

Issues of Relationships Knowledge Organizer

1. Key People

St. Paul	Many argue whether Jesus or Paul is the founder of Christianity. Some of what Paul wrote to other Christians is controversial, including his views on women and sexuality.
St. Thomas Aquinas	Thomas promoted the ancient theory of Natural Law: humans are naturally good, should live a certain way to please God, and can work out what that is.
The Dalai Lama	The Dalai Lama has said that the ways religious people should behave differently to non-religious people in relationships.
The Church of England (C of E)	This church says people should get married, but even if they don't, they can still look to the church for support. There are several different approaches to same-sex relationships in this church.
The Roman Catholic (RC) Church	This church says having children should only happen within marriage. There are several different approaches to same-sex relationships in this church.

2. You need to know...

- Christian and Buddhist attitudes towards how families should work are **similar**. **Supporting** the very young and old, **passing on** key religious ideas and **educating** children are some of the duties and roles common to many people in both religions.
- In Christianity, it's taught that people **should** get married, and that families should be formed **within** marriage
- Adultery is a **sin** in Christianity; it goes against the Seventh Commandment
- Divorce is **discouraged** by the C of E but accepted in some cases. The RC Church teaches that divorce is **always** a sin, but an **annulment** is sometimes possible.
- The RC Church teaches that using contraception is **wrong**, but other churches see it as good **family planning** and, as in Buddhism, a way of preventing potential **suffering**.
- RC priests are **celibate** (don't have sex) and stay single, but priests in most other churches marry and have sex in their relationships
- Many Christians say homosexuality goes **against** God's plan for human reproduction. Others say that to be gay is **not sinful** as all humans are made in God's **image**.
- The RC Church doesn't have **female** priests, but some other churches do.
- Buddhism does **not** teach that people should get married. If Buddhists do get married, there are religious teachings to **guide** their behaviour within marriage, as there are for Christians.
- Adultery is seen as a **cause** of suffering, and goes against the **Third Precept** of Buddhism.
- Some schools of Buddhism view homosexual sex as going against the Third Precept. Others disagree, saying **acts** causing suffering are wrong; someone's orientation is **irrelevant**.
- In some Buddhist countries, the **tradition** is to have monks, not nuns.
- Monks and nuns in the Theravada tradition are **often** single and celibate, but in some Mahayana traditions they **marry**
- The Buddha allowed women to become nuns on condition that they follow extra **rules** to ensure their **safety**; the Eight Garudhammas

3. Key vocabulary

adultery	Consensual sex between a married person and a person who's not their spouse.
divorce	To legally end a marriage.
cohabitation	To live together and have 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 after sex.
gender equality	People of all genders enjoying the same rights and opportunities in all aspects of their lives.
responsibilities	Actions/duties you're expected to carry out.
roles	A position, status or function of a person in society, as well as the characteristics and behaviour expected of them.

4. Concepts

relationships



equality



Identity and Community

5. Contexts

Life in the UK has changed very much in the last 100 years. Changes in the law have given people more choices when deciding how to live and what to do with their lives.

The concept of karma leads to different responses when Buddhists think about issues. On one hand, performing good deeds is encouraged as it reduces suffering. On the other hand, "what goes around comes around", so should people be "blamed" for misfortunes?

While most people in the UK belong to a religion, there is a greater variety of religious beliefs than in the past. Also, secular (non-religious) worldviews are increasing in popularity.

"Love your neighbour as you love yourself." – Jesus said that people do what is best for others and think about how their actions affect others, whoever they are. This raises big questions when we think about many of the issues in this topic.