



RS.TA1 Human Sexuality and Relationships Before Marriage

AQA 8062 • Calculators not allowed • about 55 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

- 1** This question checks key vocabulary used when discussing sexual relationships and relationships before marriage.
- (a) State what is meant by chastity. (1)
- (b) State what is meant by faithfulness, in the context of a relationship. (1)
- (c) State what is meant by cohabitation. (1)
- (d) State what is meant by promiscuity. (1)
- (e) State what is meant by sexuality, in a religious studies context. (1)

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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- 2** Give three facts about the law relating to sexual relationships in England.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

- 3** Explain two religious teachings that might lead a believer to think sexual relationships should only take place within marriage. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

- 4** 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 4 is 5 marks)

5 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 5 is 24 marks)

- 6** Explain two non-religious arguments about sexual relationships before marriage. Refer to Humanist or other non-religious beliefs in your answer.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

- 7** Give three reasons why attitudes to sex before marriage have become more accepting in British society in recent decades.

(Total for Question 7 is 3 marks)

Mark scheme · RS.TA1 Human Sexuality and Relationships Before Marriage

Question 1

- (a) **B1** refraining from sexual activity, especially before or outside marriage, oe
- (a) **Answer: Refraining from sexual activity, especially outside marriage.**
- (b) **B1** remaining committed and sexually exclusive to one partner, oe
- (b) **Answer: Remaining committed and sexually exclusive to one partner.**
- (c) **B1** living together as a couple without being married, oe
- (c) **Answer: Living together as a couple without being married.**
- (d) **B1** having many different casual sexual partners, oe
- (d) **Answer: Having many different casual sexual partners.**
- (e) **B1** a person's identity in relation to who they are romantically or sexually attracted to, oe
- (e) **Answer: A person's identity in relation to who they are romantically or sexually attracted to.**

Question 2

- **B1** the legal age of consent is 16, oe
- **B1** it is illegal to have sex with someone who does not or cannot consent, oe
- **B1** sexual relationships are protected by law whether or not a couple is married, oe
- **Answer: Any three: the age of consent is 16; sex without consent is illegal; sexual relationships are protected by law whether or not the couple is married.**

Question 3

- **B1** point 1: many Christians believe sex is intended by God to take place only within marriage, oe
- **B1** development: 1 Corinthians 7:2 teaches that each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband, which many Christians read as marriage being the proper context for a sexual relationship, oe
- **B1** point 2: many Muslims believe that sexual relationships should only take place within marriage, oe
- **B1** development: this reflects Islamic teaching against sexual immorality and the importance placed on marriage as the foundation for family life, oe
- **Answer: E.g. Christian teaching from 1 Corinthians 7:2 that marriage is the proper context for a sexual relationship; Islamic teaching against sexual immorality and the importance of marriage as the basis for family life.**

Question 4

- **B1** 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
- **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 5

- (a) **B1** because religious teaching is often understood as reserving sex for marriage, so sex before marriage may be seen as going against that teaching, oe
- (a) **Answer: E.g. because many religious traditions teach that sex should be kept for marriage.**
- (b) **B1** increased availability and acceptance of contraception has separated sex from an automatic risk of pregnancy, oe
- (b) **B1** rising numbers of people cohabiting before marriage, or instead of marrying, reflect changing social attitudes to relationships, oe
- (b) **Answer: E.g. wider availability/acceptance of contraception; more people cohabiting before or instead of marriage.**
- (c) **B1** point 1: many Christians value chastity, meaning refraining from sex outside marriage, as a way of honouring God's plan for relationships, oe
- (c) **B1** development: this is linked to 1 Corinthians 7:2, which presents marriage as the proper context for a sexual relationship, oe
- (c) **B1** point 2: many Muslims place great importance on faithfulness within marriage as central to a strong family and community, oe
- (c) **B1** development: Islamic teaching places great importance on marriage as the foundation of a stable, faithful family life, and discourages relationships outside it, oe
- (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) **B1** 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
- (d) **B1** development: Genesis 2:24 describes husband and wife becoming 'one flesh', used by many Christians to support this teaching, oe
- (d) **B1** 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
- (d) **B1** development: this reflects a Humanist-style emphasis on personal autonomy and mutual consent as the basis for decisions about relationships, oe
- (d) **B1** reference to a source of wisdom and authority or another appropriate source made accurately, oe
- (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** (10-12): 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.
- (e) **L3** (7-9): 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.
- (e) **L2** (4-6): 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.
- (e) **L1** (1-3): One or more relevant points are made, but with little or no supporting evidence and no reasoned conclusion.
- (e) **L0** (0): No relevant content.

- **(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.

Question 6

- **B1** point 1: bodily autonomy - non-religious people, including Humanists, generally believe that decisions about sexual relationships belong to the individuals involved, not to religious rules, oe
- **B1** development: for Humanists, what matters is that a relationship is consenting, honest and does not harm anyone, rather than whether the couple is married, oe
- **B1** point 2: some non-religious people argue the moral status of a sexual relationship should be judged by whether it is respectful and responsible, not by marital status, oe
- **B1** development: on this view, marriage is a personal and legal choice a couple may make for other reasons, not a moral precondition for a sexual relationship, oe
- **Answer: E.g. bodily autonomy/personal choice (a Humanist argument); relationships judged by consent and responsibility rather than marital status.**

Question 7

- **B1** wider availability of reliable contraception has reduced the risk of unplanned pregnancy, oe
- **B1** declining religious belief and practice in parts of British society has reduced the influence of traditional religious teaching on this issue, oe
- **B1** greater social acceptance of cohabitation and a wider range of relationship choices, oe
- **Answer: Any three: wider availability of contraception; declining religious belief/practice in parts of society; greater acceptance of cohabitation and relationship choice.**