

# Religion and Community Cohesion

This is about why having lots of different groups of people living in Britain can be a good thing and sometimes a bad thing.

## WORDS THEY CAN ASK YOU FOR THE MEANING IN THE EXAM:-

**Community Cohesion** = A common vision and shared sense of belonging for all groups in society.  
**Discrimination** = treating people less favourably because of their ethnicity, gender, colour, sexuality, age or class.  
**Ethnic Minority** = A member of an ethnic group (race) that is smaller than the majority group.  
**Interfaith marriage** = Marriage where the husband and wife are from different religions.  
**Multi-ethnic society** = Where many different religious groups live together in one society.  
**Multi-faith society** = a country where there are different religions practised.  
**Prejudice** = The belief that some people are inferior or superior without even knowing them.  
**Racial Harmony** = Different races living together happily.  
**Racism** = the belief that some races are superior to others.  
**Religious Freedom** = Where people have the right to practise their religion and change their religion.  
**Religious Pluralism** = Accepting all religions as having an equal right to co-exist.  
**Sexism** = Discrimination against people because of their gender (being male or female)

## 1. THE ROLE OF MEN AND WOMEN.

How and why attitudes to the roles of men and women have changed in the UK?



Are men and women equal?

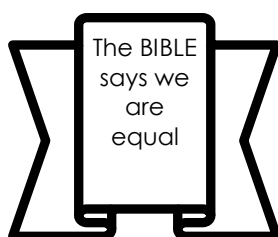
### THEN

- Women stayed in the home to look after children.
- Women had no right to vote
- Women's wages were much lower than men's.

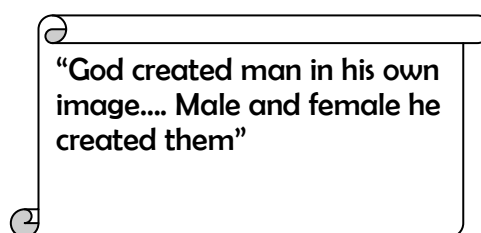
### NOW

- Women expect to have careers.
- Women have the right to equal pay.
- Men & women (often) share the running of the house.

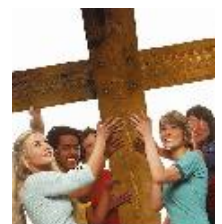
Christian's have different attitudes towards the role of men and women.



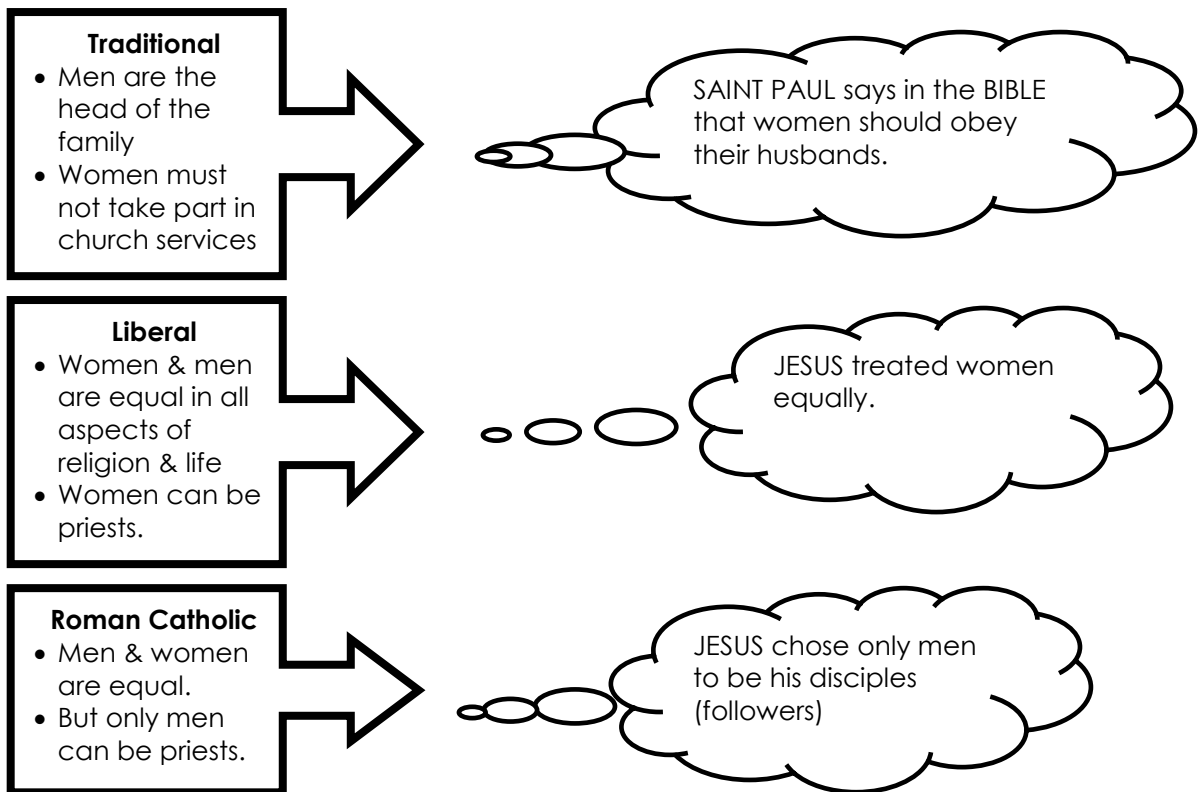
The BIBLE says we are equal



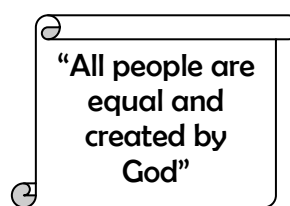
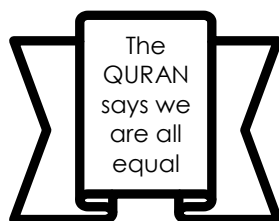
"God created man in his own image.... Male and female he created them"



What do Christians think?



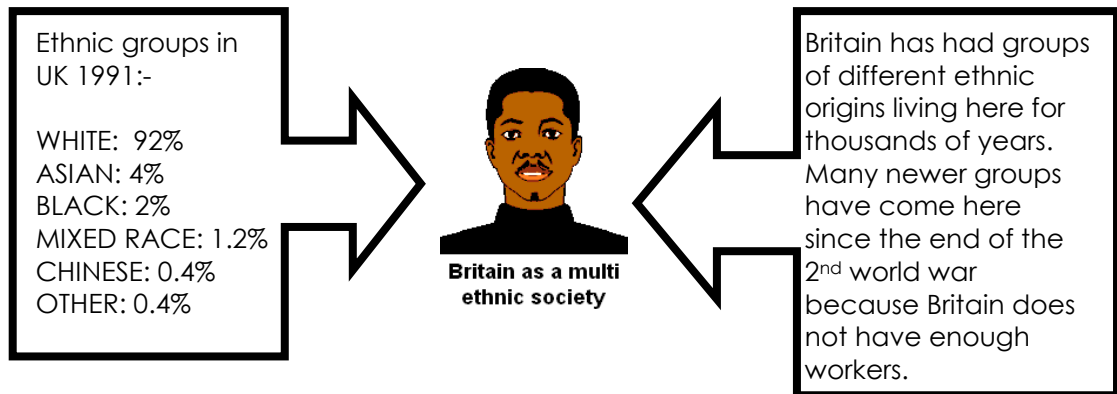
### Different attitudes to the roles of men and women in Islam.



What do Muslims think?

- But God made men and women **physically different** because he has gives them different roles.
- **Women** are made to have and care for children. **Men** are physically stronger (usually) – so are meant to work to provide money for their families.
- The **Prophet MOHAMMED** teaches (in the Hadith): “The search for knowledge is the duty of every Muslim, male or female” (it means both girls and boys should be educated)
- Some Muslims: Take a **traditional** approach – women should look after men. Husbands are in charge of women.
- Other Muslims: Emphasise the Qur'an's teaching on **equality** e.g. Women can have careers, have rights to money in the event of divorce, can divorce their husbands, have no duty to provide for the family.

## 2. BRITAIN AS A MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY



You might be asked: What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a multi-ethnic society?

Disadvantages:

- This can (and has) led to racism between people.



What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a multi-ethnic society?

Advantages:

- It helps people of different races to understand each other.
- It gives all of us a wider choice of food, clothes & music.
- It brings our society new ideas and ways of doing things.

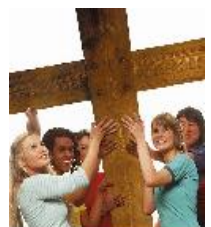
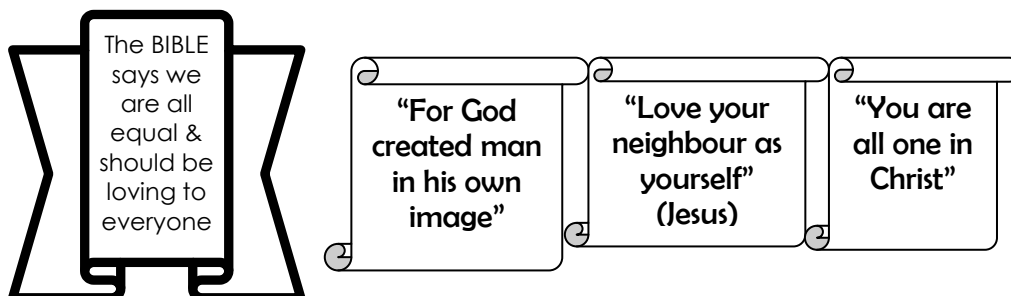
**What does our government try to do to help us all feel equal? (or – if you wish to sound posh: How does the government promote community cohesion)**

- Laws: It's illegal to discriminate against someone because they are black.
- The “Commission for racial equality” is set up by the government to fight racism.
- All immigrants now have to show they know about Britain before they are allowed to settle here.



What does our government do to help us all get along?

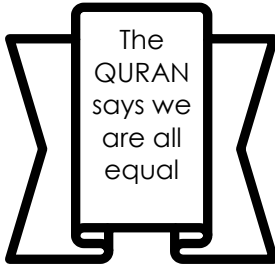
**Why do all Christians believe racism is wrong?**



Why do Christians believe that Racism is wrong?

- **Jesus** treated everyone equally (Jews, Romans, Samaritans). He told the story of the Good Samaritan.

## Why do Muslims believe racism is wrong?



“O humanity I am a messenger of God to you all”

- **Mohammed** said “an Arab is not superior to a non-Arab... a white man is not superior to a black man”
- We are all descended from **Adam & Eve** – we are all family.
- All Muslims are **brothers** (Ummah = Muslim brotherhood)

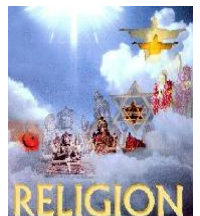


Why do Muslims believe racism is wrong?

## 3. BRITAIN AS A MULTI-FAITH SOCIETY

### Why is it good to live in a multi – faith society?

- There are lots of different religious beliefs in Britain: Christians; Muslims; Hindu's; Jews; Sikhs; Buddhists.
- Advantages of living in a multi-faith society: Promotes tolerance; Learn about different cultures; We all feel free.



Britain as a Multi-Faith society?

### What problems do we encounter when we live in a multi-faith society?

- Should members of one religion try to convert members of another religion? This may cause problems.
- Interfaith marriage: which religion should the children be raised in?
- Disagreements on matters of morality e.g. abortion.



What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a multi-faith society?

### How should Christians respond to people who are of a different faith?

Christians take different views on this issue depending on how they interpret the Bible. For some evangelical Christians they will focus on the words of Jesus when he said, “the only way to the Father is through me”. They interpret this to mean that you have to believe in Jesus and be a Christian to go to heaven. All other religions are wrong. For this reason many evangelical Christians focus on trying to convert others. This view is known as exclusivism (only one correct religion).

Other Christians believe that all religions are paths to God. They focus on Jesus' saying, “in my Father's house there are many rooms”. They believe that Jesus was saying that people from

many different religions could get to heaven. This view is called 'religious pluralism'.

### How should Muslims respond to people of different faiths?

The Qur'an says 'let there be no compulsion in religion'. In other words, no one should be forced to be a Muslim. In fact the Qur'an recognises that Christians and Jews worship the same God as Muslims. So on the day of Judgement it is possible that good Christians and Jews could be in paradise. However, only Muslims have the final revelation of God through the prophet Mohammed. For this reasons, everyone, including Christian's and Jews, should be encouraged to become Muslims. But f they do not wish to, people of other religions should be allowed to worship freely.

### How do religions try to promote community cohesion?

- Christians: Hold religious services with people of other faiths / encourage Christians to meet with Jews & Muslims and get to know them.
- Muslims: Muslim leaders encourage Muslims to contribute to British society (e.g. vote, join the police, and stand as an MP).
- Many religious groups go into schools to tell students about themselves.




How do Muslims & Christians try to promote community cohesion?

## 4. HOW HAVE THESE ISSUES BEEN PRESENTED IN THE MEDIA?

- You need to be able to talk about a film /soap / radio programme that has sexism, racism or religious intolerance as its theme.



How does the Media present these issues?

Name of programme / film	What issues did it deal with? What was the plot?	How effective was it (up to 5 stars)
		

		★★★★★
		★★★★★

### Exam Question

(a) What is a **multi-ethnic society**? (2 marks)

(b) Do you think that women should have equal rights in religion?

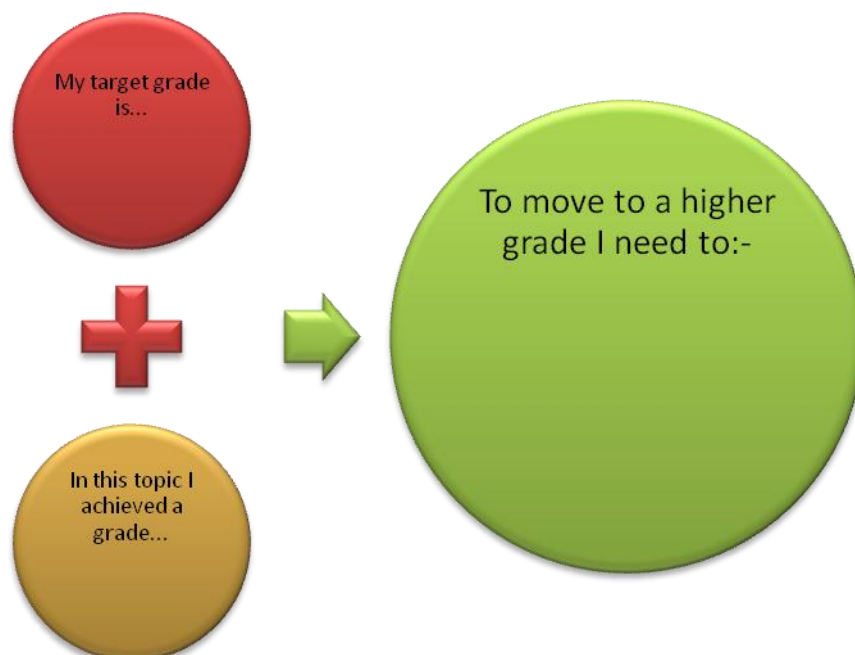
Give **two** reasons for your point of view (4 marks)

(c) Explain why mixed-faith marriages can cause problems for religious families. (8 marks)

(d) "If everyone were **religious** there would be no racism" In your answer you should refer to at least one religion.

(i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion (3 marks).

(ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you (3 mark)





Example 'd' question on this topic:-

“Men and women are still not treated equally in the UK”  
In your answer you should refer to at least ONE religion.

- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3 marks)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3 marks)

Example 'b' question on this topic:-

Do you think that women should have equal rights in religion?

Give TWO reasons for your point of view (4 marks)

Example 'd' question on this topic:-

"If everyone were religious there would be no racism".  
In your answer you should refer to at least ONE religion.

- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion. (3 marks)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you. (3 marks)

Example 'c' question on this topic:-

Explain why Christians should promote racial harmony (8 marks)

Example 'c' question on this topic:-

Explain why Muslims should promote racial harmony (8 marks)

Example 'a' question on this topic:-

What is religious freedom? (2 marks)

Example 'b' question on this topic.

Do you think living in a multi-faith society causes problems for religious people?  
Give TWO reasons for your point of view (4 marks).





