Relationships

Hindu teachings

On sex celibacy and contraception:

1. Chastity is a dharma (a duty)
2. Sex should only happen within marriage
3. Kama (sensual pleasure) is one of the 4 aims of life
4. Contraception could be against ahimsa (non-violence) because it is destroying a foetus
5. Some perform garbhadan samskara to purify the womb
6. A promise of faithfulness is made during the wedding ceremony
7. Faithfulness is shown by the role models of Rama and Sita

On marriage cohabitation and same sex relationships

1. Courtship allows the intention to marry

* Families of the couple meet
* Couple will have supervised meetings
* Priest will look at horoscopes

1. Wedding is a samskara (rite of passage)
2. No official view on same sexmarriage, it depends on interpretation of scriptures

Key features of wedding ceremonies

1. Wedding is a samskara (rite of passage)
2. Mandap (canopy) will be put up in wedding hall
3. Offerings are made to Ganesha as he is believed to remove all obstacles
4. The bride’s scarf is tied to the groom’s and then they circle the havan (ceremony where offerings of ghee and grain are made into fire) to show togetherness
5. Seven steps are taken for food, strength, wealth, happiness, children, long wedded life and unity
6. The havan is lit and offerings made to symbolise wish for fertility health and prosperity

On divorce and remarriage

1. Divorce is allowed as a last resort but is discouraged because of the sacramental value of the marriage
2. Hindus of lower castes have always been allowed divorce and remarriage
3. Extended family would help a Hindu reconcile

**Christian teachings**

On sex celibacy and contraception

1. Sex is a gift from God
2. Contraceptives are acceptable to many Christians so long as both partners agree
3. Adultery is forbidden in the 10 commandments
4. **Roman Catholic Churches** say priests are expected to be celibate
5. Artificial methods of contraception are not allowed sex should always allow the possibility of new life
6. Natural methods of contraception are allowed for example natural family planning (withdrawal method)

On marriage cohabitation and same sex relationships

1. Most denominations don’t have a betrothal ceremony
2. Marriage is a sacrament within certain denominations such as Roman Catholic
3. Different attitudes to same sex marriages:
4. Anglican Church can opt in to perform a ceremony
5. Quakers have welcomed same sex marriages for many years
6. Catholics teach marriage is a union between a man and a woman

Key features of a wedding ceremony

1. Often held in a church, chapel or cathedral as this is considered as God’s house
2. Purpose of marriage is stated at the start of the service
3. Vows are taken to show commitment eg ‘in sickness and in health’
4. Exchange of rings to represent love
5. Sermon or talk about the importance of marriage
6. Sibging of hymns to worship God
7. Signing the register to show the couple are married

Orthodox Churches:

1. Coronation signifies the marriage
2. Couple will drink three times from the same cup symbolising their life together

Roman Catholic Churches:

1. Everyone present is considered as a witness
2. Wedding takes place sometimes during the nuptial mass showing sacramental nature

On divorce and remarriage

Anglicans Methodists and United Reform Churches

1. Divorce is acceptable
2. Remarriage is discouraged but if chosen a non church wedding is preferred
3. No minister can be forced to conduct a remarriage service

Roman Catholic churches

1. Divorce isn’t recognised
2. Marriage is a **sacrament** and cannot be dissolved unless it is **annulled**
3. Annulment can happen for cases such as where a partner was forced to marry

Key Concepts:

1. Commitment= making and keeping a promise such as wedding vows
2. Chastity= decision not to have sex before marriage for example because it’s believed that sex is sacred (special love)
3. Conflict= working against each other rather than in unity. Conflict in marriage can lead to divorce
4. Love= to have a deep affection and express it through words and actions
5. Reconciliation=Apologise or say sorry and become friends again. Many faith communities have reconciliation services
6. Responsibilities= duties you should carry out such as looking after family members

Key words:

1. Adultery= sex with someone other than marriage partner
2. Storge= Affection for things and animals. Sometimes described as sentimental love
3. Philia**=** Love of friends and family; a stronger bond between people
4. Agape=Christian love or charity that does not depend on anything
5. Assisted marriages= selection of marriage partner helped by parents and wider family members
6. Betrothal= binding with a promise to marry
7. Blessings= giving of favour or grace
8. Celibacy= a person who has resolved not to marry
9. Civil partnership= a relationship similar to marriage for two people who are of the same sex
10. Cohabitation= living together without being married
11. Eros= earthly or sexual love
12. Polygamy= having more than one wife at any one time
13. Sacred = consecrated or holy
14. Vows= solemn promises or oaths made before God or other deities
15. Annulment=a declaration by the Church that the marriage never existed
16. Priest=Ordained person who leads prayer and worship in a church
17. Sacrament= An outward sign of an inward blessing
18. Dharma=Hindu religious duty, the intrinsic quality of the self
19. Ganesh= a Hindu deity who removes obstacles
20. Havan= Hindu ceremony in which offerings of ghee and grain are made into fire
21. Mandap= Hindu canopy often used in a wedding ceremony
22. Karma= Hindu action often used to refer to the law of cause and effect
23. Mandir= Hindu temple
24. Samskara= Hindu rite of passage

Typical question:

What responsibilities do we have?

* To not let ourselves down
* To look after others
* Religious believers have responsibility to god their creator
* To obey the law
* To care for the earth
* To follow religious teachings

What commitments do we have?

* Religious believers may show commitment by worship, prayer and how they live their lives
* Not to hurt others as we are all created by god
* To fulfil our duty

In the Greek version of the New testament there are 4 types of love

* Eros-sexual love
* Philia-a bond shown through friends and family
* Storge-affection for things and animals
* Agape- love given freely and unreservedly; strong emotion that usually includes commitment

How important is the family?

* It is a duty or dharma to look after the family
* In the 10 commandments it states how important it is to look after your parents
* Friends have a more important role in your life
* In some religions for example Judaism, it is considered to be a blessing to have a large family
* You choose your friends-not your family

**Whose decision is it concerning the use of contraception?**

* All faiths consider both partners must agree
* Depends upon the type of contraception. Some traditions disapprove of methods like the condom
* Many believe the body belongs to god
* Does it go against sacred/religious teachings?

**What is the role and purpose of sex?**

* Many sacred texts state the importance of having children
* A natural instinct of life is to have children
* A sign of deep personal commitment between a man and a woman
* To provide joy and a sense of fulfilment
* A way of giving oneself totally to another

‘**If I am in love it is up to me whether I choose to have sex’**

**On the one hand:**

* It is my body to do what I like with
* There is a difference between love and lust
* Believers will refer to teachings in their holy scriptures which they will often interpret differently

**On the other hand:**

* Many believe sex is a gift from God
* Commitments are made through sex and with commitments come responsibilities
* For some believers sex is part of the marriage commitment and a sacrament
* Fear of unwanted pregnancies
* Casual sex can devalue people
* Believers will refer to teachings in their holy scriptures which they will often interpret differently

**Is marriage out of date?**

* More people are cohabiting to show their commitment to each other
* Religious traditions expect couples to enter into marriage
* The vows taken during marriage can never be out of date
* Different forms of commitment other than marriage are socially accepted eg cohabitation

**Is it necessary to marry in a place of worship?**

**Should same sex marriages be allowed in a place of worship?**

* Same sex relationships are against the teachings of some religious traditions
* Many sacred texts expect you to treat other people as you would want to be treated
* If they both love each other and agree to the vows why not?
* The most important part of getting married is having children

**Why do some marriages succeed and others fail?**

* Help from faith communities when there are difficulties in a marriage, such as prayer
* Money worries
* Not taking commitment and responsibilities seriously
* Compromise over problems
* Unfaithfulness
* Fall out of love with partner

**Should people be allowed to remarry?**

* If you have taken a vow to be together for life then remarrying is breaking that vow
* Everyone should be allowed a second chance
* People should be allowed to remarry, but not in a sacred building
* Marriage is a sacrament that cannot be dissolved in some religions

**Should remarriage be in a religious building?**

* People shouldn’t be allowed to remarry in a place of worship because they have broken sacred vows
* By being remarried in a religious building it may strengthen faith
* If the minister agrees and the couple want it then why not
* A couple could be blessed in a religious building but not actually married

**‘everyone should be allowed to marry in a place of worship’**

**On the one hand:**

* It gives a sense of occasion
* Up to the couple to choose
* Can make the ceremony more meaningful
* Can encourage the couple to become more active members of the faith

**On the other hand:**

* Promises are said that the couple must believe in
* It is up to the person in charge of the place of worship
* Some people wanting to remarry have already been divorced so they may not be allowed
* Religious weddings are intended for a man and a woman and so same sex weddings shouldn’t be allowed
* Many places of worship are considered as God’s house

**Christian teaching on sex, celibacy and contraception:**

* Sex is a gift from God
* Contraceptives are acceptable to many Christians so long as both partners agree
* Adultery is forbidden in the ten commandments
* Roman Catholic priests are expected to be celibate
* Artificial methods of contraception aren’t allowed
* Sex should always alow the possibility of new life
* Natural family planning is allowed

**Hindu Teaching o sex celibacy and contraception**

* Chastity is a dharma 9duty) of the

‘Everyone should be allowed to marry in a place of worship’ Do you agree? Give reasons or evidence for your answer showing you have thought about more than one point of view.

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