5.4 Marriage and Same-Sex Marriage: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about same-sex marriage.

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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2 This question is about religious and non-religious perspectives on marriage and same-sex marriage. It is the AQA-style 24-mark, five-part question.

(a) State one belief that many religious believers hold about the purpose of marriage. **(1)**

(b) Give two reasons marriage is important to religious believers. **(2)**

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

(d) Explain two contrasting beliefs about same-sex 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: 'Same-sex couples should be able to marry in a place of worship.' 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 · 5.4 Marriage and Same-Sex Marriage: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

belief 1: some Christian denominations and individual congregations now conduct or bless same-sex marriages, believing marriage should be open to same-sex couples on the same terms as opposite-sex couples, oe **B1**

development: this reflects a belief that all people are made in God's image and equally deserving of a loving, committed relationship recognised by their faith community, drawing on Genesis 1:27, oe **B1**

belief 2: other Christian denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, along with mainstream Islamic teaching, do not recognise same-sex marriage as a valid form of religious marriage, oe **B1**

development: this is based on the traditional teaching that marriage, as described in Genesis 2:24, is between a man and a woman, oe **B1**

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

Answer: Contrast: some Christian denominations conducting/blessing same-sex marriage (Genesis 1:27, equal worth) vs other denominations and mainstream Islamic teaching maintaining marriage as between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24).

Question 2

(a) e.g. marriage unites a couple for life / provides a stable environment for raising children / is a relationship blessed by God, oe **B1**

(a) Answer: E.g. marriage unites a couple for life.

(b) it provides a lifelong, committed relationship in which children can be raised, oe **B1**

(b) it is often understood as a relationship blessed and witnessed by God, or by the community of faith, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: E.g. provides a stable, committed relationship for raising children; understood as blessed by God/witnessed by the faith community.

(c) point 1: many Christians believe marriage exists to unite a couple as 'one flesh' in a lifelong, committed relationship, oe **B1**

(c) development: Genesis 2:24 describes a man leaving his parents to be united to his wife, so that 'they become one flesh', oe **B1**

(c) point 2: many Muslims believe marriage is important because it provides comfort, stability and a foundation for family life, oe **B1**

(c) development: Islamic teaching describes spouses as a source of tranquility for each other, reflecting marriage's role in providing emotional support, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: E.g. Christian teaching that marriage makes a couple 'one flesh' (Genesis 2:24); Islamic teaching on spouses as a source of tranquility.

(d) belief 1: many non-religious people, and some religious believers, support same-sex marriage on the basis of equality, believing all couples deserve the same legal and social recognition, oe **B1**

(d) development: this is reflected in UK law since the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, which gives same-sex couples the same legal status as opposite-sex married couples, oe **B1**

(d) belief 2: other religious believers do not recognise same-sex marriage as compatible with their tradition's religious teaching on marriage, oe **B1**

(d) development: this is based on the traditional teaching that marriage, as described in Genesis 2:24, is a union between a man and a woman, oe **B1**

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

(d) Answer: Contrast: equality-based support for same-sex marriage (Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013) vs religious teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24).

(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: some Christian denominations and congregations already conduct or bless same-sex marriages, believing that all couples, made equally in God's image (Genesis 1:27), deserve the same religious recognition of their relationship.
- Agree: some argue that a place of worship should be able to celebrate a couple's lifelong, loving commitment regardless of the couple's sex, since love and commitment are the values marriage is meant to express.
- Agree: UK law since the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 already allows religious organisations to choose to conduct same-sex marriages if their own beliefs and rules permit it, so some see extending this further as a natural next step.
- Agree: excluding same-sex couples from marrying in a place of worship can be seen by some believers as inconsistent with wider religious teaching on love, inclusion and equal human dignity.
- Disagree: other denominations and mainstream Islamic teaching hold that marriage, as described in scripture such as Genesis 2:24, is a union between a man and a woman, and that this definition cannot be changed by human decision.
- Disagree: UK law also protects religious organisations that do not wish to conduct same-sex marriages, on the basis of freedom of religious belief and practice, so some argue this protection should remain firmly in place.
- Disagree: some believers separate their support for equal legal rights for same-sex couples (for example, through civil marriage or civil partnership) from what they believe their own faith's teaching permits within a place of worship.
- Disagree: within some traditions, changing the religious definition of marriage is seen as a matter for the whole worldwide faith community to decide together, not for individual congregations acting alone.
- A balanced answer might conclude that the right approach depends on how far a tradition's teaching on marriage can be developed while remaining faithful to its scripture, and on balancing religious freedom with equality.

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