5.7 Gender Equality: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Explain two contrasting religious beliefs about the roles of men and women within marriage. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority 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 gender equality. It is the AQA-style 24-mark, five-part question.

(a) State one protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. **(1)**

(b) Give two examples of gender-based discrimination that the Equality Act 2010 aims to prevent. **(2)**

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

(d) Explain two contrasting beliefs about women's leadership within religious communities, religious and/or non-religious. Refer to a source of wisdom and authority or another source in your answer. **(5)**

(e) Evaluate this statement: 'Religion is the main cause of gender inequality in Britain today.' 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 · 5.7 Gender Equality: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies one valid religious belief about marital roles, e.g. some Christians favour distinct but complementary roles; accept beliefs from any religion studied, oe **B1**

explains the first belief, e.g. roles are understood as different responsibilities within a partnership; credit relevant development of the chosen belief, oe **B1**

identifies a contrasting religious belief, e.g. some Christians favour fully equal roles without a fixed gender division; the contrast may be within one religion or between religions, oe **B1**

explains the contrasting belief, e.g. equal spiritual status is applied to sharing marital responsibilities; credit relevant development of the chosen belief, oe **B1**

accurately refers to a relevant source of wisdom and authority supporting a chosen belief, e.g. Ephesians 5:25 or Galatians 3:28 for Christian examples; accept a relevant source from the religion(s) chosen, oe **B1**

Answer: Any two explained, contrasting religious beliefs with a relevant authority are accepted. For example, some Christians favour distinct complementary roles, with reference to Ephesians 5:25; others apply equality in Christ (Galatians 3:28) to fully shared marital roles. Valid contrasts from other studied religions, or between religions, are credited in the same way.

Question 2

(a) e.g. sex / age / disability / religion or belief / sexual orientation / gender reassignment, oe (any one recognised protected characteristic) **B1**

(a) Answer: E.g. sex.

(b) paying men and women differently for doing the same or equal work, oe **B1**

(b) treating someone unfairly in recruitment or promotion because of their sex, oe **B1**

(b) Answer: E.g. unequal pay for equal work; unfair treatment in recruitment/promotion because of sex.

(c) point 1: many Christians believe men and women are equally made in God's image, oe **B1**

(c) development: Genesis 1:27 teaches that God created humankind 'male and female' in his own image, which many Christians use to support the equal worth of men and women, oe **B1**

(c) point 2: many Muslims believe men and women are spiritually equal before Allah, though may have different responsibilities, oe **B1**

(c) development: Islamic teaching promises men and women equal reward for faith and good deeds, while some traditional teaching also describes distinct family roles for husbands and wives, oe **B1**

(c) Answer: E.g. Genesis 1:27 on men and women equally made in God's image; Islamic teaching on equal spiritual reward alongside some traditional teaching on distinct family roles.

(d) belief 1: some Christian denominations, including the Church of England, ordain women as priests and bishops, believing women and men are equally called to religious leadership, oe **B1**

(d) development: this reflects the belief, drawn from Galatians 3:28, that there is no spiritual distinction between men and women that should limit who can lead, oe **B1**

(d) belief 2: other traditions, including the Roman Catholic Church, do not ordain women to the priesthood, teaching that only men may hold this particular religious role, oe **B1**

(d) development: this position is based on that tradition's teaching about the nature of the priesthood, rather than on a belief that women are of lesser worth, oe **B1**

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

(d) Answer: Contrast: denominations that ordain women as priests/bishops (e.g. Church of England, drawing on Galatians 3:28) vs traditions such as the Roman Catholic Church that reserve priesthood for men.

(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 traditional religious teaching on distinct roles for men and women, for example around leadership or headship within marriage, can be seen as limiting opportunities for women within religious communities.
- Agree: some religious institutions still restrict certain roles, such as ordained priesthood, to men, which critics argue sends a wider message about the status of women.
- Agree: where religious teaching is used to justify unequal treatment outside religious settings too, such as in family or community life, this can be seen as extending inequality into wider society.
- Disagree: most major religions teach that men and women are equal in spiritual worth, for example Galatians 3:28 (Christianity) and Quran 33:35 (Islam), so religion itself does not necessarily cause inequality.
- Disagree: gender inequality (e.g. unequal pay, workplace discrimination, unequal division of caring responsibilities) exists in non-religious as well as religious contexts, suggesting religion is not the main cause.
- Disagree: many religious individuals and organisations actively campaign for gender equality, showing that religious belief can support rather than oppose equality.
- Disagree: UK law, through the Equality Act 2010, already protects against sex discrimination across society, showing that inequality has causes (social, economic, cultural) that go well beyond religion.
- A balanced answer might conclude that religious teaching has contributed to gender inequality in some historical and institutional contexts, but that gender inequality in Britain today has many causes, of which religion is only one, and even within religion views differ widely.

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