

LITERACY LIFELINE - GCSE - Relationships and families

TOP TIPS

Use **capital letters** and **full stops** in your sentences.

Use **paragraphs** to organise longer pieces of writing.

Take care with all **spelling** and **punctuation**.

ALWAYS write God with a capital letter!

Word/phrase	Meaning
Adultery	Having an affair, a sexual relationship with someone you are not married to
Annulment	The cancellation of a marriage
Civil partnership	The legal union of two people of the same gender
Commitment	The act of making a promise or pledge
Celibacy	Not having sexual relations; to be celibate
Chastity	Keeping oneself sexually pure, for example, waiting until marriage before having sex
Cohabitation	Living together as a couple, without necessarily being married
Contraception	Precautions taken to prevent pregnancy, and to protect against sexually transmitted infections.
contract	A binding agreement between two sides
covenant	An agreement based on promises between two sides; often linked to religion, so includes an agreement before and with God.
Divorce	Legal ending of a marriage
Extended family	This is a nuclear family plus other relatives, usually grandparents, living with the family, but can also include cousins, uncles and aunts
Family	Parents and their children as a group
Family planning	The planning of when to have a family using birth control/ contraceptives
Gender discrimination	Acting on prejudices against someone because of their gender
Gender Equality	The idea that men and women are of equal worth
Gender prejudice	The idea that men and women are not equal
Heterosexual	Someone physically attracted to the opposite sex
Homosexual	Someone physically attracted to the same sex
Nuclear family	The more 'traditional' form of family. Mum, Dad and children.
Polygamy	The practice of a man having more than one wife at the same time
Procreation	The biological process of a couple producing children
Remarriage	Marriage a second time after divorce (not usually to the person originally divorced from)



Theme A - Relationships and families.

Key terms-

Extended family: This is a nuclear family plus other relatives, usually grandparents, living with the family, but can also include cousins, uncles and aunts

Nuclear family: The more 'traditional' form of family. Mum, Dad and children.

Polygamy: The practice of a man having more than one wife at the same time

Single-parent family: This is a family of either mum or dad plus children. This type of family is becoming more common in the UK



Family is important to Christians

Christians that both parents and children have responsibilities within the family.

It is a parents responsibility to...

- Give their child love and support
- St Paul said 'parents do not anger your children.'
- Provide them with what they need to be happy and successful. E.g. clothes, shelter, food etc.

It is a child's responsibility to...

- Respect their parents
- Follow the instructions of their parents that are for their own benefit
- St Paul also said 'Children should obey their parents'



In the last 50 years family has changed. In the past the dad used to go out to work and mum would stay at home and take care of the house and the children. These days responsibilities are often shared, both parents usually work. There are also more divorces and single-parent families these days that is because it now more acceptable for people to have children before they are married and it is easier to get a divorce.

Should parents bring their children up to be religious?

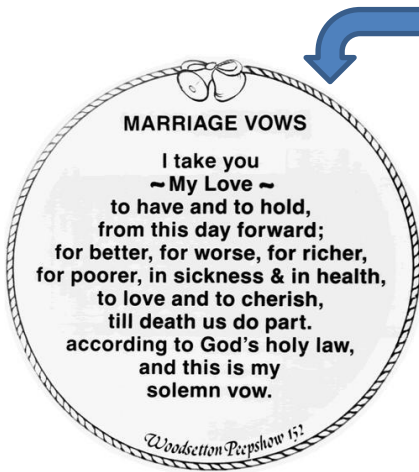
Yes because...	No because...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents want what is best for their children, if they chose their religion for themselves then they must see it as the best way of living • Religious teachings include good moral codes on how to behave like 'love thy neighbour' this will help the child grow up to be a good person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forcing the religion on the child may make them close-minded to other religions/ways of life that could suit them better or make them happier • Some people may see this as limiting the child's free will and argue that they should have the choice to make these decisions for themselves

Marriage



Marriage is the legal union between two people. Marriage is an opportunity for two people to declare their love and dedication to each other. It also brings security to a relationship which has legal and financial benefits as well.

For Christians marriage is a sacrament (blessing) from God. Many Christians believe it is important to get married in a Church so that they can share their love before God and get God's blessing.



What do we learn from these?

The vows show that Christians believe marriage should be *forever*. When you enter a marriage you should intend to stay with that person 'until death' parts you. You should also be *loyal and loving* even when times are hard as well as when times are good. Also that these *promises are made in front of God* and so should not be taken lightly.

At a Christian wedding service the priest will read a **homily**. This explains what the purpose of marriage is. The bride and groom will **read vows** to each other, promises before the congregation and God, which they swear to live by for their whole lives. They then **exchange rings** which symbolise the never ending love that the couple share. They will also have to **sign the marriage register** which is the legal part of the ceremony.



An arranged marriage is when your parents choose a potential partner for you. You then meet this person (a family member will usually accompany you to this meeting) and decide if that person is suitable for you to marry. If you agree to your parent's wishes and then marry, this would be an arranged marriage.

Benefits	Problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your parents love you. They're going to choose someone who they believe is going to be best for you. Statistically, arranged marriages are less likely to end in divorce. Many people have trouble choosing a partner for themselves, sometimes they make their choice based on things like looks and this leads to a bad match. Trusting someone else to make that choice means that the decision is more likely to be a sensible one rather than an emotional choice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many people believe that love cannot be forced and you 'just know' when you meet the right person. It could be argued that the likelihood of your parents picking the exact right match for you is slim. Arranged marriages often occur after the couple have spent only a little time together. If you marry someone before you fully know them you are risking that you may be married to someone that you don't get along with. Some people would argue that their parents' idea of 'the right husband/wife' is completely different to theirs and they would choose according to their tastes and not yours and so the person they pick would not be right for their child.

Interfaith marriages.



What is an interfaith marriage?

Interfaith marriage is when two people of different faiths get married.

Interfaith marriages are a good thing because...

- You have an opportunity to learn about your partner's faith. You could find this interesting and enjoyable.
- It could lead to you converting to your partner's faith this could make you happier.
- Your children will grow up with an understanding of different faiths which will make them more tolerant of others and give them more choice of religion.

Interfaith marriages are not a good thing because...

- Can cause arguments with family members/ in-laws who are worried about you converting from your faith.
- Can be difficult to balance commitments. E.g. if the husband's day of worship is Friday and the wife worships on a Sunday they may find it difficult to find time to spend together as a family.
- Can cause disagreements about the arrangements of the wedding service itself.



Why do marriages fail?

Marriages can fail for a number of reasons such as:

- Cheating (adultery)
- Simply falling out of love
- Disagreements about things like money or children.



What help is available for failing marriages?

- In the UK people who have a failing marriage can get counselling
- Also charities like relate.org.uk help couples to fix problems within their marriage.

DID YOU KNOW Britney Spears was only married 55 hours before getting a divorce? Does this mean that people don't take marriage seriously now that divorce is so easy to get?

DID YOU KNOW In the UK, about 40% of marriages now end in divorce. Does this mean that divorce is now widely accepted?

DID YOU KNOW that in a civil (non-religious) wedding, the couple don't have to promise to stay together for life? About 2/3 of all marriages are now civil ceremonies. Does this mean couples are not breaking any promises if they later divorce?

DID YOU KNOW that couples who cohabit (live together without marrying) are much more likely to split up than married couples? Does this mean that marriage helps relationships to stay stronger? Could this be because they want to keep their promises? Is this a good thing?


Christian beliefs about divorce and remarriage

Divorce and remarriage is acceptable	Divorce and remarriage is not acceptable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Love thy neighbour'- It isn't very loving to force someone to stay in a relationship that makes them unhappy. • Divorce is widely accepted nowadays. The Church should move with the times and accept it too. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You vowed to stay together in front of God. You shouldn't break the promises you made to God by separating. • When you marry, you are joined together by God. No-one can separate a bond that has been made by God.

After getting divorced, some people choose to get **remarried**.

Remarriage can be two different things

- when you regret divorcing the person you used to be married to and so you marry them for a second time
- **OR** a divorced person meets someone new and marries the new person.



Roman Catholics argue that remarriage is wrong because only God can separate two people once they are married. Therefore when you remarry someone you are committing adultery as you are still (in their view) married to the first person. **Other Christians think it is acceptable.** In fact the Church of England played a huge part in getting divorced laws relaxed in 1969. This was because they said the harsh laws went against the concept of 'love thy neighbour' as too many people were living in unhappy marriages and unable to move on and find someone new.

Should it be easy to get a divorce?

Yes	No
<p>Couples shouldn't have to stay together if it is making them unhappy</p> <p>It is a private matter and people should be able to divorce if they want to</p> <p>Divorce is always a stressful procedure and making it difficult just makes it worse</p>	<p>It devalues marriage if couples think they can get out of it easily</p> <p>It makes it too easy to split up. If divorce is difficult to obtain, couples will try harder to save their relationship</p> <p>It is bad for children when their parents split up</p>

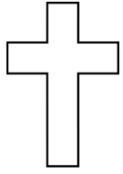
Is marriage better than cohabitation (living together?)

Yes	No
<p>There is more commitment, so couples are more likely to stay together</p> <p>It is a way of showing your love and commitment publicly</p> <p>It gives the couple legal rights, for example regarding inheritance</p> <p>Christians and Muslims believe it is the only proper place for a sexual relationship</p>	<p>There is no need for a legal arrangement to show you love someone and want to be with them</p> <p>Marriage is an old fashioned idea</p> <p>If you are not religious, then religious views don't matter</p> <p>It is easier to end the relationship if it doesn't work out - no need for a divorce.</p>

People have sex for many reasons; to have children, for pleasure, to express their love to someone else etc. In the UK **the age of consent is 16**. This is the age that someone is seen as being old enough to make the decision to have sex for themselves.



Sex outside marriage



Christians believe that your body is like a temple and so you should respect it in the same way. **All Christians agree that promiscuity is wrong** as it lacks respect for yourself and the person you are having sex with - treating them as an object. **Christians also agree that adultery is always wrong** because it breaks one of the Ten Commandments AND breaks one of the promises couples make to each other when they marry.

Some Christians think that the only proper place for sex is within marriage, as this is what God intended.

However, many Christians also believe that sex is a gift of pleasure from God and a way of expressing love. It is meant to be enjoyed **so sex outside marriage between a couple who love each other and are committed to staying together is acceptable.**

It also includes: **Cohabitation**- living together without being married.
Promiscuity- having sex with multiple partners without commitment
Open relationships- having an agreement with your partner that you will sleep with other people whilst staying in a relationship with them. And of course also...
Adultery- having sex with someone other than your marriage partner.

However, **sex outside marriage is not allowed by Muslims**. The Qur'an says that people who have sex outside marriage are 'fornicators' and should be punished. There are **specific punishments** for sex before marriage and for adultery, which shows that they are wrong.



Yes	<p>Religions teach that it should</p> <p>Sex outside marriage can lead to emotional, social and medical complications such as hurt feelings, unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections</p> <p>Sex leads to babies and many people think it is best for children to be brought up by both parents in a stable relationship - marriage provides this.</p>
No	<p>It is a personal matter for individuals to decide what they want to do</p> <p>It is an enjoyable physical activity - as long as no one is getting hurt, you should be able to have sex with anyone you want</p> <p>It is not against the law to have sex outside marriage</p>

Family planning is where you try to control the size of your family.

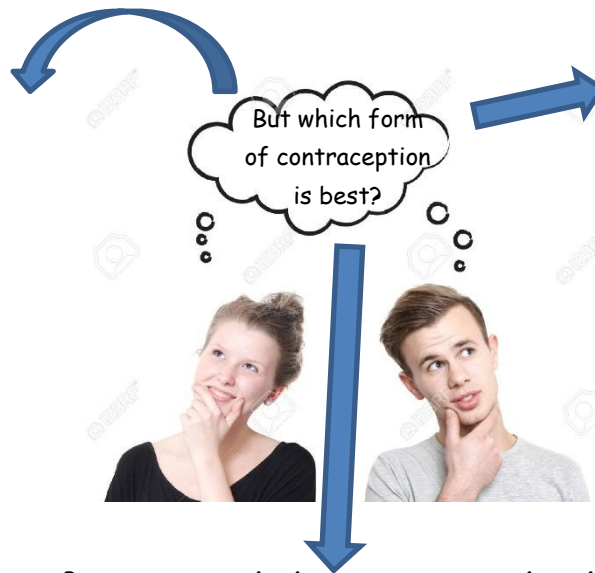


One way to do this is by using contraception.

Artificial	Natural	Permanent
This means man made.	Changing your behaviour to try and limit your chances of getting pregnant.	An operation to prevent the reproductive organs from working properly.
<p><u>e.g.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condoms create a barrier this stops the sperm from meeting the egg. • The pill affects the woman's hormones stopping the egg from being produced. • The coil stops a fertilised egg from being able to implant in the womb successfully. 	<p><u>e.g.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The withdrawal method - the man withdraws from inside the woman before ejaculating. • The calendar method is where couples try to only have sex during the woman's least fertile time of the month. 	<p><u>e.g.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The man or woman gets sterilised. This is an operation that stops either the egg or sperm from being released so that pregnancy cannot happen.

Artificial methods are by far the most effective. Also some artificial methods like condoms (and other barrier methods) don't just stop pregnancy from occurring but also protect you from STIs. **Many Christians** recognise that the most loving thing to do (love thy neighbour) is to protect a person's health and so would approve of condoms. **Many Muslims would also agree** as they believe that sex is a gift of pleasure is not just for making babies. These methods allow you to enjoy that gift safely.

However, many of these forms like the pill and coil affect a woman's hormones and which can cause some women to react badly. Also many people do not like the idea of a man-made product changing interfering with God's purpose for his creation.



For many Catholics, natural methods are the only correct option. This is because they believe man-made products interfere with Gods plan. And also **the Pope declared that the use of contraception is a 'grave sin'.** Sex is for making babies, and contraception prevents that. But natural methods fit in with nature and so are fine to use. **However,** they have an extremely low success rate meaning that people often still get pregnant when using natural means.

Permanent methods are an extremely reliable way of ensuring that the person does not get pregnant. **However,** as they are permanent if you change your mind later in life and want to have children it is usually impossible to reverse the process which can be quite upsetting for the person who has changed their mind. **Some Catholics and fundamentalist Muslims would be very much against this method as they believe the purpose of sex is to reproduce (In the Bible God said be fruitful and multiply) so stopping the opportunity to have children is very wrong.**

Many Muslims and Christians agree that family planning, using contraception, is important. Christians say that reducing family size allows children to have a better quality of life which is a loving thing to do. Muslims follow Muhammad who said that couples should only have as many children as they could properly look after.





Homosexuality means being attracted to people of the same gender as you. It was illegal in the UK until 1967. Now it is widely accepted and since 2014, homosexual couples have been allowed to marry.

What do religious people think about homosexuality?

Muslims	Christians
<p>Against- The Qur'an calls homosexual couples 'fornicators' and says that they should be punished. Therefore, Islam teaches that homosexuality is wrong. In some Muslim countries, it is a criminal offence to be in a homosexual relationship and there are harsh punishments in place for people who are homosexual.</p>	<p>For- God created us all in his image. We are all equal and free to make our own choices about who we fall in love with. Jesus said we should 'love our neighbour as ourselves' and it is loving to allow couples to be with the person they love. But for most Christians, sex should only take place within a committed relationship and some believe that homosexuals cannot marry because they believe marriage is a union between a man and a woman</p> <p>Against- In the Bible it says "Man shall not lie with man as he does a woman. It is an abomination." (Which means that it is very wrong.) which tells them that it is wrong in the eyes of God. Homosexual sex cannot make a baby and Roman Catholics believe the purpose of sex is to create children.</p>



Gender equality is when men and women are treated equally. There is a lot more gender equality in the UK than there was 50 years ago. However, **gender discrimination** (treating men and women differently still occurs.) For example, men still hold the highest paying jobs in the UK and most of the powerful positions in society are still held by men.

Laws on gender equality were passed in the 1970s including The Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act.



Some people think that men and boys also suffer from discrimination



Fathers for Justice is an organisation that claims that men are unfairly treated when decisions are made about who cares for children after a couple splits up.

In traditional family life, men and women had different roles, but nowadays it is more likely that couples will share household chores and going out to work.

Christian views on gender equality

We are all created in God's image	So men and women are equal
St Paul said wives must submit to their husbands	So men are in charge of women
Eve was created as a companion for Adam	The role of women is to help men

