

<u>Relationships and families</u>		
1.	What does Christianity and Islam teach about sexual activity outside marriage?	The only correct context for sexual activity is within marriage-sex outside of it is seen as a sin - means cohabitation isn't approved of.
2.	Name a key Islamic text on sex outside marriage.	Quran 23.7 states that "whoever seeks beyond (marriage) then those are the transgression".
3.	Name and explain a key Christian text on sex outside marriage.	The Catechism of the Catholic Church says " Sexuality is ordered to the conjugal love of man and woman " (2360). 'Conjugal means 'within marriage'. It also says that sex is 'unitive' and 'procreative' – to bring married couples together as one and for having children.
4.	What do strict members of Islam and Christianity teach about having sex within marriage?	The principle of only having sex within marriage still applies. More liberal members might see this as outdated, although they still tend to see marriage as the idea.
5.	What does Islam and Christianity teach about promiscuity?	Promiscuity is often seen as wrong. For many British people this is acceptable, especially now contraception is widely available-though a large number of sexual partners is seen more negatively.
6.	What do atheists and humanists teach about sex outside marriage?	Atheists and humanists tend to accept sex outside of marriage. Humanists accept it as long as it causes no harm to anyone.
<u>Homosexuality</u>		
1.	What is homosexuality? What is heterosexuality?	Homosexuality is attraction to members of the same sex. Heterosexuality is attraction to the opposite sex.
2.	What do Christian and Muslim scriptures teach about homosexuality?	They teach homosexual is wrong – though the relevant bits are interpreted differently by some. They only condemn sex between men, not between women, which is hardly mentioned.
3.	What does the story of Sodom teach and how is it used in Christianity and Islam?	The story of Sodom (see Genesis 19:3-25) teaches that the city's destroyed after the men in Sodom demand sex with two male angels God sent, which some people use to show that homosexuality's wrong. The angels said God sent them to destroy the city of sin while others say he was going to destroy it anyway and it wasn't because the men wanted sex with them.
4.	What do religious texts teach about homosexual feelings?	The texts don't condemn people who have homosexual feelings but don't act upon them. This means some people who are homosexual and religious opt for celibacy (they don't have sexual relationships).
5.	What does the Catholic Church teach about homosexuality?	The Catechism teaches: "Under no circumstances can (homosexual acts be approved)" (2357). It urges homosexual people to stay celibate but says they shouldn't face any discrimination
6.	What does the Anglican Church teach about	The Anglican Church is split on this issue. There are some openly gay clergy in the Church of England, but conservative members don't approve of

	homosexuality?	homosexuality. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 suggests it's a sin (homosexuality).
7.	What does Islam teach about homosexuality?	Many Muslims think the Qur'an bans homosexuality, due to the Sodom story (e.g. Qur'an 7:81 2) you approach men with desire, instead of women.....you are a transgressing people"). Some Muslims disagree and argue that these teachings should be reinterpreted

Contraception

1.	What is contraception?	Contraception is also known as a birth control and is used to stop a woman conceiving - can be temporary (e.g. the contraception pill or condom) or permanent sterilisation.
2.	What do atheists and humanists teach about contraception?	They think it's better if people only have children if they really want them. Contraception allows people to choose when to have sex by limiting the risk of pregnancy and reduce the risk of STI's
3.	What is the religious view on sterilisation?	Many don't believe in it.
4.	What is the Roman Catholic teaching on contraception?	The Church says anything 'deliberately contraceptive is 'intrinsically wrong' (Human Vitae 14). Married couples should 'transmit human life' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2367)
5.	Do all Roman Catholics agree with its teachings on contraception?	Many individual Roman Catholics disagree with this stance, especially because of concerns about STI's.
6.	What does the RC Church teach about natural contraception?	It does allow natural contraception – only having sex at the less fertile times in the woman's menstrual cycle.
7.	What does the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Church teach about contraception?	All are in favour of contraception, suggesting that it lets parents plan their family in a responsible way. Many contraception should be a question of individual conscience - they see it as positive that women can control when they get pregnant.

Marriage in the UK – Things have changed

1.	Have the number of marriages taking place in the UK increased?	They have decreased over the last 40 years. People are also tending to get married later in life and have children without getting married.
2.	Are same sex marriages legal?	They are now legal in England, Scotland and Wales. Many people see this as a good thing because it creates equality.
3.	Is marriage important?	It's now more common (and acceptable) for people to cohabit (live together) – either before or instead of getting married. Cohabiting couples don't have the same rights as married ones though.
4.	Is divorce common?	Non- religious people often see it as sensible if the couple don't get on. Some argue that parents fighting can harm children more often than divorce. However, many religious people see marriage as very important, and try avoid divorce if at all possible.

Christians think Marriage is important and holy

1.	What does a Christian marriage reflect?	It reflects the union of Jesus with his followers.
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2.	What does it mean to describe marriage as a covenant?	Marriage is a covenant (contract) between two people to offer love, support and commitment, and to have children.
3.	Do Christians accept cohabitation?	Many accept cohabitation, especially as a preparation for marriage. Some don't- they disagree with sex outside of marriage. The Catholic Church tends to be against it, but Pope Francis has recognised that it can be hard for people to marry, e.g. for financial reasons – but they should be encouraged to marry eventually.
4.	Is faithfulness important in a Christian marriage?	Faithfulness in marriage is important- adultery is forbidden in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:14).

Christians are divided over same sex marriage - The Church of England affirms according to our lords teaching that marriage is a union of one man with one woman. Canon B30

1.	How did the Catholic Church and Church of England respond to same sex marriages?	The decision to legalise same sex marriage in the UK was criticised by the Catholic Church and the Church of England. Some Church of England clergy hold blessings for same sex couples after they marry in civil (non-religious) ceremonies.
2.	How is the Anglican Church responding to same sex marriages?	It's splitting the Anglican Church. Supporters of same sex marriage say that Christians should be loving to all and should support anyone who wants to marry. Those against it say it's a sin. They also think it's wrong because one of the main purpose of marriage is having children.
3.	How is the Catholic Church responding to same sex marriages?	The Catholic Church is more strongly against homosexual relationships and same sex marriage. Members of the congregation (particularly younger people) within the Catholic Church and the Church of England tend to be more likely to be in favour of same sex marriage than their church leaders.

Different Christians Churches have varying attitudes to Divorce

1.	What is the Catholic view on divorce?	The Roman Catholic Church says it's impossible to divorce (Catechism of Catholic Church 2382). Marriage is a sacrament. However, a marriage can be annulled (declared void) if the couple never had sex or if a partner didn't consent to understand the marriage or refused to have children.
2.	What is the Church of England view on divorce?	The Church of England says divorce is possible and accepts that some marriages fail. Divorcees can re-marry in church if they find a minister willing to marry them. Some church members disagree with this.
3.	What is the Nonconformist view on divorce?	Nonconformist churches (e.g. Baptist and Methodists) will usually marry divorcees but an individual minister can refuse to do so if it goes against their conscience.
4.	Was Jesus anti-divorce?	Jesus himself was anti-divorce, but in favour of forgiving peoples' sins. Some Christians view an unhappy marriage as a waste of two lives, and so see divorce as preferable.

Christianity and Catholic Christianity

1.	Why is family life important to Christians?	Family life is important for most Christians. It's seen as a way to build a stable society.
2.	Why do many Christians	"Bring (your children) up in the training and instruction of the Lord"

	believe it is important to have children?	Ephesians 6.4 NIV
3.	How would a Christian educate their children at home?	Activities such as reading the child bible stories, or teaching them about prayer by saying grace (giving thanks) before meals.
4.	How do children become an active part of their faith?	Starts at baptism, and this develops as they attend church and prepare for confirmation. Many churches through Sunday schools which teach morals through the study of bible stories.
5.	What Christian festivals have a strong emphasis on celebration within the family?	Festivals such as Christmas and Easter have a strong emphasis on celebration within the family.
6.	What is the Christian teaching about how Children to treat their parents?	Children are asked to honour their parents – to look after and respect them (Exodus 20:12).
Family life in the UK has changed		
1.	What is a nuclear family and who is most likely to follow this model?	Traditionally, a nuclear family was a married man and woman and their children. Religious families are more likely than the UK average to follow this model.
2.	How has the nuclear family changed over time?	Today, the term may include same sex parents, unmarried couples, and reconstituted (or blended) families (where divorcees with children find new partners).
3.	What are the key arguments for and against same sex parents?	Some people worry its bad for children because they will only have role models from one gender. However, others argue same sex couples can provide a stable loving home which is what's important.
4.	What is an extended family?	An extended family includes grandparents, cousins and so on. An extended family might live together, which has become more common as people live longer, house prices raise and both parents work.
Christians try to welcome different families		
1.	What are Christian views on accepting families who are divorced or in homosexual relationships into the Church?	Some Christian views on divorce and homosexuality make it difficult for them to accept certain types of families. But whatever their opinions, many Christians focus on making sure reconstituted families and single or same sex parents feel welcome in church, particularly so that any children will still be brought up in a Christian way.
2.	What did Pope Paul II teach about accepting divorcees into the Church?	For example, Pope John Paul II said Catholics should take "solicitous care to make sure that (divorcees) do not consider themselves separated from church" (Familiaris Consortio 84). However, divorced Catholics aren't allowed to take communion, which would mean they feel unwelcome in church.
3.	What are the views of the Catholic Church on same sex parenting?	The Catholic Church is more strongly against same sex parenting than many other denominations. Catholics believe homosexuality is wrong and God created men and women to form a family.

<u>Discrimination based on gender is widespread</u>		
1.	Is gender inequality a problem in British society?	Gender discrimination is a problem in British society, although gradually improving.
2.	How have views on gender stereotypes changed over time?	Gender stereotypes – e.g. women being more emotional or men being more confident- are now seen by many people as false and damaging to both genders.
3.	Do people believe both genders are treated equally nowadays?	Some people argue there is still a long way to go before women are treated equally to men, e.g. as well below half of MPs are women. Others think the genders are now treated equally. A minority of people argue that it's now men who have it worse, e.g. because women are now more likely to go to university.
<u>Men and women have different roles in the home</u>		
1.	What is the female / male role in the home?	Taking care of the family and home has often been seen as the 'woman's role', with the male role being to earn money to support the family. Having different roles doesn't mean either is unequal, but these fixed ideas make it hard for either gender to do the opposite role.
2.	Has religion supported these roles / stereotypes?	These traditional roles were, and often still are supported by Christianity, Islam and Judaism.
3.	How has the role men play in relation to children changed over the years?	The idea of family care being a 'woman's role' means many men don't get the chance to look after and spend time with their children. This is slowly changing – shared parental leave (SPL), introduced in the UK in 2015, gives parents the option to share the time off work to look after their child in its first year.
4.	Do women encounter problems in the workplace after maternity leave?	Many women encounter problems in the workplace after taking time off to have children – many find their male colleagues have been 'promoted' in the meantime, or struggle to afford childcare which would allow them to return to work. Many women still do more housework than men, even if they're working.
<u>There are problems with equality in the workplace</u>		
1.	Have women always worked or is this a new idea?	Contrary to what many believe, women have always worked. However, in the past women were prevented from doing many jobs, by law or by other people. Some had to stop work when they married.
2.	Have women always earned the same as men?	Women were often paid less than men for the same job, or only offered jobs worth less responsibility and lower pay. This is still the case, although it's less common now in the UK because it has been made illegal.
3.	What did the Equal Pay Act 1970 and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 achieve?	The Equal Pay Act 1970 and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 made gender discrimination illegal, e.g. by saying both genders had to be paid the same amount and have the same working conditions for the same job.

4.	What did the Equality Act 2010 achieve?	The Equality Act 2010 brought all the legislation together in one act. It also made positive action legal. Positive action is action to help a group who's underrepresented in a profession or organisation. For example, if a male – dominated company has two equally – qualified candidates for a job, its legal for them to pick the female candidate to help women become better represented in the company. The Act allows for 'occupational requirements'. This means its legal to only offer a job to a certain group if there's an objective reason why they're best for it, e.g. only offering male roles in a play to male actors.
5.	Are all professions equally represented?	Despite these laws, there are professions in which one gender is underrepresented. Nursing or midwifery are seen as woman's jobs, while building or firefighting are seen as men's. This is difficult to change.
6.	Are women equally represented at all levels?	Women are underrepresented in positions of authority, e.g. as politicians or company directors. Many women still face discrimination at work, such as not being considered for promotion or being sexually harassed, although it's illegal. It can be hard to prove it happened because of their gender- or even to find out it's happening. E.g. it's hard to tell if you're being paid less than someone else in the same job.

The Bible is a bit unclear on the status of women

1.	What are the different Bible teachings on gender discrimination?	Some of Jesus's followers were women, e.g. Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42), and he treated them equally.
2.		Galatians 3:28 say, "there is neither...male (nor) female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (NIV) . But 1 Timothy 2:12 says: "I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet" (NIV) , which suggest that men and women are not equal.
3.	What does the Bible teach wives should do?	The bible says wives should do as their husbands tell them. But many Christians say this reflects the ideas of society at the time and doesn't correspond with Jesus's attitude toward women.
4.	What do Christians teach about men and women being equal today?	Many Christians now believe men and women should be equal. The Catechism of Catholic Church 1938 mentions "sinful inequalities" and says Catholics fight against this.
5.	What did Pope John Paul teach about men and women being equal today?	Pope John Paul II said, "Society should create and develop conditions favouring work in the home" for women (Familiaris Consortio 23) . Other denominations are less focused on traditional gender roles.

Christian quotes

“I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet” (NIV),

“there is neither...male (nor) female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (NIV)

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1 Corinthians 6:9-10 suggests it’s a sin (homosexuality).

Adultery is forbidden in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:14).

“Bring (your children) up in the training and instruction of the Lord” Ephesians 6.4
NIV

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Pope John Paul II said Catholics should take “solicitous care to make sure that (divorcees) do not consider themselves separated from church” (Familiaris Consortio 84).