



RELATIONSHIPS

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AQA GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (8062)

PAPER 2: THEMES

RELATIONSHIPS

ABOUT THE TOPIC

This topic explores how Christians, Muslims and non-religious people think about relationships and the important roles people play in families and society.

It includes:

- Types and roles of families
- Marriage
- Divorce
- Cohabitation
- Sexuality
- The role of children



KEY BELIEFS THAT INFLUENCE ATTITUDES



CHRISTIANS

- People are made in the image of God.
- Marriage is a covenant before God.
- Family is important for love, care and teaching values.



MUSLIMS

- Allah created humans to live in families.
- Marriage is a contract that brings love, mercy and stability.
- Children are a gift from Allah.



NON-RELIGIOUS

- Many base their views on human rights, equality and personal freedom.
- Relationships are based on love, respect and choice.

KEY QUOTATIONS



"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2:18

This shows Christians believe God intended people to live in relationships.



"And among His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them." Qur'an 30:21

This shows Muslims believe marriage brings love and peace.



"The highest result of education is tolerance." Helen Keller

This reflects the non-religious view that respect and understanding are important in relationships.

TYPES AND ROLES OF FAMILIES



CHRISTIANS

- Family is the basic unit of society.
- Families should love, support and care for each other.
- Parents have a duty to teach children about faith and values.

MUSLIMS

- Marriage protect and care for each other.
- Respect for parents is very important.
- Men and women have roles that complement each other.

NON-RELIGIOUS

- Families come in many forms (single parent, same-sex parents, adopted).
- The main role is to provide love, support and security.



MARRIAGE



CHRISTIANS

- Marriage is between a man and a woman.
- It is a lifelong commitment "till death us do part".
- It reflects God's love.

MUSLIMS

- Marriage (nikah) is a contract.
- It brings love (mawaddah) and mercy (rahmah).
- Both partners have rights and responsibilities.

NON-RELIGIOUS

- Marriage shows love and commitment.
- It provides legal rights and security.



DIVORCE



CHRISTIANS

- Jesus taught that divorce goes against God's plan (Matthew 19:6).
- Allowed in some cases (e.g. adultery).
- Forgiveness and reconciliation are encouraged.

MUSLIMS

- Divorce (talaq) is allowed but disliked.
- Should only happen as a last resort.
- Both men and women have rights in divorce.

NON-RELIGIOUS

- Divorce is accepted if a relationship has broken down.
- It can allow people to move on and be happy.



COHABITATION



CHRISTIANS

- Usually seen as wrong because sex should be within marriage.
- May lead to commitment problems.

MUSLIMS

- Living together outside marriage is not allowed (haram).
- It is seen as sinful.

NON-RELIGIOUS

- Many accept cohabitation as a test of the relationship.
- It is seen as a personal choice.



SEXUALITY



CHRISTIANS

- Sex is a gift from God for marriage.
- Homosexual relationships are seen as sinful.
- All people should be treated with love and respect.

MUSLIMS

- Sex is for marriage between a man and a woman.
- Homosexual acts are forbidden (haram).
- Modesty is important.

NON-RELIGIOUS

- Beliefs vary.
- Many support LGBT+ rights and equality.
- People should be free to choose their sexuality.



THE ROLE OF CHILDREN



CHRISTIANS

- Children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3).
- Parents must love, care for and guide children in faith.

MUSLIMS

- Children are a blessing from Allah.
- Parents must provide for, protect and educate them.

NON-RELIGIOUS

- Children have rights to be cared for, educated and respected.
- Equality between children is important.



SANCTITY OF LIFE vs QUALITY OF LIFE

SANCTITY OF LIFE

- Life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death.
- Only God has the right to decide when life ends.
- Abortion and euthanasia are wrong.



QUALITY OF LIFE

- What matters is how good or happy someone's life is.
- If life is full of suffering with no hope, it may be better to end it.
- Supports abortion and euthanasia in some situations.

KEY ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ✓ Balancing personal choice with religious teaching.
- ✓ Respecting different beliefs and lifestyles.
- ✓ The impact on children and family relationships.
- ✓ What is right and fair in modern society?



SUMMARY: HOW VIEWS MAY DIFFER

ISSUE	CHRISTIANS	MUSLIMS	NON-RELIGIOUS
Types of Families	Traditional family best.	Traditional family common.	Many types are accepted.
Marriage	Lifelong between man and woman.	Religious contract with rights and duties.	Legal or personal commitment.
Divorce	Against God's plan; allowed in some cases.	Allowed but disliked; last resort.	Accepted if relationship breaks down.
Cohabitation	Usually wrong.	Not allowed.	Often accepted.
Sexuality	Sex only in marriage; homosexuality wrong.	Sex only in marriage; homosexuality forbidden.	Some support LGBT+ rights.
Role of Children	Gift from God; parents must guide.	Blessing from Allah; parents must educate.	Children have rights and need care.

KEY VOCABULARY

- Covenant** – A sacred promise or agreement (Christian).
- Nikah** – Islamic marriage contract.
- Talaq** – Islamic term for divorce.
- Cohabitation** – Living together outside marriage.
- Homosexual** – A person attracted to the same sex.
- Heterosexual** – Attracted to the opposite sex.
- Consent** – Agreeing freely to something.
- Commitment** – A promise to stay loyal.
- Values** – Beliefs about what is right and wrong.
- Responsibility** – Being dependable and caring for others.



STUDY TIPS



Learn key beliefs and what they teach.



Compare Christian, Muslim and non-religious views.



Make links between beliefs and attitudes.



Use key vocabulary in your answers.



Practise 4, 6 and 12-mark exam questions.



Think about similarities and differences.