



SUBJECT: Religious Education

UNIT: YEAR 10– Relationships and families – What does the modern world teach us?

Is sexuality fixed or fluid?



Buddhism – Promotes celibacy. Same sex relationships permitted as long as they are loving. Sex before marriage permitted, as long as it is not based on lust. Disagrees with adultery as it causes bad karma.

Islam - Celibacy rejected as husband & wife are expected to have children. Same sex relationships forbidden and can result in the death penalty. Sex before marriage is not allowed as Muhammad states sex is sacred to man and wife. Adultery forbidden in the Qur'an.



Christianity – Most Christians believe in marriage and not celibacy. They do not agree with sex before marriage as marriage as the Catholic Church condemns it. Same sex relationships are not allowed as they cannot result in pregnancy. Adultery is not allowed as it goes against a sacred promise to God.

Hinduism – celibacy encouraged until marriage. Same sex relationships forbidden. Sex before marriage not allowed. Adultery forbidden as it leads to suffering.



What are religious responses to divorce and remarriage?

Christianity: Divorce is always wrong, marriage is a sacrament that should not be broken. Divorce is only accepted as a last resort. The Bible says those who divorce and marry another is often seen as adultery.

Buddhism: Divorce is discouraged as marriage keep society 'stable'. Divorce is only the right option if the marriage causes people to suffer and goes against the Five Precepts of compassion.

Islam: Both men and women can divorce but only ever as a last resort. A Muslim couple must work hard to fix any problems, unless divorce is seen as the only option. The man must wait 3 months before it is granted to make sure the wife is not pregnant.

Judaism: Marriage is viewed as a sacred union and divorce is always discouraged. Judaism teaches that God hates divorce. Every effort will be made to keep the couple together before divorce is granted. If divorce is granted an official document will be signed ending the marriage.



What are religious attitudes to contraception?



Buddhism – Sex is not all about procreation.

Therefore, contraception is encouraged in family planning.

Christianity – encourages 'natural' family planning methods. But believes married couples should ultimately plan for children.

Judaism – Orthodox Judaism does not promote contraception as pregnancy is expected for married couples. The Bible says "be fruitful". Many Reform Jewish people agree with contraception.



What is the nature and purpose of marriage?

Christianity

Weddings are seen as a blessing from God. Couples are united in a Church and blessed by a Priest. They take vows to each other and sign a register to be legally married in the eyes of law.

Judaism

Jewish people sign a Ketubah (marriage certificate). They go to the Huppah (wedding canopy) the ring presented to the bride is unbroken and undecorated – showing hope. The Rabbi makes a speech and prayers are said.

What are the roles within a marriage?

Gender prejudice is discrimination of another based on their gender. Tradition and positions of power often dictate that a man should work and a woman should look after the home. In most religions gender discrimination is disagreed with, however is visible within the Church and religious practices. Women cannot be priests (Catholicism). Women sit separately to men (Judaism). Women cannot pray in front of a Mosque (Islam).

Ambitious vocabulary:

Celibacy – restraint from sexual relations.

Sexuality – feelings, attractions and behaviours towards others.

Marriage – sacred union

Divorce – ending of sacred union

Adultery – having relations with someone else whilst married.

Annulled – ending a marriage as if never existed.