# 5.10 Religious Teachings on the Marriage Ceremony: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8062 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions.**

**1** Evaluate whether a religious wedding ceremony is more meaningful than a civil one, using religious arguments and considering other points of view before reaching a conclusion.

**(Total for Question 1 is 12 marks)**

**2** State two roles present at an Islamic nikah ceremony and briefly explain the role of one of them.

**(Total for Question 2 is 3 marks)**


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**3** Give three parts commonly found in a Christian wedding service, other than the vows. Name three distinct parts.

**(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)**

**4** Explain two features of a Christian or Muslim wedding ceremony. Choose either a Christian wedding service or the Islamic nikah and explain two distinct features, each with a short development.

**(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)**

**5** Explain two reasons why the mahr is included in many Islamic marriages. Give two separate points, each with a short development.

**(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)**

**6** Explain two ways the exchange of vows and the pronouncement in a Christian wedding service express the religious nature of marriage. Give two separate points with development.

**(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)**


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# Mark scheme · 5.10 Religious Teachings on the Marriage Ceremony: 30-minute Pack

## Question 1

**Level 1** Basic statements are made for or against the view with little development. Religious ideas may be mentioned but are not used to support a sustained argument. **1-3**

**Level 2** Some developed arguments are offered for and against the statement, including reference to religious teachings or practices, but analysis may be uneven or unbalanced. **4-6**

**Level 3** Clear and developed arguments are given on both sides, with appropriate reference to religious ideas and ceremony practices. A conclusion is reached but may lack full justification. **7-9**

**Level 4** Well-developed, balanced arguments on both sides, showing clear use of religious teachings and ritual practice to support points. A reasoned and justified conclusion is reached. **10-12**

**Level 0** No rewardable material. **0**

**Indicative content:**

- Arguments supporting the statement, for example a religious ceremony links marriage to God, uses vows before God, and includes scripture or ritual such as 1 Corinthians 13 that gives spiritual meaning.
- Religious ceremonies include community and sacramental elements, such as nuptial blessings or the signing of the nikah contract, which many believers find deeply meaningful.
- The role of religious authority, for example an officiant declaring the marriage in the name of God, may confer a transcendent or covenantal sense not present in a civil ceremony.
- Arguments against the statement, for example civil ceremonies can be personalised, inclusive and meaningful to those who do not belong to a faith, and they provide legal recognition without religious content.
- Some couples may find a civil ceremony more meaningful because it focuses on their personal promises and can be adapted to their values, whereas a religious service may feel less relevant to non-believers.
- Religious arguments both ways: some religious people believe the spiritual blessing makes the ceremony uniquely meaningful, while others believe the sincerity of the couple matters more than the venue or form.
- Conclusion should weigh the religious significance offered by ritual and scripture against the personal and legal significance of civil ceremonies, and reach a justified judgement using the arguments given.

## Question 2

one role correctly named, for example the wali, the imam or the two witnesses, oe **B1**

a second role correctly named, for example the bridegroom or the khatib who may give the khutbah, oe **B1**

a brief explanation of one named role, for example the wali supports and represents the bride's consent, oe **B1**

**Answer: Any two roles named, e.g. the wali and the imam; explanation example: the wali is the bride's guardian who supports and confirms her consent.**

## Question 3

one correct part named, for example a Bible reading, oe **B1**

a second correct part named, for example the exchange of rings, oe **B1**

a third correct part named, for example the pronouncement or a nuptial blessing, oe **B1**

**Answer: Any three: Bible reading; exchange of rings; pronouncement; nuptial blessing; signing of the register is acceptable if stated as part of the service in some denominations.**

## Question 4

point 1: a correct feature identified, for example vows in a Christian service or the signing of the nikah contract in Islam, oe **B1**

development 1: a linked explanation of the feature's purpose or meaning, for example vows show mutual promises before God, or the contract records agreed terms including mahr, oe **B1**

point 2: a second correct feature identified, for example exchange of rings or the wali acting as guardian, oe **B1**

development 2: a linked explanation of the second feature's purpose or meaning, for example rings symbolise unity and continuity, or the wali ensures the bride's consent is represented, oe **B1**

**Answer: E.g. Christian: vows (public promises before God) and exchange of rings (symbol of unity). Or Islamic: nikah contract signed (formal agreement including mahr) and the wali present (guardian to support the bride's consent).**

## Question 5

point 1: a correct reason identified, for example mahr is a gift given to the bride to provide financial security, oe **B1**

development 1: linked explanation showing how it provides security or shows respect and honour to the bride, oe **B1**

point 2: a second correct reason identified, for example mahr symbolises the seriousness of the marriage contract and the groom's commitment, oe **B1**

development 2: linked explanation of how it formalises responsibility and the contractual nature of nikah, oe **B1**

**Answer: E.g. mahr gives the bride financial security and shows honour; mahr also underlines the contractual seriousness of the nikah and the groom's responsibility.**


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## Question 6

point 1: a relevant way identified, for example vows show marriage as a solemn promise made before God, oe **B1**

development 1: explanation of how this links to religious concepts of covenant and duty, oe **B1**

point 2: a second relevant way identified, for example the pronouncement by the minister declares the couple as married in the sight of God and community, oe **B1**

development 2: explanation of how the pronouncement reinforces public and sacred recognition of the union, oe **B1**

**Answer: E.g. vows frame marriage as a covenant before God; the pronouncement publicly recognises the couple as married in the presence of God and the community.**


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