5.1 Human Sexuality and Relationships Before Marriage: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two contrasting beliefs about sex before marriage, religious and/or non-religious. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority or another source in your answer.

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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2 This question is about religious and non-religious perspectives on human sexuality and relationships before marriage. It is the AQA-style 24-mark, five-part question.

(a) State one reason why sex before marriage is a sensitive topic for some religious believers. **(1)**

(b) Give two reasons why attitudes to sex before marriage have changed in Britain in recent decades. **(2)**

(c) Explain two religious teachings about chastity and faithfulness. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer. **(4)**

(d) Explain two contrasting beliefs about sex before marriage, religious and/or non-religious. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority or another source in your answer. **(5)**

(e) Evaluate this statement: 'Religious believers should never have sex before marriage.' In your answer you should: refer to religious teaching, refer to different points of view, reach a justified conclusion. **(12)**

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(Total for Question 2 is 24 marks)

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Mark scheme · 5.1 Human Sexuality and Relationships Before Marriage: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

belief 1: many religious believers hold that sex should wait until marriage, believing marriage is the relationship in which a sexual relationship is blessed by God, oe **B1**

development: Genesis 2:24 describes a husband and wife becoming 'one flesh' in marriage, which many Christians use to support this teaching, oe **B1**

belief 2: many other people, religious and non-religious, believe that what matters morally is a loving, consenting relationship, not whether the couple is married, oe **B1**

development: Humanists, for example, generally hold that decisions about sexual relationships are a matter of personal choice and mutual consent, not something requiring religious sanction, oe **B1**

reference to a source of wisdom and authority or another appropriate source made accurately, oe **B1**

Answer: Contrast: traditional teaching that sex belongs within marriage (Genesis 2:24) vs the view, held by many religious and non-religious people, that a loving, consenting relationship matters more than marital status (a Humanist-style argument).

Question 2

(a) because religious teaching is often understood as reserving sex for marriage, so sex before marriage may be seen as going against that teaching, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: E.g. because many religious traditions teach that sex should be kept for marriage.

(b) increased availability and acceptance of contraception has separated sex from an automatic risk of pregnancy, oe **B1**

(b) rising numbers of people cohabiting before marriage, or instead of marrying, reflect changing social attitudes to relationships, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: E.g. wider availability/acceptance of contraception; more people cohabiting before or instead of marriage.

(c) point 1: many Christians value chastity, meaning refraining from sex outside marriage, as a way of honouring God's plan for relationships, oe **B1**

(c) development: this is linked to 1 Corinthians 7:2, which presents marriage as the proper context for a sexual relationship, oe **B1**

(c) point 2: many Muslims place great importance on faithfulness within marriage as central to a strong family and community, oe **B1**

(c) development: Islamic teaching places great importance on marriage as the foundation of a stable, faithful family life, and discourages relationships outside it, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: E.g. Christian chastity linked to 1 Corinthians 7:2; Islamic emphasis on faithfulness within marriage as the basis of family life.

(d) belief 1: many religious believers teach that sex should be kept for marriage, because they believe marriage is the relationship in which a sexual relationship is blessed by God, oe **B1**

(d) development: Genesis 2:24 describes husband and wife becoming 'one flesh', used by many Christians to support this teaching, oe **B1**

(d) belief 2: many non-religious people, and some religious believers, hold that what matters morally is that a sexual relationship is consensual, loving and responsible, not whether the couple is married, oe **B1**

(d) development: this reflects a Humanist-style emphasis on personal autonomy and mutual consent as the basis for decisions about relationships, oe **B1**

(d) reference to a source of wisdom and authority or another appropriate source made accurately, oe **B1**

(d) Answer: Contrast: sex reserved for marriage (Genesis 2:24) vs consent- and commitment-based ethics regardless of marital status (a Humanist-style view).

(e) **L4** A well-argued, balanced answer that considers more than one point of view in a developed way, using accurate and detailed references to religious teaching and/or scripture to support each point, and reaches a clear, justified conclusion. **10-12**

(e) **L3** A clear and reasoned answer that considers more than one point of view, supported by relevant references to religious teaching and/or scripture, though the justification of the conclusion may be less developed. **7-9**

(e) **L2** A reasoned answer that considers at least one point of view, with some relevant supporting evidence, but with limited or no consideration of an alternative view. **4-6**

(e) **L1** One or more relevant points are made, but with little or no supporting evidence and no reasoned conclusion. **1-3**

(e) **L0** No relevant content. **0**

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(e) Indicative content:

- Agree: many Christians and Muslims teach that sex should only take place within marriage, based on scripture and teaching that present marriage as the proper context for a sexual relationship (e.g. 1 Corinthians 7:2, Genesis 2:24).
- Agree: some religious believers argue that keeping sex for marriage protects the trust and commitment that marriage is meant to represent.
- Agree: for believers who hold this teaching as central to their faith, 'never' reflects a consistent application of scripture rather than a rule to be relaxed in some situations.
- Agree: some religious communities see chastity before marriage as an expression of self-discipline and respect for a future spouse.
- Disagree: not all religious believers interpret their tradition's teaching the same way; some emphasise love, conscience and personal responsibility over a strict rule, and would not judge a fellow believer who has sex before marriage.
- Disagree: many people, religious and non-religious, believe that what matters morally is that a relationship is consenting, loving and responsible, not whether the couple happens to be married.
- Disagree: many long-term committed couples in Britain today live together, and sometimes have children, before marrying, without this being seen by most people as morally wrong.
- Disagree: 'never' may be seen as too absolute a position, since even within religious traditions there is a range of views about how teaching on sex and marriage should be applied to real relationships today.
- A balanced answer might conclude that whether 'never' is the right religious position depends on how a tradition's teaching on marriage is interpreted, and how much weight is given to personal conscience alongside scripture.

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