#### **Key concepts**

**Adultery**- Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person that is not their spouse

**Divorce-** To legally end a marriage

**Cohabitation-** To live together in a sexual relationship without being married or in a civil partnership

**Commitment-** A sense of dedication and obligation to someone or something.

**Contraception-** Methods used to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant during or following sexual intercourse.

**Gender equality**- People of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in their lives.

**Responsibilities-** actions/duties you are expected to carry out.

**Roles**- Position, status or function of a person in society, as well as the characteristics and social behaviour expected of them.

#### What is a family?

The foundation of all human activity. The norms of society are represented and children brought up to adulthood. Types include Nuclear (two parents and children), single parent, reconstituted (divorced parents remarried) or extended (including cousins etc)

## Roles of Men and Women in the family

Within a family roles and responsibilities may be divided via gender.

Patriarchal- The traditional view held by Islam and Christianity. Women should be responsible for home life and child rearing. Men should earn money to support the family and take a lead role in decision making. Men are seen as 'in charge' of the women in their family unit.

Modern religious views support a more equal lifestyle, with men and women taking an equal role both in the home and in the wider world.

Matriarchal- A society that is lead by women.

# Divorce- Beliefs, practices and religious references

Christian View- Different denominations have very different views. Catholic Church: Does not recognise divorce in any circumstances. If a marriage breaks the options are separation or annulment- where a marriage is undone, as it should never have happened I.e the couple never consummated the marriage (had sex) or other legal reasons. Other denominations like the Church of England allow divorce if everything has been tried to save the marriage but if a divorcee wished to remarry in a church some vicars will allow, and others will not. Others such as Methodist agree that divorce is not the will of God but if necessary it is allowable. Remarriage is also permitted if the minister agrees to conduct the ceremony.

**Muslim view-** Muslims believe that a couple experiencing conflict must try to reconcile. Before divorce the imam and the community will try to help the couple. Muslims accept that sometimes a couple will not reconcile so accept divorce. To begin the process, once a couple agrees to divorce the husband must state in front of witnesses on three occasions that the marriage is over. The couple must then apply to a shariah court. There is a period of three months before the divorce is agreed so the couple may reconcile and to check that the woman is not pregnant. This ensures there is no confusion about who the father of any children might be. The Prophet Mohammed said 'of all the things which has been permitted divorce is the most hated by Allah'. Once the divorce is through, the Qur'an specifies that each person should treat the other with kindness and charity.

**Humanist view-** Humanists believe that marriage and family breakdown is best avoided and would say that couples should try to work through their difficulties. This is particularly important when there are children involved. However, humanists recognisable that it is sometimes not possible and believe people only have this life so it is important this life is enjoyed and lived to the full. When people are unhappy it is acceptable for them to separate and divorce.

# **EDUQAS GCSE Topic One- issues of relationships**

### Cohabitation-living together before marriage

**Christian View-** Traditionally this is not permitted (Roman Cath). Many denominations now are more forgiving (liberal church of England) when its part of a committed relationship.

**Muslim view-** In practice many Muslims live together before marriage but the teachings of Islam says it is not permitted.

Humanist view- There is no problem with cohabitation.

#### **Sex before Marriage**

**Christian View-** Sex should generally take place in a marriage. It is a gift from God and is holy and sacred. Casual sex devalues both the person and sex itself, so is not acceptable.

**Muslim view-** Married partners are expected to meet each others needs, so its an act of worship. Sex outside marriage is 'ever an immorality and is evil'.

**Humanist view-** As long as all parties consent there is no issue.

**Adultery-** Christian and Muslim both consider it a great sin

**Christian View-**Wrong because it breaks the promises you gave to God and partner. Threatens the family unit and breaks trust.

**Muslim view-** Wrong because sex outside marriage is a a sin. It is seen as the worst sort of theft and betrayal, of the whole society not just partner.

**Humanist view-** Humanists know that adultery is an act that breaks trust but also consider it a sign of problems in the relationship- it can be fixed if both parties want to.

# Same sex marriage- Beliefs, practices and religious references

**Christian View-** Some Christians disagree on the bases of old testament verses. Others argue that these verses do not apply in today's society, and that Jesus talked about love for everyone.

Roman Catholic Church argue that marriage should only be between an man and a woman.

Anglican do not yet allow same sex marriages in churches, but some individual vicars do perform blessings in the Church.

The United Reform Church does allow same sex marriages.

**Muslim view-** Islam forbids same-sex marriage and homosexual relationships, believing sex should only happen between a man and a woman, as it is a sacred contract between husband and wife. The Qur'an calls homosexuals as 'transgressing people' and can never be agreed with.

**Humanist view-** They believe that human beings should find as much happiness in this lifetime and same sex relationships area positive expression of this view.

# Marriage- Beliefs, practices and religious references linked to COMMITMENT

**Christian View-** Marriage is given by God as a gift to mankind. It is a *Sacrament* (special ceremony that marks transition from one stage of life to another) that Jesus spoke of, joining two people in God's love. The wedding vows say 'What God ahas joined together, let no man put asunder' (split up). this means that marriage should be a lifelong union.

Christian weddings take place in a Church, again emphasising God's presence in the new couple's lives. The vows the couple exchange are a promise to each other and to God to remain faithful to each other until death ('til death do us part')

**Muslim view-** The Qur'an mentions marriage as the basis of family life several times. Divorce is allowed, but ideally a marriage should be for life. Marriage is a gift from Allah and everyone should marry. Marriage is also meant for each partner to support the other in their faith.

The marriage ceremony can be held at a mosque or at the bride's home. The bride's male guardian offers the bride to the groom. There must be two witnesses that must be good Muslims. There are prayers for the whole Ummah (Muslim community).

**Humanist view-** Humanists view marriage as a significant part of human life shows their commitment.. Such a ceremony may reflect the important nature of marriage and the significance for a couple and society but would include no religious activity.

#### Contraception-

**Christian View-** Most protestants agree with the use of birth control for family planning purposes. The Catholic Church does not allow contraception, although there is a lot of debate in countries with high level of STI illness or overpopulation.

**Muslim view-** The Qur'an does not make any references to contraception. IT must 1. not harm the body and 2. should only be used if both husband and wife agree to its use. Most would agree with the use of contraception to limit family size.

**Humanist view-** Humanists feel each person should have control of their reproduction.

# **Gender Equality- Beliefs, practices and religious references**

**Christian View-** In the early church all the leaders were men. Traditional churches, like Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, still only allow Men to lead worship, following some biblical commands for women to remain silent in church. The Anglican church accepts women as bishops.

**Muslim view-** The Qur'an specifies that Allah created everyone equal, from the same soul, so should not discriminate. Traditionally Imams have been men, but in some more progressive circles female imams can led other women in prayer. Women and men are separated in prayer to keep both focus on Allah not the opposite sex.

**Humanist view-** Men and women are completely equal in all ways.