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| **Divorce, annulment and remarriage** |
| 24 Divorce Laws Clip Art High Res Illustrations - Getty ImagesThe Catholic Church teaches that **marriage is a lifelong, unbreakable commitment**, so it does not support **divorce** or **remarriage**, as it believes the marriage bond still exists. However, in some cases, the Church may grant an **annulment,** which means the marriage was never truly valid in the eyes of the Church. An annulment allows someone to marry again in the Church. This teaching is based on Jesus’ words: **“*What God has joined together, let no one separate***” (Mark 10:9). |

**Relationships in the 21st Century**

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| Relationships in the 21st Century Lesson Checklist | | |
| Learning Intention | | Absent? |
| What are the purposes and importance of Marriage? | |  |
| What do Catholics teach about the importance of Sexual Relationships? | |  |
| What are the Catholic teachings on the purpose and importance of families? | |  |
| What support do families receive from the Local Parish? | |  |
| What are the different Christian beliefs on Contraception? | |  |
| What are the different Christian attitudes to divorce and remarriage? | |  |
| What are the Catholic teachings on the equality of men and women in the family? | |  |
| What are the Catholic teachings about gender prejudice and discrimination? | |  |
| Relationships in the 21st Century Keywords | | |
| Sacrament | An outward sign of inward grace. | |
| Homosexuality | Sexual attraction to the same sex. | |
| Co-habitation | Living together without being married. | |
| Pre-Marital Sex | Sex before marriage. | |
| Nuclear Family | Mother, Father and children living together. | |
| Blended Family | A family with step parents or step brothers and sisters. | |
| Divorce | The legal ending of a Marriage. | |
| Annulment | When the Marriage is classed as not a true marriage in the eyes of the Church. | |
| Contraception | Intentionally preventing pregnancy from occurring. | |
| Discrimination | Oppression against someone due to a characteristic, e.g. gender. | |

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| **Marriage** |
| The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman, designed by God to be permanent, faithful, and open to new life. It is a sacrament, through which God's love is made present in the couple’s commitment. Pope Francis described marriage as “*a beautiful thing,”* reminding us that it is not just a social institution but a gift from God that brings joy, unity, and strength to families and society. |
| **Sexual Relationships** |
| The Catholic Church teaches that sex should have two purposes, unitive (to show love for your partner) and procreative (to create new life). Sex therefore should only take place within a marriage. Therefore, pre-marital sex, homosexual sex and adultery are all wrong. The Catholic Churches teaches that homosexuality itself it not a sin, however homosexuals should remain celibate as they cannot ‘*be fruitful and multiply’* like God told Adam and Eve to do. |

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| **Nature and Purpose of the Family** |
| For Catholics, the family is the foundation of society and the place where faith, love, and values are first taught. It is called the “domestic Church” because it helps children grow in faith and learn to live as followers of God. There are different types of families in the 21st Century, including Nuclear families, extended families, blended families, same-sex families and single-parent families. |
| **Parish supporting families** |
| 13,800+ Church Clipart Stock Illustrations, Royalty-Free ...Catholic parishes help families by offering **support through prayer, community, and education**. They provide **baptisms, marriages, marriage counselling,** and family events, as well as **children’s liturgy, youth groups, and parenting courses.** Parishes also support families in times of need through **pastoral care and charity work.** They do this because they feel they have a duty of care for the families in their parish. |
| **Contraception** |
| Catholic teaching generally opposes artificial contraception, as it goes against the natural purpose of sex, which is both unitive (bringing a couple together) and procreative (open to new life). The Church teaches that couples should be open to children, following God’s command to *“be fruitful and multiply*” (Genesis 1:28).Instead, the Church supports Natural Family Planning (NFP), which respects the natural rhythms of the body and the sacredness of life. |

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| **Key Sources** |
| * *Bubble Speech Light Bulb Stock Vector (Royalty Free) 101954740 |  Shutterstock*‘*Till death do us part’*. * ‘Be fruitful and multiply’ – Bible * *‘What God has joined together, let no one separate’. –* Bible * *Contraception is to approve a grave violation of God’s law’* Pope Paul VI |

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| **Making links to previous learning** | |
| God created human’s imago dei – in his image so everyone should be treated equally and not be discriminated against. | Color Chain Links Clip Art at Clker.com - vector clip art online - Clip Art  LibraryThe Parish will help families because Jesus taught us to ‘*love thy neighbour’*. |
| Marriage is a Sacramanet, which the Catechism teaches are ‘outward signs of inward grace’. | The Parish is a place for families to learn about God and having a family is a way of evangelising. |

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| **Church teachings on women and discrimination** |
| 1,014,000+ Male Female Stock Illustrations, Royalty-Free ...Women and men are equal in the eyes of the Church as St Paul taught ‘*there is neither male nor female, we are all one in Christ*’. However, Women are not allowed to be priests as Jesus was a man and the priest represents a man during Mass and Jesus only had male disciples. Other Christians disagree with this and do allow women to become Priests. |

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| **Outside the Classroom** |
| [Christianity GCSE RS revision – Relationships and Families – AQA - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrn6ywx) |

**Paper 3 – Relationships in the 21st Century**

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| **Lesson** | **Learning Intention** | **Success Criteria** | **Homework** |
| 1 | What are the purposes and importance of Marriage? | * Explain why Marriage is important for Catholics. * Evidence with the view of Pope Francis on Marriage. * Explain the non-religious attitude to Marriage. * Explain Catholics response to these arguments. | Homework Booklet  (Google Classroom) |
| 2 | What do Catholics teach about the importance of Sexual Relationships? | * Explain the purposes of sex for Catholics. * Explain Catholic teachings on sex outside of Marriage. * Explain Catholic beliefs on same-sex relationships. * Explain the non-religious views of sexual relationships. |  |
| 3 | What are the Catholic teachings on the purpose and importance of families? | * Explain the importance of family for Catholics. * Define different types of families. * Explain Catholic responses to these different types of families. | Homework Booklet  (Google Classroom |
| 4 | What support do families receive from the Local Parish? | * Explain how the Local Parish supports families. * Explain why the Local Parish supports families. * Explain why support important for Catholic families |  |
| 5 | What are the different Christian beliefs on Contraception? | * State different forms of artificial methods of contraception. * Explain the Catholic teaching on contraception. * Explain the divergent views of other Christians and non-religious attitudes to contraception. | Homework Booklet  (Google Classroom |
| 6 | What are the different Christian attitudes to divorce and remarriage? | * Explain what Catholics teach about divorce. * Explain divergent views on divorce. * Explain Catholic teaching on remarriage. * Explain divergent views on remarriage. * Explain the Catholic belief in an annulment. |  |
| 7 | What are the Catholic teachings on the equality of men and women in the family? | * Explain what ‘dignity of work within the home’ means. * Explain divergent Christian teachings and attitudes about the equality and roles of men and women in the family. | Revision for Assessment |
| 8 | What are the Catholic teachings about gender prejudice and discrimination? | * Explain what ‘theology of the body’ means. * Evident examples of Catholic opposition to gender prejudice. * Explain the divergent Christian attitudes to the role of women in the Church. |  |

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| **Ethics – Relationships in the 21st Century Assessment** | |
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| Grade |  |
| Target Band |  |
| Self-Reflection Target |  |