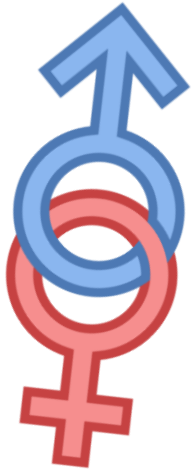


The Study of Religion: Paper 2

Relationships and Family

Human Sexuality



Christian views to Human sexuality

- Part of **God's plan** for humans to have sex.
- Man and women should '**increase in number**'
- Some Christians believe that they should **do the most loving thing** therefore their teachings should adapt into a changing world. (Homosexuality/ sex before marriage)

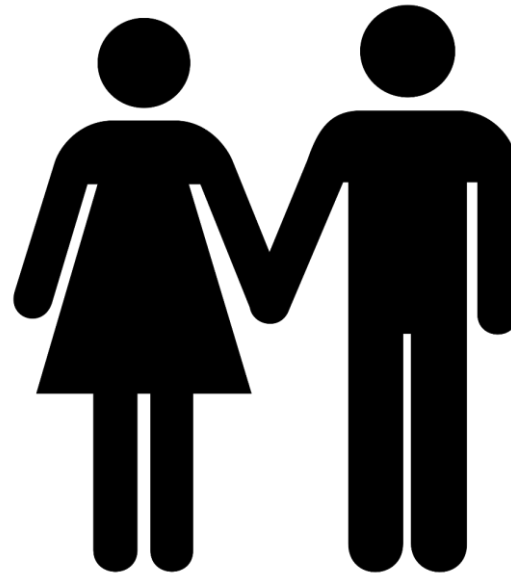
Key Terms

Definitions

Human Sexuality	How people express themselves as sexual beings
Heterosexual	To be sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex.
Homosexual	To be sexually attracted to members of the same sex

Muslim views to Human sexuality

- It is a way for humans to **express themselves**.
- It is **natural**.
- Forming heterosexual relationships should **lead to having children**.
- It is part of **being human**.
- Sex is for **pleasure** not just reproduction.
- Humans have **natural sexual instincts**.
- Human body is created by God and all **parts have a purpose**.
- Being **celibate is wrong**.
- Sex between husband and wife is a **blessing from God**.



Contemporary British Attitudes:

- Today sex before marriage, multiple sexual partners, children outside of marriage, adultery or homosexual relationships are more **accepted**.
- Today the age of **consent is 16 years old**.
- It **protects** anyone under the age from **exploitation and abuse**.
- Islamic teachings **don't specify an age of consent**.
- **Sex should only take place within a marriage and dating is not encouraged**.

Homosexuality

Christian views against homosexuality	Christian views accepting homosexuality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Against God's command to increase in number- can't reproduce. Sexual relationships between men are forbidden in the Bible. Not allowed to get married within a Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail on homosexual relationships between women as there is no penetrative sex. Homosexual relationship aren't sinful (as long as sex is not involved) Church of England allows homosexuality as long as they are faithful and committed to one another. Some believe Bible teachings need to be updates to this modern society- therefore making it acceptable.
<p>" Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a women; that is detestable."</p>	

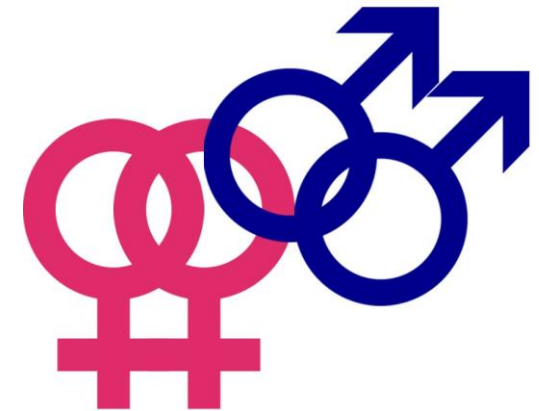
Muslim views on Homosexuality

- Homosexuality is forbidden.
- In most Muslim countries it is against the law.
- Human sexuality is a choice but choosing to be drawn to the same sex is not right.
- It is against the natural law of God.
- It is against God's will.
- Homosexuals should control their actions and not break God's laws.
- Some believe homosexuals will have to answer to God on judgement day,

" Must you, unlike other people, lust after males and abandon the wives that God has created for you? You are exceeding all bounds."

Contemporary British Attitudes:

- Today homosexual relationships are more accepted.
- It is now legal to be in a homosexual relationship and couples can now marry or convert civil partnership into marriage if they wish,
- Some Muslims believe that homosexuality should not be accepted in Islam.



Sex before marriage

Christian views on sex before marriage

Acceptable

- Some accept as it is a valid expression for their love for one another.

Unacceptable

- Sex expresses a deep, loving lifelong union **after marriage**,
- Should be **sexually pure** before marriage.
- Sex should not be for temporary pleasure.
- It is wrong to use people for sex, and it is irresponsible to spread STI's or risk pregnancy

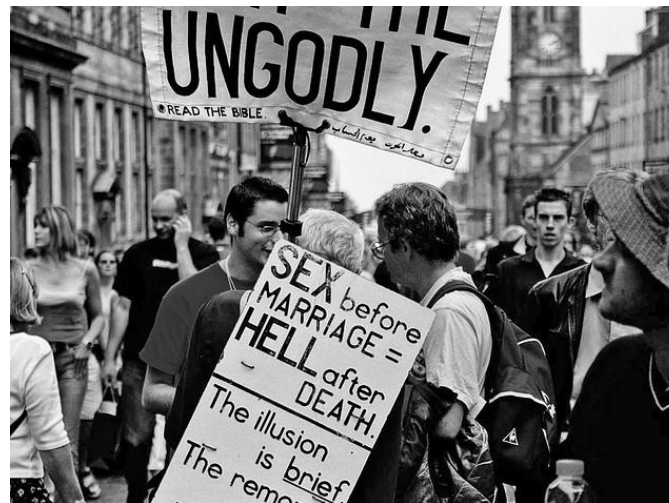
"Every sexual act must be within the framework of marriage,"

Muslim views on sex before marriage

- Sex is a **gift from God** and therefore must be used **responsibly**.
- Muslims believe that causal sex is wrong and **detracts from the dignity of those involved**.
- Sex should not **cause harm**—Children could be born out of wedlock.
- Casual sex could **lead to promiscuity and other evils such as rape and deception**.
- The **Qur'an** forbids sex before marriage.
- It is considered the **same as adultery and rape** and is a **serious sin**.

Contemporary British Attitudes:

- Sex before marriage is commonly accepted.
- Films, TV programmes, books and magazines reflect the belief that it is usual for couples who are dating to have sex.
- Sometimes young people can deal pressure to have sex before marriage.
- People want to make sure they are sexually compatible before they marry,
- Young British Muslims can sometimes feel caught in-between values of their religion and values from the culture they live in.



"The only way to protect all within society is to maintain a society where only a man and his wife share the act of sex."

Sex outside of marriage

Muslim views

- Adultery is a **serious sin**.
- Muslims should **avoid situations that could lead to sexual sins**.
- Adultery often **destroys marriage because of betrayal of trust**.
- It goes **against the promises** made at the **wedding**.
- In some Muslim countries under Shari'ah law, the punishment for adultery is **death by stoning**.

"A man should not stay with a woman in seclusion unless he is a relative."

"And do not go anywhere near adultery, it is an outrage and an evil path."

Key Terms

Sex outside of marriage

Definitions

Sex between two people where at least one of them is married to someone else; adultery, having an affair.

Christian views

- It is wrong because it involves **secrecy, lies and a betrayal of trust**.
- It can **affect children** and **cause pain to all concerned**.
- Adultery **breaks the promises** made before God during the wedding.
- It **threatens the relationship between parents** and therefore **children can suffer**.
- **Jesus taught** that lust, could lead to adultery which is wrong.
- **Marriage is unbreakable** that **demand total faithfulness**.
- **Jesus forgave a woman** who was caught in adultery, but ordered her to **'leave her life of sin.'**

"You have heard that it was said 'you shall not commit adultery' but I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully had already committed adultery with her in his heart"

"You shall not commit adultery"

Contemporary British Attitudes:

- Many non-religious people would agree that sex outside of marriage is wrong.

~~CHEATING~~

Contraception and Family Planning

What is contraception?

- A way of preventing pregnancy when a couple have sex.

Methods of contraception

- The pill
- Injection
- Condoms
- Spermicidal jellies or creams
- The coil
- Sterilisation

Natural methods

- Having sex at certain times of the month to reduce chances of pregnancy
- The rhythm method

Christian views	Muslim views	Contemporary British attitudes
<p><u>Acceptable to use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic, environmental, physical and physiological reasons are acceptable reasons for not bring children into the world. • Catholic church is not against family planning, but they should use the rhythm method to space out their children. • Natural methods are not reliable and medical methods should be used as long as they do not cause an abortion. • Help against STI's • Unfair to bring unwanted babies into the world or children that you cannot take care of. • Allowed if it effects the mothers health. 	<p><u>Acceptable to use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed within the context of a marriage. • A couple should be able to decide when to start a family and also how many children to have. • Acceptable for the mother's health, to help space out pregnancies or to avoid serious financial difficulties. • No teachings in the Qur'an. • Muhammad knew about birth control and accepted it. 	<p><u>Acceptable to use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is responsible to address unwanted pregnancies in a society that is having sex, casual sex and sex before and outside of marriage. • Controls population growth. • Stops the spread of STI's
<p><u>Unacceptable to use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should not be used to limit their families. • Contraception goes against natural law. • God's purpose for marriage is to have a family. • Prevents God's plan. • Sex is for making new life- therefore the two purposes should not be separated. • It encourages selfishness and infidelity. 	<p><u>Unacceptable to use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it is to prevent children. • Interferes with God's plan • God gave people the strength to cope with children. 	<p><u>Unacceptable to use</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they can cause abortions they are unacceptable.

Marriage

Marriage:

A legal union between a man or woman (or in some countries, including the UK, two people of the same sex) as partners in a relationship



Same Sex Marriage

- In 2004, same sex couples were allowed to register and get a **civil partnership** that gave them the same legal rights as married couples.
- **Same sex marriage** became legal in England in 2014.
- Christians were against this because it was changing the nature of marriage.
- Churches are not forced (by law) to conduct same sex marriages against their beliefs.
- Islam forbids homosexuality

Marriage for Muslims:

- Marriage is the foundation for family life.
- When a man marries half of his religious responsibilities are complete.
- Marriage was intended by God for the sharing of love and companionship.
- Husband and wife are equal in partnership the God.
- Adults are expected to marry as it is a normal part of life.
- Poverty should not stop marriage.
- Marriage prevents sinning.
- Marriage adds value to worship.

Marriage for Christians:

- God's gift at creation.
- It is natural for a man and women to leave their parents and bring new life into the world.
- Marriage is a sacrament, a lifelong union blessed by God.
- Reflects the love of Jesus and the agreement with God when a couple makes promises before God.
- A married couple share companionship through good and bad times and try to bring up children the way God would want.
- Marriage is a spiritual bond.
- The purpose of marriage is to provide a stable, secure environment for family life.
- Only place to enjoy sex.

Cohabitation

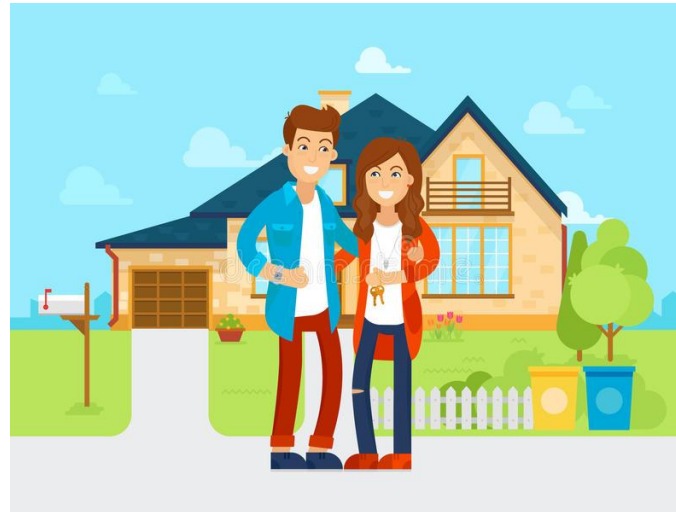
Key Terms

Cohabitation

Definitions

A couple living together and having a sexual relationship without being married to one another.

- Some people decide to live together before they get married .
- Some want to see if their relationship will work before deciding to marry and having a family.
- Some will never marry, but live and raise their children together in a loving partnership



Christian

- Christians who are **opposed to sex before marriage** believe that cohabitation is **sinful**.
- **Anglican and Protestant Churches** accept although marriage is the best.

Muslim

- Muslims are against cohabitation because they believe a sexual relationship should only occur within a marriage.

Divorce

Divorce in Britain

- Divorce is allowed after one year of marriage if the marriage cannot be saved.

Why can marriages fail?

- Growing apart
- Immaturity
- Addiction
- Domestic violence
- Inability to have children
- Work and money pressures
- Disappointed in sex
- Illness
- Disabilities
- Adultery
- No communication



Christian views on divorce

Unacceptable

- Vows are made before God and should not be broken.
- For Catholics, marriage is a sacrament that is permanent and lifelong.

Acceptable

- There are times where it might be more compassionate and loving for a divorce.
- Catholics accept **annulments** under certain circumstances to make it as though it was never a true marriage.
- Divorce might be the lesser of two evils.
- Methodist and United Reformed Church accept civil divorce.
- The Eastern Orthodox Church grants divorce but not more than twice.

What does the Church do to help divorces or prevent them?

- They are compassionate to anyone going through a divorce.
- Christian clergy offer support to couples who are having problems in their marriage, through counselling, prayer and sacraments.
- They might refer a couple to an outside agency.
- Christians should try to forgive and reconcile to make a marriage work.

Muslim teachings on divorce:

- Muslims **allow** divorce as a **last resort**.
- Divorce is **hateful to God**.
- **For a man to divorce:** he must declare to his wife verbally or in writing. **The couple must wait 3 months** without having sex but living together.
- If a woman is **pregnant** they must wait until the baby is born **before the divorce can be issued**.
- A wife can go to court to **force her husband** to issue the divorce.
- The **Husband must continue** his responsibility for his **children**.
- The **Qur'an encourages Muslims** to try and **reconcile their marriage** and family members should try to help.
- A man must support his wife until she is remarried.

Remarriage

Remarriage for Christians:

- Jesus said that anyone who divorced and remarried were committing adultery.
- The Catholic Church do not accept remarriage.
- However they allow remarriage if their first marriage was **annulled**.
- Divorced Anglicans can marry someone else in church with the Bishop's permission.
- Protestant and Methodist Christians allow remarriage in church as long as the couple take their vows seriously.
- The Church should reflect the forgiveness of God and allow people who have made mistakes the opportunity to find happiness in a second marriage,

"Anyone who divorces his wife and married another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and married another man, she commits adultery."



Muslim views to remarriage

- Remarriage is acceptable- Muhammad married a divorced women,
- Men should support their 'ex' wives until they remarry.

"Divorced women shall also have maintenance as is considered fair; this is a duty for those who are mindful of God."

The nature of family

Key Terms	Definitions
Family	A group of people who are related by blood, marriage or adoption.
Nuclear Family	A couple and their children regarded as a basic social unit.
Stepfamily	A family that is formed on the remarriage of a divorced or widowed person and that includes a child or children.
Extended family	A family that extends beyond just parents and their children by including grandparents and other relatives as well.
Polygamy	Having more than one wife at a time
Bigamy	The offence of marrying someone while already married to another person.

Christian views on the nature of families

- Christians place a high value on family life because it is in a family that a child learns to love.
- In Biblical times people lived in extended families- so both young and old could be looked after. They also then continued religious traditions and values within the family.
- Some people practised polygamy.
- Christians believe that the ideal marriage is between one man and woman.
- Bigamy is illegal in the UK.
- Some Christians disapprove of same sex parents because they feel the ideal is for children to grow up with a male and female role model.
- Some say as long as children are loved it does not matter.

Muslim beliefs about the nature of family

- Muslims believe that extended families are a part of God's plan.
- Families shape the moral values and character of children.
- Muslims should care for the elderly with kindness and respect (because they cared for you when you were young).
- Islam allows men to have more than one wife.
- Prophet Muhammad had several wives.

Role of parents and children- Muslim

- Men are expected to work, provide and take responsibility for major decisions.
- Women look after the home, raise children and make decisions about the home.
- A mother commands great respect and obedience from her children.
- Muslims parents are expected to love and care for their children and bring them up in the faith of Islam.
- Sometimes they will help them to find suitable marriage partners.
- Some send children to mosque school.
- Muslims do not accept same sex parenting because they should have male or female role models.

Role of Parents- Christians

- Good parents love, care for and raise their children to know right from wrong.
- Religious parents are expected to raise their children within their faith.
- Christian parents want to raise their children with Christian values.

"Here one learns endurance and the joy of work... love, generous, and even repeated, forgiveness and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life."

The purpose of family

Christian views on the purpose of family

- The idea of family is deeply ingrained in Christian beliefs about God.
- God is the Father and Jesus his son and humankind his children.
- Christians should educate their children about the faith.
- Parents should be good role models.
- Some parents will make worship part of their lives, send children to faith schools or take them to church.

The purpose of family

- Family is the main building block of any society.
- It is where **procreation** takes place and the **needs of children are met**.
- Happy families **create stability** for members of the family.
- Protection of children is important for family life.
- **Parents teach** their child right from wrong and how to get along with others and fit into society,

Muslim views on the purpose of family

- The Qur'an addresses married people are guarded and protected.
- Family prevents sin, loneliness and outside danger.
- This is extended to all members of the family.

Children

- The Christian church teaches that children have responsibilities to their parents.
- 'Honour one's father and mother'- respect the elderly member of the family.
- Children must love and respect their parents for all they have for to help them grow.

Parents

- The Christian Church teaches that parents have responsibilities to their children.
- Children are gifts from God, they must respect their human dignity.

The elderly

- Old age is an important time in life when people can focus on their faith.
- Older people have a great deal of wisdom and experience to offer younger people.
- Islam honours the elderly.
- Muslims should take care of their parents when they become ill or frail.
- Some will not put parents in a care home but take care of them themselves.
- It is an honour to repay them for their childhood.

Children

- Children are a blessing from God and the family should be a stable environment for their upbringing.
- Parents have a duty to raise their children to be good Muslims.
- Children also have a duty to be respectful to their parents and elders.
- Being unkind or disrespectful to one's parents is a great sin.

Gender Equality

<u>Gender equality</u>	<u>Christian views</u>	<u>Muslim views</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most people agree with the idea of gender equality.• Gender prejudice is often based on sexual stereotyping.• Sexual stereotyping can lead to gender discrimination.• In the past, men have had roles of power and had more rights than women.• Just because roles are different does not mean they are not equal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All people have been created as equals in the image of God.• 'Love thy neighbour' shows that discrimination is wrong.• Jesus treated women with respect,• Jesus had female disciples who were more capable of things other than just domestic tasks,• Some traditional Christians believe that men are the head of the family and that women should mainly stay at home and care for children.• Some see marriage as an equal partnership where the different gifts of each person, male and female, strengthen family life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muslims believe that God created everyone equal.• The Qur'an teaches that men and women were created from a single soul and have the same spiritual human nature.• Men and women have the same religious and moral responsibilities.• Muhammad taught that anyone, man or woman, who does a good deed for God's sake will be rewarded.• Mothers are of high value within Islam. They bring up the children.• Modern Muslims in the UK share financial and raising the children as both their responsibilities.• Some non-Muslims believe that Muslim women suffer prejudice because of wearing the hijab or veil- but this is not always the case.



"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

"People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes that you should recognise one another."