**Theme 1: Issues of Relationships
Christianity & Judaism**

**Key Concepts**

**Match the key concept to the correct definition.**

**Legally end a marriage**

**Adultery**

**Actions/duties you are expected to/feel obligated to carry out**

**Divorce**

**Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant**

**Cohabitation**

**Having sexual intercourse outside of marriage**

**Commitment**

**Live together in a sexual relationship without being married**

**Contraception**

**Position, status or function of a person in society**

**Gender equality**

**Sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something**

**Responsibilities**

**People of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities**

**Roles**

 **Families
Christianity**Christians believe that the family is a vital unit. It should be based on the marriage of a man and a woman and include children. Children have the right to be brought up by two parents in a loving environment. Parents should be role models for their children. They should teach, by example, how to be a good parent, a good husband or wife, a good citizen and a good Christian.

St Paul, in the Bible, sets out the relationship between parents and children: *‘Honour your father and mother’–* which is the first commandment with a promise. Children have a duty to obey their parents. Parents should be patient with their children. They should also bring them up as Christians. They can do this by praying with their children, teaching them stories from the Bible, sending them to Sunday school and encouraging them to be baptised or confirmed.

**Judaism**Jews emphasise that all family members have a role in raising children: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and so on. Therefore, it is important that children are born to a married couple, so they can have contact with relatives on both sides of their family. The family is the environment in which children learn about the teachings and traditions of Judaism. This learning is reinforced in religious occasions that involve the whole family: rites of passage, Shabbat, festivals and so on. Jewish children learn about Jewish food laws (kashrut), clothing, prayer and worship in the family. Judaism places great emphasis on the importance of education and many Jewish parents prioritise their children’s schooling over other commitments.

**In the venn diagram, note down the similarities and differences of the Christian and Jewish view of the family.**

 **Christianity Judaism**



**Roles of Women and Men
Christianity**

Christianity teaches that all people, as God’s creations, are equal: “*you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3.28).* Some Christians interpret this statement in a traditional way, believing that, although men and women are equal, they are different and have different roles.

The role of women in the home and family is therefore open to interpretation among Christians. The traditionalist view is that, because Adam was created before Eve (who was made to be his companion) and because women, according to St Paul, are subject to the authority of men, men should be leaders in their own homes and women subordinate. For these Christians, the man is the head of the household and the woman is responsible for housekeeping and childcare. However, some Christians recognise that, as times change, so the dynamics of social interaction change. They would say that gender inequality in the Bible reflect a society of the past. Today, women (should) have equal opportunities in all areas of life and this includes the home.

**Judaism**Traditionally, in Judaism, men and women are seen to be equal but different. Some Jewish scholars maintain that in the first creation story in Genesis 1, God made a human being of no gender, later splitting it into male and female. There are two accounts of the giving of the Ten Sayings (Commandments) in the Bible; one says, *‘Honour your father and your mother’* and the other, reversing the order, says, *‘Respect your mother and father’*, indicating that both parents in a family have equal status. The role of the woman in the family is to be a good wife and mother. Men must be good husbands; they should not mistreat their wives. Sex between a married couple is regarded as the right of the wife in Judaism, not the husband; and, while rape within marriage was not recognised in law in the UK until the 1990s, it has always been unlawful in Judaism.

While the woman is the principal housekeeper in a home, she is also spiritual head of the family. Thus, Jewishness runs through the maternal line of a family: a person is Jewish if and only if their mother is Jewish. This means that it is the mother’s role to pass on Jewish values to her children. This spiritual importance is emphasised by the fact that it is the woman of the house that lights

candles to mark the beginning of Shabbat, the home’s sacred time. A woman’s role as mother and homemaker is thought to be so important that she is exempt from performing certain mitzvot in order to perform household or maternal duties.

Reform Jews have broken down barriers between the separate roles of men and women in Jewish religious life, for example, by enabling women to become rabbis. But, although Reform Jews do not feel bound by the mitzvoth as absolute commands, in practice most families still respect the role of the mother as their spiritual head and would still expect her to welcome in Shabbat, for example.

**Tick whether each statement is true or false.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **True** | **False** |
| Role of the Jewish man to pass on Jewish values to the children |  |  |
| Traditional Christians believe the man is the head of the household |  |  |
| Only men can become rabbis in the reform denomination |  |  |
| Modern Christians believe that gender inequality is in the past |  |  |
| *‘Honour your father not your mother’* is one of the Ten Commandments |  |  |
| St Paul said that women are subject to the authority of men |  |  |
| The woman is the spiritual head of the family in Judaism |  |  |



**Marriage outside the religious tradition
Christianity**Christians may marry non-Christians, but Catholics and Evangelical Christians urge couples to think about tensions that different religious views may put on their marriage. There may also be an issue about where an inter-faith wedding ceremony can take place. Examples of issues raised by inter-faith marriages are:

* In the Orthodox Christian traditions, a marriage in church can only take place if an Orthodox Christian is marrying a baptised Christian.
* In the Catholic tradition, a partner who is not Catholic must agree to any children of the marriage being taught to follow the Catholic faith.

Where there is an issue about people of different religious beliefs marrying in a place of worship, it may be possible to have a civil ceremony followed by a religious blessing.

**Judaism**If a Jewish man marries a woman who is not Jewish, then their children will not be Jewish, since Jewishness follows the female family line. Jews hold that children are less likely to follow their faith if only one parent follows it, so many discourage ‘marrying out’ – marrying a person from a different religious community or none. In the Jewish Orthodox tradition, only Jews may marry each other in a synagogue. **Cohabitation
Christianity**Although Christian doctrines have traditionally prohibited cohabitation, there has been an increasingly more tolerant line taken in some denominations towards couples who cohabit.

Liberal Anglicans, for example, accept cohabitation where it is part of a committed relationship, although they still believe that marriage would be the ideal. However, some denominations disagree with cohabitation as they believe it devalues the special and sacred nature of sex, which should only take place within marriage.

The Catholic Church and more conservative Anglicans do not accept cohabitation and expect a couple not to have sex before marriage. Some Baptist Churches may refuse to marry a couple who are cohabiting.

**Judaism**For many Jews it is important that couples get married rather than cohabit. In the Torah, for two people to live as husband and wife, they require the blessings of God. This may only take place when they declare marriage vows. In practice though, some Jewish people do choose to cohabit. Some Reform Jews take the view that a couple living together as a husband and wife would, are, in effect, married.

**Marriage**

**Rank what you believe makes a perfect partner from essential to makes little difference. E.g. affectionate.**

 **Essential**

 **Makes little difference**

**Christianity**Some Christians regard marriage as a gift given to humanity by God – a sacrament. In the Christian wedding service, the phrase ‘ordained by God’ is used, giving marriage a very special significance for all Christians. The vows exchanged between a bride and a groom in a Christian wedding ceremony reflect this.

In the Gospels, Jesus teaches about the importance of marriage. This refers back to the idea in Genesis that, as part of God’s creation, God made man and woman. Jesus uses powerful language to convey the meaning that marriage is the complete joining together of two people in a very special way. It is implied that the relationship becomes the most important human relationship for the couple who are married.

*But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female’. ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’. So they are no longer two, but one flesh.* ***(Mark 10.6–8)***

Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God and, traditionally, Christian marriage ceremonies have taken place in a chapel or church to reflect this belief.

In 2002, the **Synod (council) of the Church of England** set out the Church’s teaching on marriage:

*According to our Lord’s teaching, marriage is in its nature a union permanent and lifelong, for better or worse, till death do us part, of one man with one woman, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for the procreation and nurture of children, for the hallowing and right direction of the natural instincts and affections, and for the natural society, help and comfort which one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.* ***(Canon B30.1)***

In this statement, the Church confirms that:

**•** marriage should last until the death of the first partner

**•** it should endure through all circumstances

**•** it should be between a man and woman only

**•** they should be faithful to each other

**•** marriage should produce children

**•** it should dignify the sexual act

**•** the couple should provide support for each other. **Judaism**Jews regard marriage as being a blessing from God and it is an important spiritual ceremony. Both partners must enter marriage with the right intentions and are expected to respect and be faithful to each other. Marriage is seen as the basis of family life.

Weddings can take place in a synagogue, or any suitable place. The ceremony is made up of two parts: the **kiddushin** and the **nisuin**.

 **The Kiddushin**

**•** The **ketubah** is the formal marriage contract that states how the husband will care for his wife. The wife will retain the ketubah throughout the marriage.

**•** A wedding will be conducted by a rabbi and the main part of the ceremony will take place under a **chuppah**. This is a shelter with four sides, often with a blessing in Hebrew written across it. It represents the Jewish home.

**•** Under the chuppah, the groom will make the declaration: ‘Behold you are consecrated to me by

means of this ring according to the rituals of Moses and Israel.’ He will also read the ketubah aloud.

**•** Two blessings are said in the kiddushin – one for the wine and the second for the commitment that the bride and groom make to each other.

**•** The groom stamps on a glass. This could act as a reminder of the fragility of marriage or some people believe it is a reminder of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.

**•** The groom places a ring on the bride’s index finger, which is believed to be connected to the heart. The round ring is a symbol of eternity.

**The Nisuin**

In the second part of the ceremony, seven blessings are said. These blessings praise God for creating the human race and bringing happiness to the couple. The blessings are:

**1** Blessed are you, God, who brings forth fruit from the vine.

**2** Blessed are you, God, who shapes the universe. All things created speak of your glory.

**3** Blessed are you, Holy One, who fashions each person.

**4** We bless you, God, for forming each person in your image. You have planted within us a vision of you and given us the means that we may flourish through time. Blessed are you, Creator of humanity.

**5** May Israel, once bereft of her children, now delight as they gather together in joy. Blessed are you, God, who lets Zion rejoice with her children. Let these loving friends taste of the bliss you gave to

the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden in the days of old. Blessed are you, the Presence who dwells with bride and groom in delight.

**7** Blessed are you, who lights the world with happiness and contentment, love and companionship, peace and friendship, bridegroom and bride. Let the mountains of Israel dance! Let the gates of Jerusalem ring with the sounds of joy, song, merriment, and delight — the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride, the happy shouts of their friends and companions. We bless you, God, who brings bride and groom together to rejoice in each other.

**Is it important to marry in a place of worship?**

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| **Why marry in a religious building?** | **Why marry elsewhere?** |
|  |  |

**Adultery
Christianity**Extra-marital sex or adultery is when a married person has a sexual relationship with someone other than their husband or wife. Christianity considers adultery a great sin. Adultery is clearly forbidden in the Ten Commandments. Christianity teaches that adultery is wrong for the following reasons:

• Marriage is sexually exclusive and should not be shared with anyone else.

• The Ten Commandments forbid adultery – *‘You shall not commit adultery.’* ***(Exodus 20.14)***

• Marriage is a sacrament – a gift from God – and adultery goes against this.

• Adultery goes against the vows the couple made to each other and to God when they got married.

• Committing adultery destroys the special relationship between a husband and wife.

• Committing adultery can harm the family unit and cause the partner to feel cheated and betrayed.

 **Judaism**Judaism teaches that adultery is wrong for the following reasons:

**•** The Ten Commandments forbid adultery *– ‘You shall not commit adultery.’* ***(Exodus 20.14)*.**

**•** Sex is only acceptable within a marriage.

**•** Halakhah (Jewish law) emphasises that a husband should be sexually considerate towards his wife and not be sexually disloyal.

**•** Men and women are most fulfilled through marriage, which is referred to as ‘kiddushim’ (sanctified).

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| Image result for man cartoon**This is Harry. Harry is 42 years old. He is married to Lindsay and they have three children together. Harry has been having a sexual relationship with Linday’s best friend Sarah for the last three months. Lindsay knows nothing about this.** **How would a Christian respond to this?****How would a Jew respond to this?** |

**Divorce, Separation & Annulment**

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| **Make a list of reasons why marriages fail, e.g. lack of communication.** |

 **Christianity**There are significant differences between the different Christian denominations when it comes to attitudes towards divorce. The Catholic Church regards marriage as a lifelong commitment and does not recognise divorce. In a situation where a marriage breaks down and there is no chance of a reconciliation, the two options for a Catholic are either an annulment or separation. Catholics base this belief on teachings of the Bible, for example:

*Jesus replied, ‘Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.’****(Matthew19.8–9)***

*‘Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate’****. (Mark 10.9)***

Catholics who are separated are expected not to cohabit with anyone else and, if they do this, they are not allowed to receive Holy Communion. Of course, some Catholics do get divorced; however, their divorce would not be recognised by the Catholic Church. The couple may no longer be married in law, but they are still married in the eyes of the Church. In other Christian traditions, there is a diversity of viewpoints. Because divorce is the legal ending of a marriage by the state, all other Christian denominations accept divorce, but the issue becomes complicated if a divorced Christian wants to remarry. For example, in the Anglican Church, which includes the Church in Wales, divorce is accepted, but remarriage of a divorced person is left to the personal decision of a minister.

The table below outlines some of the different denominations’ attitudes towards divorce.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Anglicans** | **Protestants** | **Catholics** |
| • accept divorce, as UK lawallows it• discourage remarriage (butif chosen a non-churchwedding is preferred): somevicars will agree to a serviceof prayer and dedication. | • divorce best avoided• remarriage permitted if itseems suitable oracceptable to all concerned• no minister can be forcedto conduct a remarriageagainst their will. | • do not recognise divorce• marriage is a sacrament that cannot be dissolved except for special reasons (such as one partner not freely choosing to marry)• some marriages can be annulled, where there are good reasons (such as the marriage never having been consummated)• if a Catholic remarries without an annulment, they can attend Mass but cannot receive Holy Communion. |

An annulment (or nullity of marriage or nullity of domestic partnership) is when a court or the Church says your marriage or domestic partnership is not valid. The Catholic Church teaches that annulment is the only acceptable way a marriage can be dissolved. An annulment may be granted for the nonconsummation of marriage, which means a married couple have not had sex, or where it is proved the marriage should not have taken place, for example, because one or both partners were too young, or one or both were forced into marriage. **Judaism**Judaism recognises that some marriages fail and therefore accepts divorce. As well as applying for a

civil divorce, which legally ends the marriage, Orthodox Jewish men wishing to divorce must also apply for a **get**. The get is a religious certificate of divorce. Without the get there would be problems with either member of the couple remarrying in a synagogue. The couple obtain the get by appearing in front of a **Bet Din** – a Jewish court. Sometimes problems are caused where a husband has refused to give the woman a divorce, or where he cannot be traced: women in this situation are called *agunot* (chained). Jews believe that marriage is always a last resort. The community will give support and try to keep the couple together.

*‘When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favour in his eyes because he has*

*found some indecency in her, and he writes her a bill of divorce, and puts it in her hand ...'*

**(*Deuteronomy* 24:1–4)**

**Re-Marriage
Christianity & Judaism**Remarriage is where a person who has previously divorced decides to marry again. Different religious traditions have different viewpoints about remarriage and there are often differences of opinion within traditions.

Catholics, for example, who decide to go against Church teachings and get a civil divorce, may not remarry in a Catholic church. Divorced Catholics may choose to remarry in a different place of worship or in a civil ceremony. In the Anglican tradition, a minister may exercise personal judgement in deciding to remarry a divorcee, depending on the circumstances of a divorce. Some Anglican vicars will not marry a divorced person, but may perform a church blessing ceremony after a register office wedding.

In Judaism, remarriage is also encouraged.