

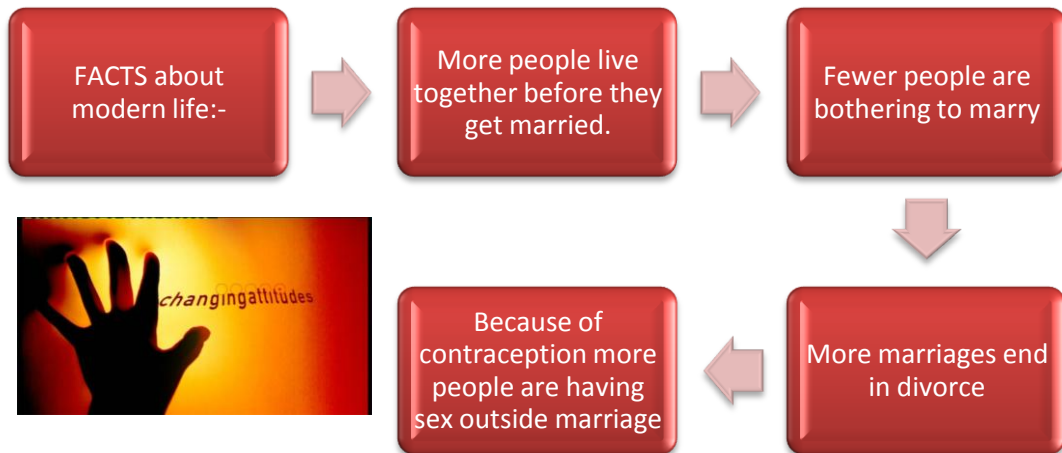
# Marriage and the family



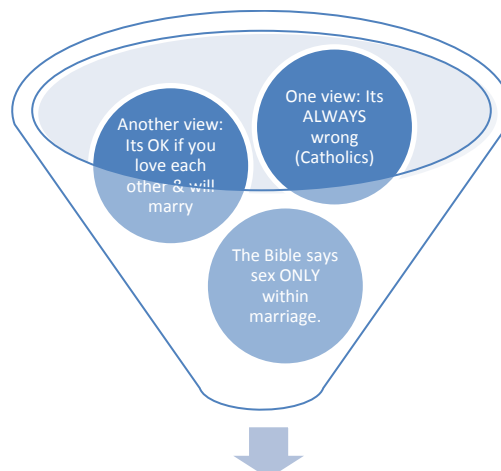
**THIS IS ALL ABOUT WHAT CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS THINK ABOUT DIVORCE, ADULTERY, SEX OUTSIDE MARRIAGE, CONTRACEPTION, FAMILY LIFE, AND HOMOSEXUALITY.**

- Adultery** - Sex between a married person and somebody they are not married to.
- Civil partnership** – A legal ceremony giving a homosexual couple the same legal rights as a husband and wife.
- Cohabitation** – A couple living together without being married.
- Contraception** – Intentionally preventing pregnancy occurring.
- Faithfulness** – Staying with your marriage partner and only having sex with them.
- Homosexuality** – Sexual attraction to people of the same sex.
- Nuclear family** – Mother, father and children living as a unit.
- Pre-marital sex** – Sex before marriage.
- Procreation** – Making a new life.
- Promiscuity** – Having sex with a number of partners without commitment.

## 1. SHOULD PEOPLE HAVE SEX WITHOUT BEING MARRIED?



## Christian Teaching



Should a Christian have sex before marriage?

A Christian should not really have sex before marriage

## Extra-marital sex

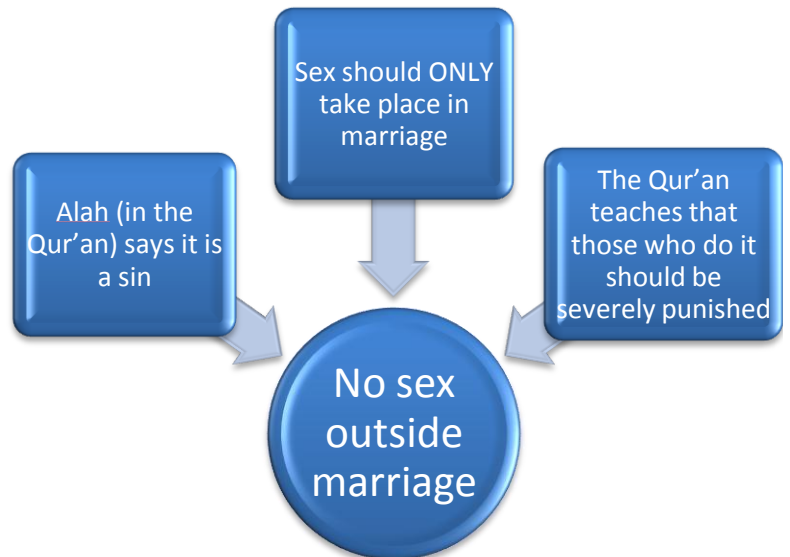
All Christians believe that adultery is wrong

- It breaks the marriage vows
- It breaks the seventh commandment – “Do not commit Adultery”.

## Muslim Teaching



Sex in Islam



## **2. SHOULD PEOPLE GET DIVORCED?**

### **Facts**

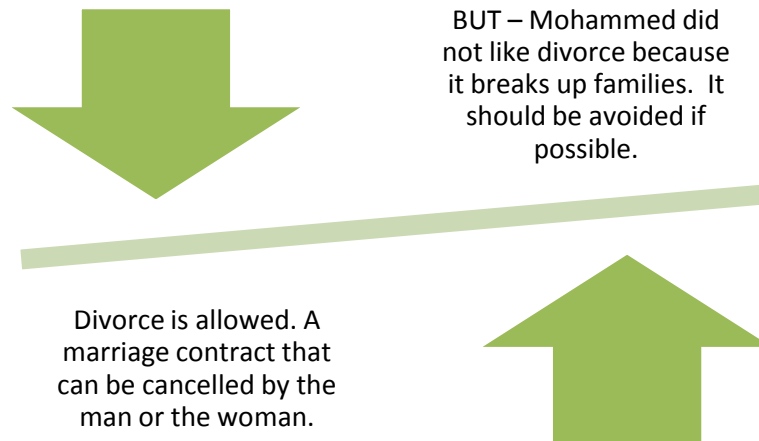
- About 1 in 3 marriages end in divorce
- It is easier and cheaper to get a divorce now than it used to be
- Women have more rights so do not need to put up with bad treatment.

## Christian Teaching



Divorce

## Muslim Teaching

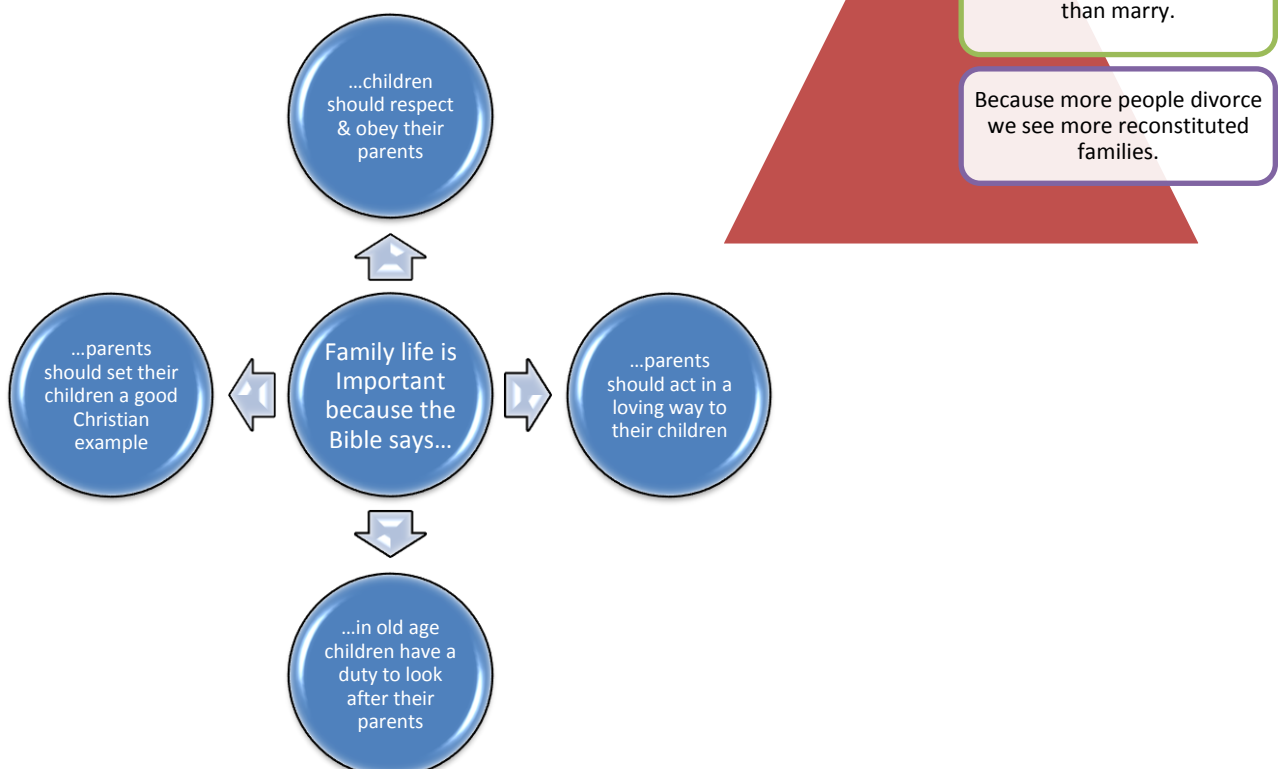


### 3. WHY IS FAMILY LIFE IMPORTANT?

#### **Facts**

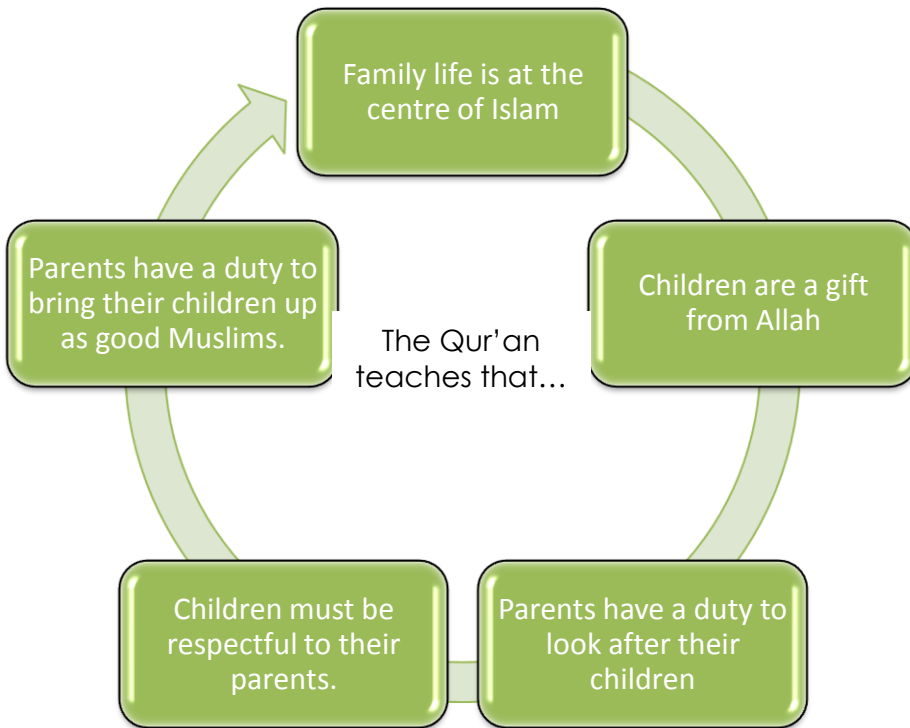
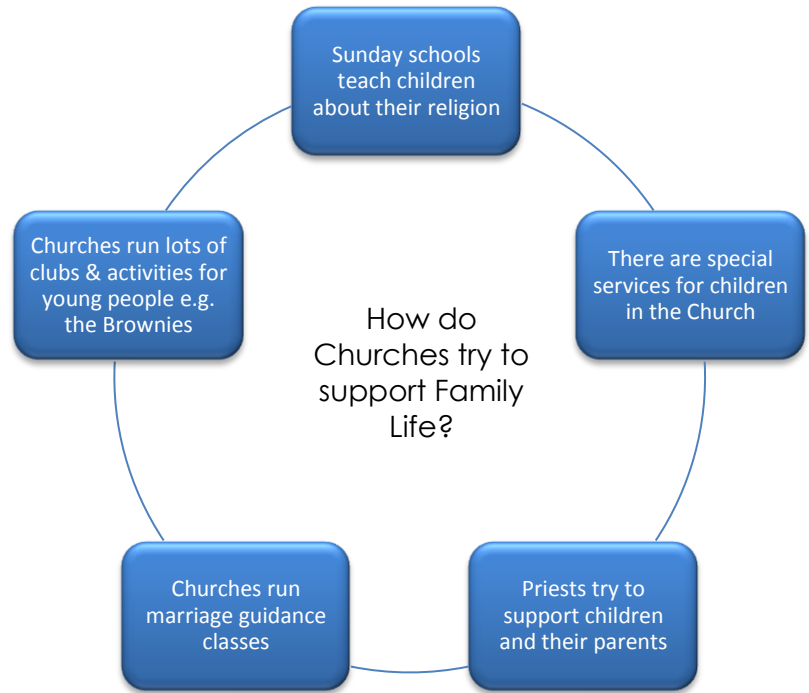
Over the last 100 years there have been BIG changes to families in Britain:-

#### Christian teaching: Why is Family life important?





Christian families



**Muslim teaching:**  
**Why is Family life important?**



Muslim family life



## 4. CHRISTIAN & MUSLIM TEACHING ON HOMOSEXUALITY & CONTRACEPTION

### Attitudes today

- Homosexuality used to be a criminal offence but is now widely accepted.
- Civil partnerships allowed ('gay marriage')
- Some gay couples choose to bring up children



### Christian views

- Many Christians are against homosexuality because this is how they interpret the teaching of the Bible
- Some Christians interpret the Bible differently & believe that homosexuality is acceptable.



### Muslim views

- The Qur'an is clear about homosexuality - it is wrong.
- In some Muslim countries homosexuality is seen as a crime and is punished severely.
- A minority of Muslims believe homosexuality should be allowed.



Photo Courtesy of Hamed Saber

People use contraception because they are not ready to have children, some reasons might be: -

They might be too young or old.

They don't think they would make good parents.

/ It may be dangerous to the health of the mother to bear children.

One or both partners may have a genetically transferrable disease that they don't want to pass on.

They couldn't provide financially for a child

A single man does not want the responsibility of an unwanted pregnancy

### Christian teaching on contraception

The majority of Christians see contraception as a responsible way of planning a family

Although Christians see children as a blessing from God, it does not mean they are forced to have children

For Roman Catholics sexual intercourse should always be open to the possibility of pregnancy. Therefore contraception should not be used. This is the official teaching of the church and some Catholics oppose it.

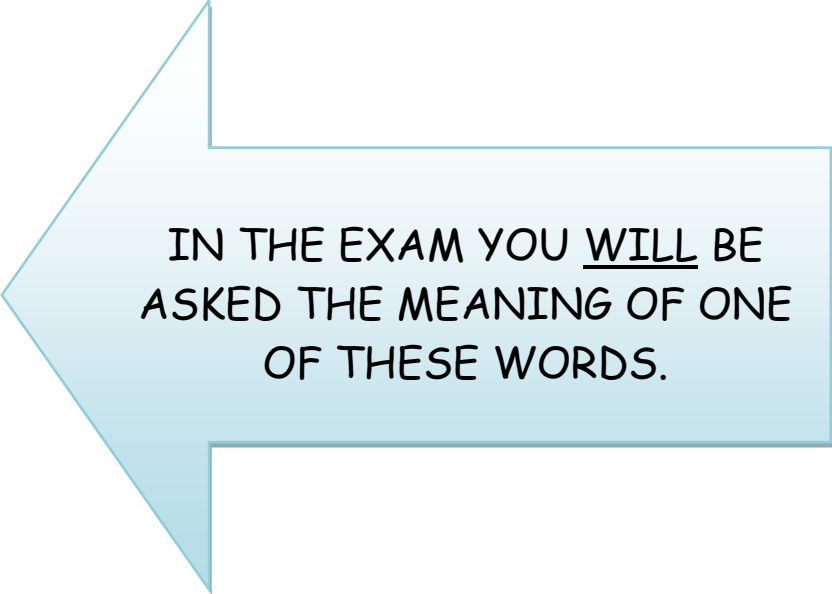
### Islam and contraception

There is no one Muslim teaching on contraceptive use: some Muslims countries ban it while others teach it to the young.

Where it is allowed there must be good reasons that protect the family and the couple, for example if the couple already have a lot of children.

Contraception is never an excuse to have sex outside the marriage or to be promiscuous.





IN THE EXAM YOU WILL BE  
ASKED THE MEANING OF ONE  
OF THESE WORDS.

Example 'b' question on this topic:-

Do you think that sex outside marriage is acceptable? Give TWO reasons for your point of view. 4 marks

Example 'c' question on this topic:-

Choose ONE religion other than Christianity and explain why most of the followers of that religion are against sex outside marriage. (8 marks)

Example 'b' question on this topic:-

Do you think that all religious people should accept divorce? Give TWO reasons for your point of view. 4 marks

Example 'b' question on this topic:-

Do you think divorce is better than an unhappy marriage? Give TWO reasons for your point of view (4 marks).

Example 'a' questions on this topic:-

What is **promiscuity**? 2 marks

What is a **civil partnership**? 2 marks.

What is **cohabitation**? 2 marks.

Example 'd' question on this topic:-

"A religious family is a happy family"

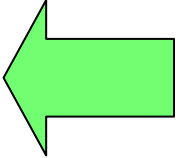
In your answer you should refer to at least ONE religion other than Christianity.

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

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notes



### **CHRISTIAN: Bible teaching which is used on Homosexuality:-**

*"You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; that is an abomination."*

*"Make no mistake: no fornicator or idolator, none who are guilty either of adultery or of homosexual perversion, no thieves or grabbers of drunkards of slanderers or swindlers, will possess the kingdom of God."*

Anti-Gay Christians view these passages as clearly saying being gay is wrong. But pro-gay Christians may argue that these represent the views of people at the time they were written – but they are not God's law.

**MUSLIM: In the Hadith it says** *"Kill the one that is doing it and also kill the one that it is being done to (refers to a sexual act between two men)."* So for most Muslims homosexuality is wrong.

Example 'c' question: Explain why some Christians accept homosexuality and some do not (8 marks).

### **Biblical & Qur'an teaching on contraception**

- Catholic Christians follow God's command to Adam & Eve in the Bible when He says, '*be fruitful and multiply*'. This is taken to mean that sex is for producing children – NOT primarily for pleasure. So contraception should not be used. But other Christians interpret this text differently.
- There is no mention of contraception in the Qur'an. However, those Muslims who oppose it refer to the text "*you should not kill your children for fear of want*". Some think that '*killing your children*' would apply to using contraception to prevent children. However other Muslim's argue that this is not what was intended by this text.

Example 'd' question on this topic:-

"Contraception should be accepted by all religious people".

In your answer you should refer to at least ONE religion.

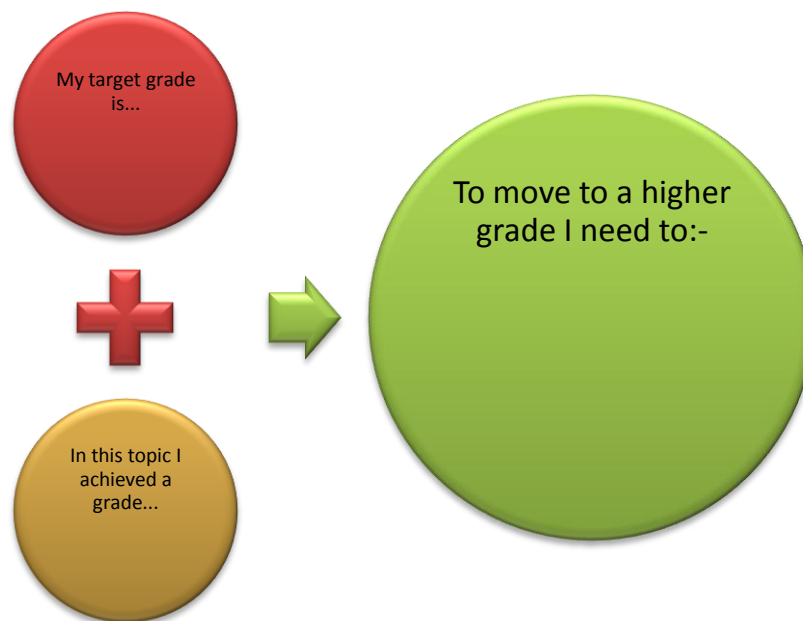
- (i) Do you agree? Give reasons for your opinion (3 marks)
- (ii) Give reasons why some people may disagree with you (3 marks)

## Exam question on this topic

- (a) What is promiscuity? 2 marks
- (b) Do you think that sex outside marriage is acceptable?  
Give two reasons for your point of view (4 marks)
- (c) Explain why some Christians accept homosexuality and some do not (8 marks)
- (d) "Contraception should be accepted by all religious people"

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)





What do Muslims think?



What do Christians think?



Contraception



What do Christians think?



What do Muslims think?



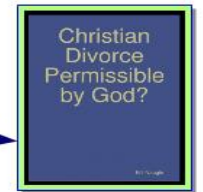
Sex outside marriage?



Divorce



What do Muslims think?



What do Christians think?



MARRIAGE & THE FAMILY



How have attitudes to marriage, Divorce, family life, and homosexuality changed?



Homosexuality



What do Muslims think?



What do Christians think?



Why is family life so important?



What do Muslims think?



What do Christians think?