5.2 Cohabitation and Adultery as Alternatives to Marital Fidelity: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain the importance of faithfulness within marriage for religious believers, referring to religious teaching and the role of marriage in family life.

(Total for Question 1 is 6 marks)

2 Cohabiting before marriage is not wrong. Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should give reasoned arguments to support this statement, give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view, refer to religious arguments, reach a justified conclusion.

(Total for Question 2 is 12 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

3 Explain two religious objections to cohabitation given by some Christian and Muslim believers.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

4 Explain two reasons why adultery is considered wrong in religious teaching, referring to the effects on marriage and family life.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 Explain two reasons why some Christians accept cohabitation in modern Britain as permissible, from a pastoral or practical point of view.

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 5.2 Cohabitation and Adultery as Alternatives to Marital Fidelity: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 3 A detailed, well-structured answer that explains several reasons why faithfulness is important for religious believers, supported by accurate reference to religious teaching and clear links to the role of marriage and family life. **5-6**

Level 2 An answer that explains some reasons why faithfulness is important, with some supporting detail and a basic link to religion and family life. **3-4**

Level 1 One or two simple relevant points are made about faithfulness, with little supporting detail or reference to teaching. **1-2**

Level 0 No relevant content. **0**

Indicative content:

- Faithfulness reflects keeping vows and promises made at marriage, which many religions view as sacred commitments.
- Religious teachings, such as Exodus 20:14 and passages condemning adultery, stress the moral duty to be faithful.
- Faithfulness promotes trust and emotional security between spouses, supporting a stable family environment for children.
- For many believers, faithfulness is part of living according to God's will and maintaining moral integrity.
- Unfaithfulness is seen as damaging to the witness of religious communities and can lead to practical harm, including breakdown of the family.
- Some religious traditions link faithfulness to the sanctity of marriage and to responsibility for the wellbeing of the wider community.

Question 2

Level 1 Basic, undeveloped statements or a one-sided answer. Limited reasoning and little reference to religious arguments. **1-3**

Level 2 Some development of arguments on both sides, with limited reference to religious teaching. Conclusions may be asserted rather than justified. **4-6**

Level 3 Clear and developed arguments on both sides, with appropriate reference to religious teachings and some evaluation. A conclusion is given and supported. **7-9**

Level 4 A balanced, well-argued evaluation that considers strong religious and secular reasons on both sides, shows clear understanding of different viewpoints, and reaches a justified, well-explained conclusion. **10-12**

Level 0 No relevant material. **0**

Indicative content:

- Arguments that cohabiting before marriage is not wrong: changing social norms make living together acceptable; cohabitation allows couples to test compatibility and share financial burdens; pastoral arguments emphasise compassion and support rather than condemnation.
- Religious arguments for permissibility: some Christians emphasise pastoral care and the importance of relationship quality over formal status; some Muslims and Christians may focus on avoiding harm and promoting commitment regardless of legal marriage, though traditional teaching differs.
- Arguments that cohabiting before marriage is wrong: many religious teachings hold that sexual relations belong within marriage, and living together may be seen as encouraging premarital sex and undermining the sanctity of marriage.
- Religious arguments against cohabitation: Hebrews 13:4 and traditional Christian teaching, and Islamic teachings on zina exemplified by Quran 17:32, both are used to argue that sexual relations should be reserved for marriage.
- Consideration of consequences: cohabitation may work for some couples without harming family life, but for others it may create instability or unclear legal protections for children, which religious voices may highlight.
- A balanced conclusion should weigh individual freedom, pastoral compassion and social context against religious teachings about marriage and sexual morality, and explain which reasons are more persuasive in context.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Question 3

point 1: some Christians object because sexual relations are taught to belong within marriage, reflecting scripture and tradition, oe **B1**

development 1: this is linked to teachings such as Hebrews 13:4 about marriage being honoured and the marriage bed kept pure, oe **B1**

point 2: some Muslims object because sexual relations outside marriage are forbidden (zina), making cohabitation sinful, oe **B1**

development 2: Islamic teachings stress chastity and that marriage provides lawful sexual relations, reflecting Quranic guidance such as Quran 17:32, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. Christians: sex belongs within marriage (Hebrews 13:4); Muslims: zina forbids sexual relations outside marriage (see Quran 17:32).

Question 4

point 1: adultery breaks the marriage vows and betrays the commitment between spouses, oe **B1**

development 1: this betrayal undermines trust, which is foundational for a stable marriage and family life, oe **B1**

point 2: adultery can harm children and wider family relationships, causing emotional distress and instability, oe **B1**

development 2: many religions emphasise protecting the family unit and preventing harm, so adultery is condemned because it threatens that protection, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. adultery betrays marriage vows and destroys trust; it harms children and family stability and so is condemned to protect the family.

Question 5

point 1: pastoral concern, where some churches prioritise care and support for couples over immediate judgement, oe **B1**

development 1: this approach focuses on the wellbeing of partners and children and may encourage commitment rather than condemnation, oe **B1**

point 2: pragmatic acceptance because attitudes and legal protections have changed, so some Christians focus on relationship stability rather than formal marriage, oe **B1**

development 2: some clergy and congregations work with cohabiting couples to promote long-term commitment and responsibility, rather than excluding them, oe **B1**

Answer: E.g. pastoral care over judgement to protect wellbeing and encourage commitment; pragmatic focus on stability and responsibility in changed social contexts.

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk