



RS.TA3 Marriage and Same-Sex Marriage

AQA 8062 • Calculators not allowed • about 55 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

1 This question checks key vocabulary used when discussing marriage.

(a) State what is meant by marriage. (1)

(b) State what is meant by a civil partnership. (1)

(c) State what is meant by same-sex marriage. (1)

(d) State what is meant by cohabitation. (1)

(e) State what is meant by adultery. (1)

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

2 Give three facts about the law on marriage in England and Wales.

(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)

- 3** Explain two religious teachings about the purpose of marriage. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority in your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

- 4** Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about same-sex marriage.

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

5 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)

(Total for Question 5 is 24 marks)

- 6** Explain two non-religious reasons why some people support the right of same-sex couples to marry.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

- 7** Give three reasons why marriage remains important to many people in Britain today.

(Total for Question 7 is 3 marks)

Mark scheme · RS.TA3 Marriage and Same-Sex Marriage

Question 1

- (a) **B1** the legal and/or religious union of two people as spouses, oe
- (a) **Answer: The legal and/or religious union of two people as spouses.**
- (b) **B1** a legally recognised partnership, giving similar legal rights to marriage, that can be formed without a religious ceremony, oe
- (b) **Answer: A legally recognised partnership, giving similar legal rights to marriage, that does not need a religious ceremony.**
- (c) **B1** a legal marriage between two people of the same sex, oe
- (c) **Answer: A legal marriage between two people of the same sex.**
- (d) **B1** living together as a couple without being married, oe
- (d) **Answer: Living together as a couple without being married.**
- (e) **B1** a married person having a voluntary sexual relationship with someone other than their spouse, oe
- (e) **Answer: A married person having a voluntary sexual relationship with someone other than their spouse.**

Question 2

- **B1** the minimum legal age to marry is 18, oe
- **B1** same-sex marriage has been legal since the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, oe
- **B1** a marriage must be registered, with witnesses present, to be legally valid, oe
- **Answer: Any three: minimum age to marry is 18; same-sex marriage legal since the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013; a marriage must be registered with witnesses to be legally valid.**

Question 3

- **B1** point 1: many Christians believe marriage is intended to unite a couple in a lifelong, exclusive relationship, oe
- **B1** development: Genesis 2:24 describes a man leaving his parents and being united to his wife, so that 'they become one flesh', oe
- **B1** point 2: many Muslims believe marriage provides companionship and stability for a couple, oe
- **B1** development: Islamic teaching describes spouses as a source of comfort and tranquility for one another, and marriage as the proper foundation for family life, oe
- **Answer: E.g. Christian teaching that marriage unites a couple as 'one flesh' (Genesis 2:24); Islamic teaching on marriage as a source of comfort and stability.**

Question 4

- **B1** 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
- **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 5

- (a) **B1** e.g. marriage unites a couple for life / provides a stable environment for raising children / is a relationship blessed by God, oe
- (a) **Answer: E.g. marriage unites a couple for life.**
- (b) **B1** it provides a lifelong, committed relationship in which children can be raised, oe
- (b) **B1** it is often understood as a relationship blessed and witnessed by God, or by the community of faith, oe
- (b) **Answer: E.g. provides a stable, committed relationship for raising children; understood as blessed by God/witnessed by the faith community.**
- (c) **B1** point 1: many Christians believe marriage exists to unite a couple as 'one flesh' in a lifelong, committed relationship, oe
- (c) **B1** development: Genesis 2:24 describes a man leaving his parents to be united to his wife, so that 'they become one flesh', oe
- (c) **B1** point 2: many Muslims believe marriage is important because it provides comfort, stability and a foundation for family life, oe
- (c) **B1** development: Islamic teaching describes spouses as a source of tranquility for each other, reflecting marriage's role in providing emotional support, oe
- (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) **B1** 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
- (d) **B1** 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
- (d) **B1** belief 2: other religious believers do not recognise same-sex marriage as compatible with their tradition's religious teaching on marriage, oe
- (d) **B1** 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
- (d) **B1** reference to a source of wisdom and authority or another appropriate source made accurately, oe
- (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** (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: 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.

Question 6

- **B1** point 1: equality - many non-religious people, including Humanists, believe all couples should have equal legal rights and recognition, regardless of the sex of the partners, oe
- **B1** development: this reflects the wider principle, protected in UK law by the Equality Act 2010, that people should not be treated unfairly because of their sexual orientation, oe
- **B1** point 2: autonomy - many non-religious people believe individuals should be free to choose who they marry, without this being restricted by religious tradition, oe
- **B1** development: on this view, marriage is fundamentally a legal and personal commitment, so its availability should not depend on the sex of the couple, oe
- **Answer: E.g. equality (protected under the Equality Act 2010); personal autonomy and choice.**

Question 7

- **B1** it provides companionship and a lifelong committed relationship, oe
- **B1** it gives couples legal and financial protections (e.g. around property, inheritance and next-of-kin rights), oe
- **B1** it is a public way of making and celebrating a serious commitment in front of family, friends and, for many, their faith community, oe
- **Answer: Any three: companionship and lifelong commitment; legal/financial protections; a public commitment celebrated with family, friends and faith community.**