it must meet certain conditions.
  - Both partners must not already be married to someone who is still alive or have taken vows to be a priest or part of a religious community.
  - Both partners must be getting married out of their own free will and are not being forced to marry.
  - They must not be closely related.
  - The moment of marriage is the consent; if there is no consent then there is no valid marriage.
  - The promises must be made in the presence of a priest or deacon who acts as a witness for God and the Church.
  - They must be willing to declare that they will accept children from God.
  - The marriage is not valid until the couple have given themselves to each other sexually.
- Same sex marriage- because sex must be open to children the church has always insisted that marriage

can only happen between men and women.

- However, many believe that homosexuals should be entitled to the same rights as everyone. They do not see children as being an integral part of marriage and support the legalisation of same sex marriage.
- Pope Francis: 'If a person is gay and seeks God and has a good will, who am I to judge?' Homosexuals should not be marginalised but integrated into society.

### **Links to Scripture and Teaching**

- CCC 1627- "This consent that binds the spouses to each other finds its fulfilment in the two 'becoming one flesh'."

Questions:

1. How have attitudes to same sex marriage changed over the years?
2. Why do you think these changes have happened?
3. Why do some believe that the Catholic Church is unfair to the LGBT community?

### The Nature of Marriage, Marriage Promises, and Cohabitation

- The Catholic Church values marriage as an exclusive union between people. It is a sacrament; it is a sign of God's love and blessing.
- As the couple changes over the years they should grow together becoming stronger. A good marriage can be an example to other couples and the rest of society.
- The ceremony will take place in public so show that they are ready to declare their love in front of other people.

- Both state their names so that there can be no confusion about who is making the commitment.
- The promises (vows) highlight that marriage means taking a leap into the unknown; we cannot predict what will happen throughout their lives.
- Cohabitation- the Catholic Church is against this because there is no expressed commitment and the two may not feel a need to ensure that the relationship will last, it breaks the sanctity of marriage and sex.
  - The couple had made the vow 'til death do us part'. These were made before God and cannot be broken.
  - God made man and woman to be united and no human can break this bond.
  - Jesus taught that anyone who divorced and remarried would be committing adultery.
- Remarriage- according to the Catholic Church this can only happen after their partner has died. If the marriage is still considered valid by the Church then the person cannot receive communion.

### Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Gaudium et Spes 47- the well-being of a person and Christian society is closely tied to a healthy marriage and home life.
- YouCat 261- God forms the bonds of sacramental marriage; it is binding until death.

### Questions

1. What are the vow that a man and woman take during the sacrament of marriage?
2. How do these vows effect a Christian's beliefs about divorce
3. Why might some think that cohabitation is important to do before getting married?

### Annulment, divorce and remarriage

- Annulment- This is made because there was something wrong with the commitments that were made e.g. one of the couple continually had affairs, the couple never had sex or always insisted on using contraception or they were forced to get married.
- Divorce- The church does not accept remarriage because;

### Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Mark 10:11-12: If a person divorces and remarries then they are committing adultery.
- CCC 1650: A new union (marriage) is not valid if the original marriage is still considered to be valid.

### Questions

1. Define annulment, divorce and remarriage.
2. Why would marrying after an annulment not be considered remarriage?
3. What do Anglicans and Methodists believe about divorce and remarriage?

### Family Planning and Contraception

- Artificial Contraception separates sex from its purpose since it makes it non-procreative.
- Some Christians are against the use of family planning as it also stops sex from being procreative.
- More recently, Popes have stressed the need for responsible parenthood- parents should make

sure that they should take steps to ensure that they can provide for their families.

- **Contrasting views-**
  - Some argue artificial contraception is essential to stop STIs but the Church does not accept this because if a person saves themselves until marriage there is little chance of catching an STI.
  - Many people have sex before marriage and believe using contraception is responsible to prevent unwanted pregnancies.
  - Church of England- accepts the use of contraception.

5. Why do the beliefs of the Church of England differ from the Catholic Church?

#### Nature and Purpose of a Family

- The Christian family has four tasks;
  - To form a community
  - To support the life and development of each individual
  - To share in the development of the wider society
  - To share in the life and mission of the Church
- Procreation- the family is the best way to bring up children; the parents are a visible sign of love. It is through having children that a couple can create their own family.
- Security- Life is full of challenges and the best way for children to deal with these challenges is through the support in a loving family environment.
- Education- Parents are the first and most important teachers of their children; through teaching and example parents help their children to recognise right from wrong.
- **Contrasting Views**
  - The idea of a 'nuclear family' is becoming less common; same-sex and single-parent families are becoming more common.
  - Some say family values are harder to learn where there is not a traditional family setting.
  - Others argue that these values can still exist regardless of the type of family.
  - Some put more emphasis on emotional connections with

#### **Links to Scripture and Teaching**

- Familiaris Consortio 312- To use contraception is to separate the unitive and procreative nature of sex. It degrades human sexuality.
- Youcat 420- A Christian couple should be responsible in using the gift and privilege of creating new life.
- Youcat 421- The church recommends the using of Family Planning as it still respects the male and female body- using the gifts of a woman's menstrual cycle.

#### **Questions:**

1. What is contraception?
2. What do the Catholic Church believe about the purpose of sex?
3. What is family planning?
4. How is family planning different from the use of artificial contraception?

people rather than connection through blood.

### Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Youcat 370- the welfare of society depends on the family unit to live and develop.
- Familiaris Consortio 28- the most important task of a family is to create new life. Passing on the gift of being made in god's image.
- Familiaris Consortio 26- special attention should be given to children. Helping them to develop their esteem. Showing respect and concern for their rights.

### Questions

1. What is the nuclear family?
2. Why are nuclear families becoming less common in society?
3. Do you think it takes a nuclear family to make sure a child feels supported? Justify your answer.

### Roles and responsibilities in the family

- People have different roles in the household; all roles are to be respected and supported allowing the parents to work in harmony together.
- St. Paul -
  - he stresses that family life is the love of Christ lived out.
  - Husbands should love their wives unconditionally.
  - Wives show love to their husband by doing as he asks. The husband should only ask what is reasonable of her.

- Children should obey their parents as a sign of respect and honour.
- Fathers should show love and kindness to their children and not use any extreme discipline.

- The role of the mother is stressed and the Church feels that this is a role that is often overlooked by society.
- Both men and women contribute different qualities to the family; the man should provide for the needs of the family and protect them.
- Single or same-sex families- any family that is not started between a man and a woman through marriage is not encouraged by the church.
- Contrasting views- many would argue that the love between the parents and the child is what matters the most.

### Links to scripture and teaching

- Youcat 86- Jesus was a child who received love and affection from his parents and was brought up by them.
- Ephesians 5:21-6:4- St. Paul's teaching on the family.

### Questions

1. Why would some see St. Paul's comments as sexist?
2. Why might other interpret St. Paul's teachings as progressive?
3. Research a charity that helps to support struggling single-parent families.

### Gender Equality in the Bible

- It is important that at times the writing in the Bible reflects the

cultural views about men and women at the time.

- *Genesis*- men and women are made equal and complete each other.
- *OT*- women have roles that men also have e.g. judges or role models to the Jewish people.
- *NT*- Jesus showed respect for women. When teaching about divorce the same standards apply to both men and women. Another example is where Mary Magdalene was the first person Jesus appeared to after his resurrection.
- Throughout the Bible many events are recorded about men; they played an important role and establishment and spreading of the Early Christian Church. This is mainly due to men being shown greater respect in society.

#### **Links to Scripture and Teaching**

- *Genesis 1:27*- man and woman are created at the same time.
- *Genesis 2:23-24*- Creation of Eve from Adam's rib.
- *Luke 1:38*- Mary is shown to be the perfect disciple.
- *John 20:17*- appearance to Mary Magdalene
- *Romans 16:1-2*- Respected female leaders in the Early Christian Church.
- *Galatians 3:28*- "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

#### **Questions**

1. Why were women less influential in the Early Church than men?
2. What roles do women have in the Catholic Church today?

#### Catholic Teaching on the equality of men and women

- The foundation of these beliefs come from *Genesis*.
- It is stated clearly in teaching that men and women are human being and therefore, equal.
- Equality means to acknowledge the differences between the sexes; they cannot be supportive of each other while being the same.
- The difference between men and women is positive as it enables them to reinforce each other with their different gifts.
- **Contrasting Views**
  - Most agree that men and women are equally important but would disagree that men and women have predefined roles.
  - Many would view the approach of the Church as sexist as treating women equally means providing equal opportunities.

#### **Links to Scripture and Teaching**

- *CCC 372*- men and women were made from each other- they are equal persons and complement each other.
- *Youcat 401*- God gave men and women equal dignity. To ignore the specific characteristics of men and women goes against God's plan for creation.

#### Gender prejudice and discrimination

- Discrimination causes great damage because it stops people from using their God-given talents.
- Pope Francis: Men and women should earn the same amount. The current difference in their pay is a scandal.

- The Church believes that men and women should not be treated differently in the same situation.
- There should be 'objective equality' where no distinction between men and women is made. But the two sexes should not be treated identically; men and women have roles that must be respected.
- Sex Discrimination Act outlawed gender discrimination yet it still happens implicitly today. Many would argue that the Church saying men and women should fulfil different roles is an example of this.

**Links to Scripture and Teaching**

- Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church- women's work should not be structured so that they have to give up their role in the family.

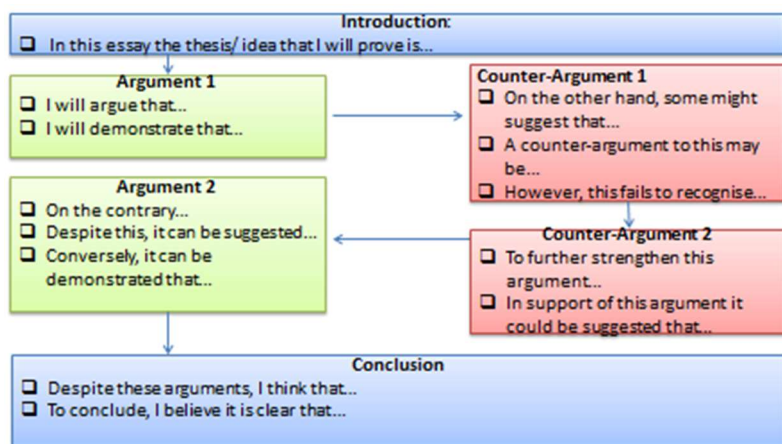
**Questions**

1. What is the difference between prejudice and discrimination?
2. Give 3 examples of gender stereotypes that people might have.
3. Give 3 examples of gender discrimination that takes place today.

Exam Practice

1. Define annulment. (1)
2. Define compassion. (1)
3. Define discrimination. (1)
4. Define divorce. (1)

5. Define equality. (1)
6. Define marriage. (1)
7. Define prejudice. (1)
8. Define sanctity. (1)
9. Give two teachings about the human body from Pope John Paul II's theology of the body. (2)
10. Give two teachings about the nature and purpose of sex. (2)
11. Give two conditions of marriage. (2)
12. Give two reasons why a couple may be annulled. (2)



13. Explain two contrasting view in contemporary British society about the issue of annulment. (4)
14. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the issue of sex before marriage. (4)
15. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about cohabitation. (4)
16. Explain two ways the Catholic Church responds to marital breakdown. (4)
17. Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the equality of men and women. (4)
18. Explain two ways the Catholic Church responds to the issue of gender prejudice and discrimination. (4)
19. Explain how the Bible influences Catholic approaches to gender. (5)



20. Explain two Christian beliefs about sex before marriage. (5)
21. Explain two Christian beliefs about contraception. (5)
22. Explain how views about the nature of marriage influences beliefs about divorce. (5)
23. Explain two Christian beliefs about roles within the family. (5)
24. 'The Catholic Church has a negative attitude to sex.' Evaluate this Statement. (12)
25. 'Pope John Paul II's 'Theology of the Body' is outdated.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
26. 'The catholic Church is right to forbid same-sex marriages.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
27. 'The Catholic Church is sexist.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
28. 'The best type of family is a nuclear family.' Evaluate this statement. (12)

### 12 Mark question skills

OR

Intro: In this essay I am going to agree/disagree with the statement...

ACR 1

The first argument to support my thesis is...

Others would argue against this by saying...

I don't accept this counter-argument because...

ACR 2

Furthermore, I would argue that...

Again, others would disagree because...

However, their arguments are not good arguments because...

Conclusion: Overall, I think that...