



RS.TA9 Religious Teachings on the Marriage Ceremony

AQA 8062 · Calculators not allowed · about 40 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Answer ALL questions. Show all your working.

- 1** Which one of the following is part of a typical Christian wedding service in many denominations: vows, mahr, or khutbah? Name the correct option in the context of Christian ceremony structure.

- ☐ A Vows
☐ B Mahr
☐ C Khutbah

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

- 2** Give two features of the Islamic nikah ceremony, naming items used or roles present in the nikah as practised by many Muslim communities.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

- 3** State one item commonly exchanged in a Christian wedding ceremony and name its symbolic meaning in the context of the service.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

- 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 ways a wedding ceremony can show the religious significance of marriage. In your answer refer to a sacred writing or a ritual practice and name that source of authority.

(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)

- 6 Give three symbolic actions or items used in a Christian wedding service and for each give a one word meaning; for example ring, Bible, or lighting a unity candle. State the item and a one word meaning for each.

(Total for Question 6 is 3 marks)

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

(Total for Question 7 is 3 marks)

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

(Total for Question 8 is 4 marks)

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

(Total for Question 9 is 3 marks)

- 10** 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 10 is 4 marks)

- 11** State two ways a walima celebration following a nikah can have religious significance, and briefly explain one of them.

(Total for Question 11 is 3 marks)

- 12** A religious wedding ceremony is more meaningful than a civil one. 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 and reach a justified conclusion.

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 12 is 12 marks)

Mark scheme · RS.TA9 Religious Teachings on the Marriage Ceremony

Question 1

- **B1** A, correctly identified as an element belonging to a Christian wedding service
- **Answer: A Vows**

Question 2

- **B1** one correct feature named, for example the nikah contract or the mahr, oe
- **B1** a second correct feature named, for example the wali (guardian) or the walima celebration, oe
- **Answer: Any two: the nikah contract; the mahr as a gift to the bride; the wali acting as guardian; a khutbah may be given; the walima feast after the ceremony.**

Question 3

- **B1** one item and its symbolic meaning, for example exchange of rings representing a promise of lifelong commitment, oe
- **Answer: Exchange of rings, representing a promise of lifelong commitment and unity.**

Question 4

- **B1** 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
- **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

- **B1** point 1: a relevant way identified, for example public vows show marriage is a covenant before God, oe
- **B1** development 1: explanation of how this shows religious significance, for example covenant language links to biblical ideas of solemn promise and duty, oe
- **B1** point 2: a second relevant way identified, for example inclusion of scripture such as 1 Corinthians 13 or a khutbah in the nikah, oe
- **B1** development 2: explanation of how the scripture or ritual highlights religious values, for example 1 Corinthians 13 stresses love as patient and kind which frames marriage morally, oe
- **B1** explicit reference to a named source of wisdom or authority, for example 1 Corinthians 13 or the practice of reciting a khutbah, oe
- **Answer: E.g. vows as a covenant before God, linking to biblical covenant language; readings such as 1 Corinthians 13 used in Christian weddings to show love as the moral foundation. Or in Islam, the khutbah and the signed nikah show marriage as a formal, religious contract; the mahr demonstrates the seriousness of the agreement.**

Question 6

- **B1** one correct item with an appropriate one word meaning, oe
- **B1** a second correct item with an appropriate one word meaning, oe
- **B1** a third correct item with an appropriate one word meaning, oe
- **Answer: Any three pairs, for example: ring - commitment; Bible - guidance; lighting a unity candle - unity.**

Question 7

- **B1** 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
- **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 8

- **B1** 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
- **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.**

Question 9

- **B1** 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
- **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 10

- **B1** 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
- **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.**

Question 11

- **B1** one correct way named, for example the walima expresses gratitude to God and celebrates the new family, oe
- **B1** a second correct way named, for example it provides a public announcement of the marriage and community support, oe
- **B1** a brief explanation of one named way, for example gratitude to God may be expressed in prayers or blessings at the feast, oe
- **Answer: Any two: walima as thanksgiving to God and as public announcement and celebration; example explanation: prayers or blessings at the feast express gratitude to God.**

Question 12

- **Level 1** (1-3): 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.
- **Level 2** (4-6): Some developed arguments are offered for and against the statement, including reference to religious teachings or practices, but analysis may be uneven or unbalanced.
- **Level 3** (7-9): 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.
- **Level 4** (10-12): 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.
- **Level 0** (0): No rewardable material.
- **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.