

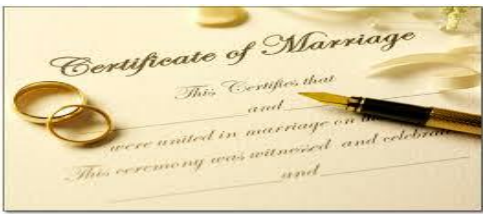
**Y11**  
**Knowledge**  
**organizer**  
**term 1b**  
**Theme**  
**A**

**Relationships**  
**and Families**



**AQA SPECIFICATION A**  
**Paper 2A**

- **Marriage and the purpose of marriage**
- **Divorce**
- **Cohabitation**
- **Remarriage**
- **Homosexuality and same sex marriage**



# Marriage

A marriage is a life-long, legal union between two people. Christians believe that marriage is a gift from God and is the ideal way for humans to live out a relationship together.

The main parts of the ceremony are:

- The couple consent to the marriage
- The couple make vows as promises in front of witnesses
- Rings are exchanged to symbolise eternal love
- Signing of the register which is the legal part of the ceremony
- Women may wear a white dress to symbolise sexual purity

There will also be prayers, hymns and Bible readings to show that God is a part of their relationship. This is because they believe that if God is in the marriage with them then it will make it stronger. If they are following God's rules then the relationship will be less likely to break down because they will not lie or cheat. They will also show each other love and forgiveness which means they can get through tough times.



## KEY LEARNING: The Vows

### BIBLE BITZ

- 'Two become 1'
- 'Until death do us part'
- 'In sickness and health, for better or worse'
- 'A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken'
- 'Go forth and multiply'

### Vows

I, take you,  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold,  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death do us part.

### KEY WORDS

**Monogamy**- being married to one person

**Vows**- solemn promises made in front of God.  
married.

**Sacrament** – rites and rituals from which a person receives a special gift of grace.



# Purpose of Marriage

For Catholics marriage is a sacrament. They believe that the two individuals become one as Jesus said would happen in the Bible. This means that they are no longer two separate people but are joined by a bond that cannot be broken. If couples go through problems they should get counselling and should use the vows to remember the promises that they made. Couples should not have sex or have children without being married.

Church of England also agree that marriage is the ideal way for people to live. They do NOT believe it is a sacrament but do teach that it is an important promise made in front of God and so should be worked at. However under some circumstances they will accept that people may want to co-habitat if you are in a long-term relationship that will eventually lead to marriage. However they still think that marriage is the best institution for raising children in.

More people now are choosing to not get married but to live together instead which is called cohabitating. This is because marriage can be expensive, and is difficult to end if the relationship breaks down. Some people would also say that it is just a 'piece of paper' and is an old fashioned idea. ALL Christians would disagree with this!

Others still want to get married because it is tradition and they think it makes the relationship more stable and secure for raising children. It is also more official and is a public declaration of your love.

## BIBLE BITZ

Permanent  
Unite  
Responsibility  
Procreate  
Official  
Support  
Exclusive

## My Reasoned Opinion is..

## KEY WORDS

**Cohabitation** – to live with someone in a romantic relationship but without getting married

**Exclusive** – just the two of us

**Sacrament** – An outward sign of an inward working of God

**Companionship** – friendship, closeness

**Procreate** – have children

# Divorce

All Christians believe that marriage should be a life-long commitment. However they do have different views about divorce.

The Catholic Church teaches that because marriage is sacrament where God has bound the two together, that it cannot be broken by humans. For this reason they do not accept divorce under any circumstances. Catholic couples may have their marriage annulled under strict conditions. Annulment is an acknowledgement that there was not a proper marriage in the first place. Annulment can take place for several reasons including;

- being forced into marriage,
- never having consummated the marriage
- not being of sound mind when the vows were made.

This is not a divorce! A divorce is the legal ending but an annulment means it never existed in the first place.

Church of England ideally believes that divorce should not take place but accepts that in some cases the marriage does break down and divorce is the only option. This means them moral relativists, because the vicar will decide whether it is allowed depending on the situation. They see divorce as the “Lesser of two evils” and believe it is kinder than forcing a couple to stay together if it is becoming damaging to them. However, some would say this should only be in extreme situations like abuse or adultery.

Both Churches see marriage as a serious commitment and would take a sympathetic approach to couples and offer counselling and support where necessary.

## BIBLE BITZ

“What God has joined together no man can separate.”

“Till death us do part” – From the vows

“Any one who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

‘Two become one’

## My Reasoned Opinion is..

## KEY WORDS

**Annulment** – an acknowledgement that a marriage never existed.

**Divorce** - the legal ending of a marriage.

**Marriage counselling** – a planned conversation where the problems in the marriage are discussed in a non-judgemental way with the aim of resolving the problems.

**Consummate** – have sexual intercourse



BEFORE  
YOU SAY  
'I DO'  
PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

# Remarriage

Remarriage is when someone who has already divorced from one person then decides to marry someone else. Some people think it is important to allow remarriage because you deserve a second chance of happiness and may have got married too young the first time or have made a mistake. However, others would argue that people get remarried too easily and so it devalues marriage and teaches that you don't have to work at things when they are difficult.

The Catholic Church does not allow remarriage under any circumstances. This is because they do not believe in divorce so think that even if the law says you are divorced you are still married in the eyes of God and so cannot marry someone else. However, a person who has had their marriage annulled is allowed to marry in a Catholic Church because it is recognised that they did not have a proper marriage in the first place.

C of E Churches allows individual vicars to remarry couples if their conscience allows it. They would argue that sometimes marriages break down and that it is better for a couple to move on with their lives rather than live in misery. They say people make mistakes and so deserve a second chance. These Churches would expect that the couple have learnt from their mistakes and be ready for a life long commitment



**KEY  
FIGURE**  
**Linda Wolfe**  
**Most  
remarriages**

## BIBLE BITZ

"What God has brought together let no man separate."

"Two become one flesh."

"Do not commit adultery" (10 Commandments)

"Love your neighbour"

"Treat others as you want to be treated."

"Forgive 70X7."

## My Reasoned Opinion is..

## KEY WORDS

**Second chance** – not condemning people when they make a mistake. Letting people have another attempt at something.

**Remarriage** – A second or third marriage ceremony for a person.



# Sexuality

Human sexuality or 'sexual identity' refers to the way people express themselves as sexual beings. Christians believe that sex is a gift given to them by God and should be used in the right way. Catholics believe that, like marriage, sex is also a sacrament which causes the two to become one flesh. This means that you are eternally joined with someone you sleep with meaning it should only happen in a marriage. Some Christians such as C of E would accept that people in a long term relationship who are committed to each other and are going to become married may engage in loving sexual activity.

Some believe sex is so important they may choose to 'abstain' from sex (go without it) until they are married. Some such as priests, monks and nuns even vow to never have sex as it distracts them from God. Most Christians believe that sex can be enjoyed but should only take place within a marriage because it is an expression of their deep love for each other. Once married, couples should be faithful and only have sex with their partner. Sex outside marriage (adultery) is considered wrong as it involves secrecy, lies and breaking the trust of a partner. It is even one of the 10 Commandments!

Sex outside of marriage (adultery) is different from sex before marriage, which is just when you do it before you are married.

## BIBLE BITZ

"Two become one flesh "

"Go forth and multiply"

"Do not commit adultery"

"Treat others as you want to be treated"

"Man was made in the image of God"

## My Reasoned Opinion is..

## KEY WORDS

**Human sexuality** – how people express themselves as sexual beings.

**Adultery** – cheating on your partner

**Promiscuity** – having multiple sexual partners

**Abstinence/Chastity** – making a choice to not have sex



# Contraception

All Christians agree that children are a gift from God to married couples. They also believe that they should be responsible parents who look after and care for the needs of their children.

Christians have different attitudes towards contraception:

- **Catholics** believe that only natural methods may be used which is the rhythm method. They believe this because they think that God has a plan for everyone and you should trust God and not use artificial methods. This is because every time they have sex it should be open to the possibility of creating a new life. Using artificial contraception is going against this and trying to play God. They believe that God has given them the ability to control how many children they want by not having sex when a woman is fertile. They also believe that sex and procreation cannot be separated. Some would argue that this view is old-fashioned and dangerous as using condoms can stop people catching STIs. As some of these like HIV can kill you some say the Catholic church is responsible for many people's deaths especially in countries which are high risk.

- **Church of England** believe that it is ok to use all artificial methods of contraception as they believe it allows a couple to develop their relationship before they have children and it takes the stress of unwanted pregnancies out of the marriage. They also believe it is ok to separate sex and procreation and that you do not have to have all 3 aims of sex

## BIBLE BITZ

“Go Forth and multiply”

‘Impart these laws to your children’

Catholic Church says every time you have sex there must be the ‘possibility of life’

Aims of Sex include procreation, pleasure and bonding

## My Reasoned Opinion is..

## KEY WORDS

**Contraception**- stopping a pregnancy by preventing the sperm meeting the egg.

**Family planning** –controlling how many children you have

**Natural family planning** – not having sex when the woman is fertile.

**Artificial contraception**- any man made device used to stop a pregnancy.

**Procreation** – making babies

# Same sex marriage

In 2004 it became legal in the UK for same sex couples to recognise their love legally through civil partnerships. This gave them the same legal rights as married couples. However, it was not called a marriage as many believe this can only happen between a man and a woman. As a result many people felt that this was still unequal and unfair so the LGBTQ community continued to protest for their right to marry.

In 2014 the law was changed again to allow same sex couples to have a full marriage which was a huge victory for many equal rights campaigners. However the law has a 'conscience clause' which allows vicars the right to refuse to carry out a same sex ceremony on religious grounds. The Catholic Church AND the Church of England told their vicars that they needed to take this conscience clause and refuse to marry a same-sex couple if they were asked. They believe that the purpose of marriage is not just to have a sexual relationship in a loving environment but is also to create new life which same sex couples cannot do. They think that same sex marriage should not be allowed as it makes them equal to heterosexual marriages and so undermines how sacred they are. Also God made Adam and Eve as a man and woman. However, this has recently changed so that some churches are allowed to make their own decision.

However Quaker Christians believe that same sex marriages should be allowed by the Church and have always supported the LGBTQ community. They argue that any discrimination is wrong and that as Jesus taught to love this should always be celebrated.



“Do not lie with a man the way that you lie with a woman” (OT)  
The Story of Sodom and Gomorrah in OT (destroyed because of homosexuality or because of rape - Countryman!)  
St. Paul had a list of people who cannot go to heaven, and it included 'homosexual offenders' (So all gay people or gay prostitutes/paedophiles etc?)  
Jesus said nothing about being gay  
“Love one another”  
“Treat others as you want to be treated”

## My Reasoned Opinion is..

## KEY WORDS

Civil partnership - a union between two people of the same sex (used before the Same Sex marriage Act was passed)

Legal - permitted by law

Heterosexual - attracted to a person of the opposite sex.

Homosexual - attracted to a person of the same sex