## AQA Religious Studies A - Theme A: Relationships and Families

| Key Words |  |  |  |
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| Adultery | Having sex with someone who is not your <br> husband or wife, outside of marriage | Gender Prejudice | Holding biased opinions about people <br> based on their gender |
| Artificial Contraception | Methods of preventing pregnancy e.g. <br> condoms, the pill, the coil | Heterosexual | Sexual attraction to the opposite gender |
| Cohabitation | Living and starting a family with someone <br> who you are not married to | Homosexual | Sexual attraction to the same gender |
| Divorce | The legal ending of a marriage | Marriage | A legal and religious ceremony joining two <br> people together in love |
| Family Planning | Using a woman's natural cycle of fertility to <br> try and avoid pregnancy | Procreation | Bringing babies into the world |
| Gender Discrimination | Acting against people based on their <br> gender | Remarriage | Marrying someone else after divorce |


| Key Ideas |  |  |
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| Religious Views on Sexuality | Sexual Orientation <br> - The Roman Catholic church teaches that sex between people of the same gender is 'disordered' <br> - They argue that homosexual relationships are banned by the Bible <br> - Liberal Christians teach that Jesus wanted people to love each other and show mercy and that we should be accepting of homosexuals <br> - Gay marriage is banned in the Catholic Church and Church of England <br> "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman" - Leviticus 18:22 | Adultery and Sex Outside Marriage <br> - Roman Catholics argue that all sex before marriage and after a divorce is unacceptable. Sex should only take place inside a marriage which is a lifelong, loving relationship. <br> - Adultery means the act of having sex with someone who is not your husband or wife. <br> - It is prohibited by the Bible and Christians argue it is wrong as it undermines marriage involves lies and secrecy. <br> "You shall not commit adultery" - Exodus 20:14 |
| Artificial Contraception | - Artificial contraception means using something to stop yourself from getting pregnant. This could be a condom, the pill or a device like the coil. <br> - Family planning means using the natural cycle of fertility which women go through to predict when a woman would be least fertile. It is much less effective than artificial contraception. <br> - God tells Adam and Eve (the first couple) to "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:2) which encourages them to have children. <br> 区 The Catholic Church argues that all sexual acts inside marriage must be open to procreation (having babies) and that a baby is a gift from God. They may use family planning as it is a natural method. <br> $\square$ The Church of England argues that contraception should be allowed so that couples can take time and consider if they want to have children. |  |
| Marriage and Divorce | - Marriage is a religious and legal ceremony in which two people make vows (promises) in front of their friends and family and (if in a church) in front of God <br> - During the ceremony you agree to be together for life saying "til death do us part" (Marriage Ceremony) <br> - Divorce is the legal break-up of a marriage. It is legal in the UK and many marriages currently end in divorce. <br> - Many Christians do not like it as it is seen to break the promises made in a marriage. <br> 园 The Catholic Church do not support divorce. They believe that sex after divorce is a form of adultery and you cannot get remarried in a Catholic Church once you have been divorced. Jesus says "if a man divorces his wife [...] he involves her in adultery" (Matthew 5:32) <br> $\nabla$ The Church of England accepts divorce, especially if it is for reasons of abuse but you have to receive special permission to get remarried in a church. They might see it as a merciful option. |  |
|  | Types of Family <br> - Nuclear Family is a family with a mother, father and children - some Christians argue this is the ideal <br> - Extended Family is a family where grandparents and other relatives are involved <br> - Single Parent Family this is a family where one parent brings up the child | Purpose of the Family <br> - Procreation - the family should be for the purpose of having and bringing up children <br> - Stability - the family should be for providing a secure, stable environment for children <br> - Faith - the family should be a way of bringing children up as good Christians |
| Gender | - Gender equality means that men and women should be equal and given the same rights and opportunities as each other -In the UK women can face gender prejudice and discrimination where they are not treated equality |  |

- The Catholic Church argues that women have a special role as mothers and they do not allow women to be priests
- The Church of England has allowed women priests since 1994

