

**Revision Guide – Autumn Term**  
**OCR GCSE Philosophy & Ethics - B603 Ethics 1: Human Relationships & Medical Ethics**

**Topics:**

1. **Religion and Human Relationships** – includes Roles of Men and Women, Marriage and Civil Partnerships, Divorce, Sexual Relationships and Contraception. how traditional roles have changed, women in the church
2. **Medical Ethics** – includes Sanctity of Life, Abortion, Euthanasia and Suicide, Embryology / Fertility Treatment and Cloning and the Use of Animals in Medical Research.

**What is Ethics?**

Ethics is concerned with answering the question: *‘What is the right thing to do...?’* In this exam you will be asked to explain how Christians will react to certain situations and how they decide what is right and wrong. **Not all Christians agree**, so you should make sure that you can explain why they come to different answers.

**CATHOLIC Ethics**

- **Absolutist** – the rules apply in every situation. You will arrive at a definite ‘yes / no’ answer.
- **‘Natural Law’** – God as the author of nature has given everything a **purpose**. If something fulfils its God-given nature it is good; if it does not, then it is wrong.

*For example:*

- The ultimate purpose of sex is reproduction (otherwise we wouldn’t be here!)
- Artificial contraception tries to prevent reproduction – this goes against the purpose of sex and must, therefore, be wrong.

**PROTESTANT Ethics**

- **Relative** – every situation is different so you cannot write rules that apply to all of them. You can only apply general rules based on what is best in that particular situation.
- **‘Situation Ethics’** – the right thing to do in every situation is the most loving (**agape**) thing. It may an extremely difficult thing to do.

*For example:*

- Abortion is never encouraged.
- However, in some cases abortion may be the most loving option available to a mother. For example, in the case of a rape victim.

**Have a ‘P.E.E.’ in the Exam – ALWAYS Use Evidence to Support Your Answers**

The best answers always use evidence in support. The best way to remember how to set up your answer is to use the **P.E.E. formula**.

- **POINT** – make your point. What are you trying to say?
- **EXPLANATION** – this is where you use a ‘because...’ statement. Explain why your point is correct.
- **EVIDENCE** – this is the difference between an average grade and a top grade. Use a Biblical reference, a specific church teaching or an example here.

For example – ‘What do Christians believe about abortion?’

**POINT:** *‘Christians do not agree with abortion...’* (1 mark – you made a point and it is correct)

**EXPLANATION:** *‘... because they believe that all life is a gift from God and should be looked after.’* (2 marks – a good explanation)

**EVIDENCE:** *‘This is called the Sanctity of Life and is supported by Biblical teachings like the Ten Commandments which say “Do not commit murder”...’* (4 marks in total – you used a Christian teaching and Biblical reference as evidence)

**The Part (e) Question – 50% of the Marks**

The (e) question always follows the same format: they will make a statement and then ask you to discuss it. For example:

- *‘Every woman has the right to have a baby.’*  
*Discuss this statement. You should include **different, supported points of view** and a **personal viewpoint**. You must **refer to Christianity** in your answer.*

Notice the way I’ve highlighted some parts of the question – the examiner is actually planning your answer for you! The best way to structure your answer is to break it up into those separate parts and use the P.E.E. formula to answer:

- **‘I think...’** – make a point, explain it and give an example in support.
- **‘Other people may disagree and say...’** – take the opposite view and explain why someone would disagree. Remember your evidence!
- **‘Christians believe...’** – it is essential that you give a solid Biblical reference or Christian teaching in support here. Sometimes Christians will disagree and you may have to put both sides of the argument.

**OCR GCSE Philosophy & Ethics - B603 Ethics 1: Human Relationships  
Exam Questions**

**Part (a) – 1 mark**

Part A is usually a very short question based on explaining what a key word / term means. Your answer will be pretty short – it is only worth one mark so don't spend 25 minutes answering the question!

- 'What is a marriage?' [1]
- 'What is divorce?' [1]
- 'What is contraception?' [1]
- 'What is a Civil Partnership?' [1]

**Part (b) – 2 marks**

Often, the (b) question will often ask you to add detail to the answer you gave in part (a). It is a temptation to use bullet points but try not to: good exam style says that your answers should be given in full sentences. As you can see, there are two marks available so you'll need to give two reasons to get top marks.

- 'State **two** reasons which some Christians might give for seeking a divorce' [2]
- 'State **two** of the vows made at a Christian wedding' [2]
- 'Provide **two** differences between a Civil Partnership and a Marriage' [2]
- 'Give **two** forms of artificial contraception' [2]

**Part (c) – 3 marks**

The (c) question will usually ask a more open question. The previous two parts were quite narrow but this offers more scope. You'll need to show that there is more than one opinion - try to use a specific Christian / Biblical teaching in support.

- 'What does Christianity teach about divorce?' [3]
- 'What does Christianity teach about gender roles?' [3]
- 'What does the Bible say about marriage?' [3]
- 'How do Christians react to homosexuality?' [3]

**Part (d) – 6 marks**

The (d) question is an 'Explain' question. You will be asked to explain how Christian beliefs influence their decision-making or attitudes. Often, there will be different sides to the argument so you'll need to stick to the P.E.E formula in your answers. You will need to provide arguments and explanations to support the different reasons for Christian action / faith.

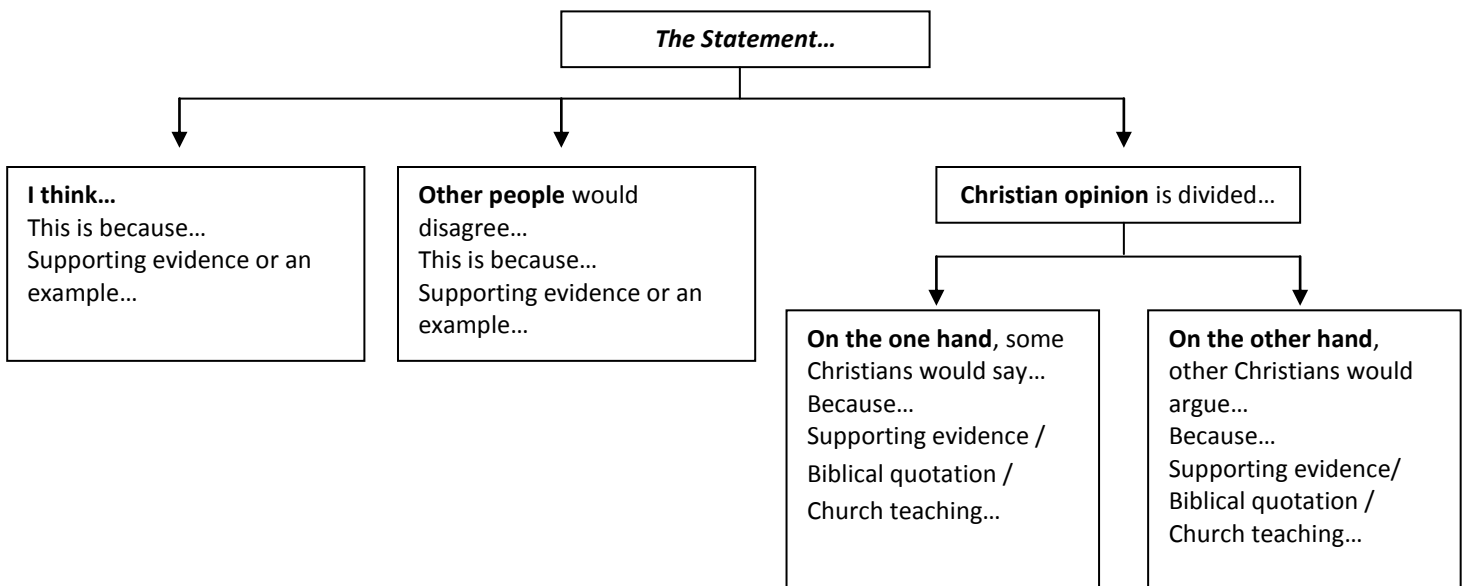
- 'Explain how the vows made at a Christian wedding might guide a couple going through difficulties' [6]
- 'What do Christians feel about Civil Partnerships?' [6]
- 'Explain how gender roles have changed within a Christian family' [6]
- 'Explain the Christian opinion on contraception' [6]

**Part (e) – 12 marks**

The (e) question always follows the same format: they will make a statement and then ask you to discuss it.

- 'Marriage is just a piece of paper...'
- 'Civil Partnerships are exactly the same as marriage...'
- 'Leading the church is a man's job...'
- 'No-one should use artificial contraception...'
- 'Divorce is fine because marriage is not forever...'

...Discuss this statement. You should include **different, supported points of view** and a **personal viewpoint**. You must **refer to Christianity** in your answer. [12]



## Traditional Roles of Men and Women

### Biblical References:

#### 1 Timothy 2:

- Women are to **dress modestly**.
- Women are **not permitted to teach** or have **authority** over men.
- Women must remain silent and **submissive**.
- *'For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.'*

#### Genesis 3:

- A woman's role is to **have children**. Her desire will be for her husband and **'he will rule over you'**.
- A man's role is to **work** to provide for his family.

#### Ephesians 5:

- *'Wives submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church'*

#### Galatians 3 – Principle of Equality:

- *'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ.'*

#### Acts 1 – Equality of Male & Female Disciples

- After Jesus' ascent to heaven the disciples *'joined together constantly in prayer, along with all the women and Mary the mother of Jesus'*. No gender distinctions there!

#### The Letters of Paul – Positive Roles for Women

- Paul names many women as being **outstanding Christians**, like **Priscilla, Phoebe** and others calling them *'my fellow workers'* and noting the way they were prepared to risk their lives for their faith.
- **Lydia** was a well-known leader who founded churches – the Early Church was full of examples of women in responsible jobs.

### Traditional Gender Roles:

Over the years, society has used Biblical teaching to reinforce gender roles **within marriage**

#### Female

- Mother / Childcare (Gen 3)
- Subservient to men (Gen 3 / Eph 5)

#### Male

- Head of the house (Eph 5 / 1 Tim)
- Breadwinner (Gen 3)

### A note on Paul's Letters:

Paul wrote many letters to the early church. However, these letters were answers to **specific questions** asked by the churches. For example, the reference in 1 Timothy 2 was actually in answer to problems the church was having with disruption. Paul was not attempting to provide a universal teaching on gender roles here!

### Traditional Christian teaching:

- **Martin Luther** (1483-1546) – women should remain at home, keep house and be quiet. If a woman should die during childbirth, so be it.
- **St Augustine** (Sixth century theologian) – 'any woman who acts in such a way that she cannot give birth to as many children as she is capable of, makes herself guilty of that many murders.'
- **Thomas Aquinas** (13th century theologian and philosopher) thought that male foetuses had a soul implanted at 40 days, whilst female babies did not receive a soul until 80 days.

Needless to say, **the church does not teach this today**. These teachings reflect the society and time they were written in.

## Should Women be allowed to lead the church?

### FOR:

1. Jesus had a terrific attitude towards women. He had many female disciples.
2. The Bible shows numerous women in leadership roles in the earliest churches.
3. The insistence on women not leading was a product of its time. When the NT was written, women were less educated than men.
4. Women, generally, have more of a natural flair for pastoral work than men.
5. Women make up half of the church's membership. To deny them an equal chance to lead the church is unrepresentative.
6. The number of apostles is more significant than their gender. Jesus was calling 12 leaders to represent the 12 tribes of Israel.

### AGAINST:

1. Women should not take the role of priest. During the Eucharist, the priest takes on the role of Jesus. As Jesus was a man, it is not appropriate that a woman perform this role. This argument applies only to Catholics.
2. Jesus called 12 male apostles.
3. The system has been in place for 2000 years and it works. Why do we need to change it?
4. There are so many other roles within a church: women already have a number of responsible / leadership roles. Why is it necessary for them to take on the role of priest?
5. Are women essentially denying their skills by trying to lead?

# Christian Marriage

Marriage is the **sacrament** in which a **baptised** man and woman vow to belong to each other in a **permanent, exclusive, sexual partnership** of loving, mutual care and **shared responsibility** in the hope of having **children** and bringing up a **family**

*Catechism published by the Catholic Truth Society, 1985.*

## Biblical References:

### Genesis 2:

- God creates men and women to be together.
- *'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.'*

### Luke 10:

- Jesus quotes Genesis 2.
- Men and women are joined by God when they marry. They become 'One Flesh'.
- *'...they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.'*

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- Working together we can support and care for one another.
- 'A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken'
- God is the 'third strand' binding the other two together within a marriage.

### Exodus 20:

*'Do not commit adultery.'*

## 'Adultery':

Having a sexual relationship outside of your marriage

## The Wedding Vows / Promises:

**"I take you to be my wedded Husband / Wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law..."**

Once they have made those promises they exchange rings:

**"With this Ring I thee wed: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."**

The minister then pronounces the couple married.

The vows are made with three people in mind:

1. **God** – God will join the couple as 'one flesh'. You should not feel free to break a promise made with God as a witness.
2. **Witnesses** – you have made a public declaration of your love and made promises in front of witnesses. This forms part of the legal aspect of a wedding.
3. **Your Partner** – all the promises you made were to them. You now have a responsibility to live up to them!

## A Christian Wedding Ceremony:

1. **A Hymn** - to focus everyone's minds on God.
2. **Opening Statement from the Priest / Vicar** - summary of what marriage is about.
3. **Declaration** - the witnesses and couple are asked and confirm that both partners are free to marry. **IMPORTANT:** monogamy.
4. **Promises or Vows** - promises are made to God and each other in front of witnesses.
5. **Exchange of Rings** – symbolic of the never-ending nature of 'agape'.
6. **Proclamation** - the couple is now man and wife.
7. **Prayers for the Couple** - sometimes also a sermon about marriage. The union is blessed before God.
8. **The Register is signed by the couple and witnesses** – this is the **LEGAL ASPECT** of the ceremony. The couple now record that the marriage is legal in the eyes of the law.
9. **Closing Worship** - usually followed by reception or party.

## 'Agape':

Pronounced 'a-ga-pay'. This is selfless, non-physical love. 'Agape' (αγαπη) describes the love God has for people.

## Christianity and Same-Sex Civil Partnerships

### Civil Partnerships - The Basics

1. A civil partnership is a legally-recognised relationship between two people of the **same sex**. So a heterosexual couple may not have a civil partnership.
2. Civil Partnerships became **legal** in the UK on **5th December 2005**.
3. These Services, conducted by a **public registrar** in licensed premises, permit same-sex couples to have a formal ceremony in which they make promises to each other and which gives them the same **legal status** as married heterosexual couples.
4. It is not a marriage and has **no religious content**.

### Case Study: First Civil Partnership in the UK - 5th December 2005

- **Matthew Roche**, who had lung cancer, and **Christopher Cramp** held their ceremony only hours after the Civil Partnership Act became law in 2005.
- The couple were given special permission to go ahead before the normal 15-day waiting period as Mr Roche feared that he would not live that long.
- The ceremony was held at St Barnabas Hospice in Worthing, West Sussex. The couple, who had been together seven years, were legally joined at on Monday 5th December. Matthew Roche died the next day.

### Differences to Marriage

- Heterosexual couples do not need a civil partnership.
- The promises / vows made are only recognised in law - they are **not made to God**.

### Concerns for Christians

*On the one hand...*

Many Christians have **no problem** with Civil Partnerships saying that it reflects the way that **society has changed** over the years. The Bible reflected the time it was written and the audience and culture to whom it was addressed: when the Bible tolerates slavery or polygamy are we to do the same in the 21st century? The **Quakers**, in particular, have no problem with Civil Partnerships recognising homosexual couples as **no different to heterosexual couples**.

*On the other hand...*

Other Christians are less happy about Civil Partnerships and feel that homosexuality is **against God's created order**.

1. In **Genesis**, Eve is created to be with Adam. *'For this reason a **man** will leave his mother and father and be united to his **wife**, and the two will become one flesh'*. This clearly states that a marriage or union of any sort should be male / female.
2. **Natural Law**: you can tell whether or not something is 'good' by examining whether it fulfils its **purpose**.
  - For example, the purpose of human sexual relationships is ultimately to reproduce
  - A homosexual relationship cannot produce offspring so must be against natural law.

### Similarities to Marriage

- It has the **same legal recognition** as a marriage.
- As it is a legal partnership, witnesses are required for the promises / vows
- You still need a **legal dissolution** of the partnership in order to 'marry' again

### Biblical Ideas on Homosexuality

The Bible was written at a time when homosexuality was considered to be a **choice** rather than a natural state. As a result, the Bible is universally negative about homosexuality as it is seen as an **unnatural** choice made in the face of God's clear intention.

Many of the references used to support this are actually discussing the practices of other religions, especially those that used **cultic prostitution**. The religion of the Bible never agreed with this practice (where worshippers achieved a mystical 'union' with the divine through joining with a prostitute - of either gender - who represented the god in question) - of course, the writers of the Bible would be against it! To be fair, they never agreed with making images of God either: the Bible talks about idol worshippers in exactly the same way.

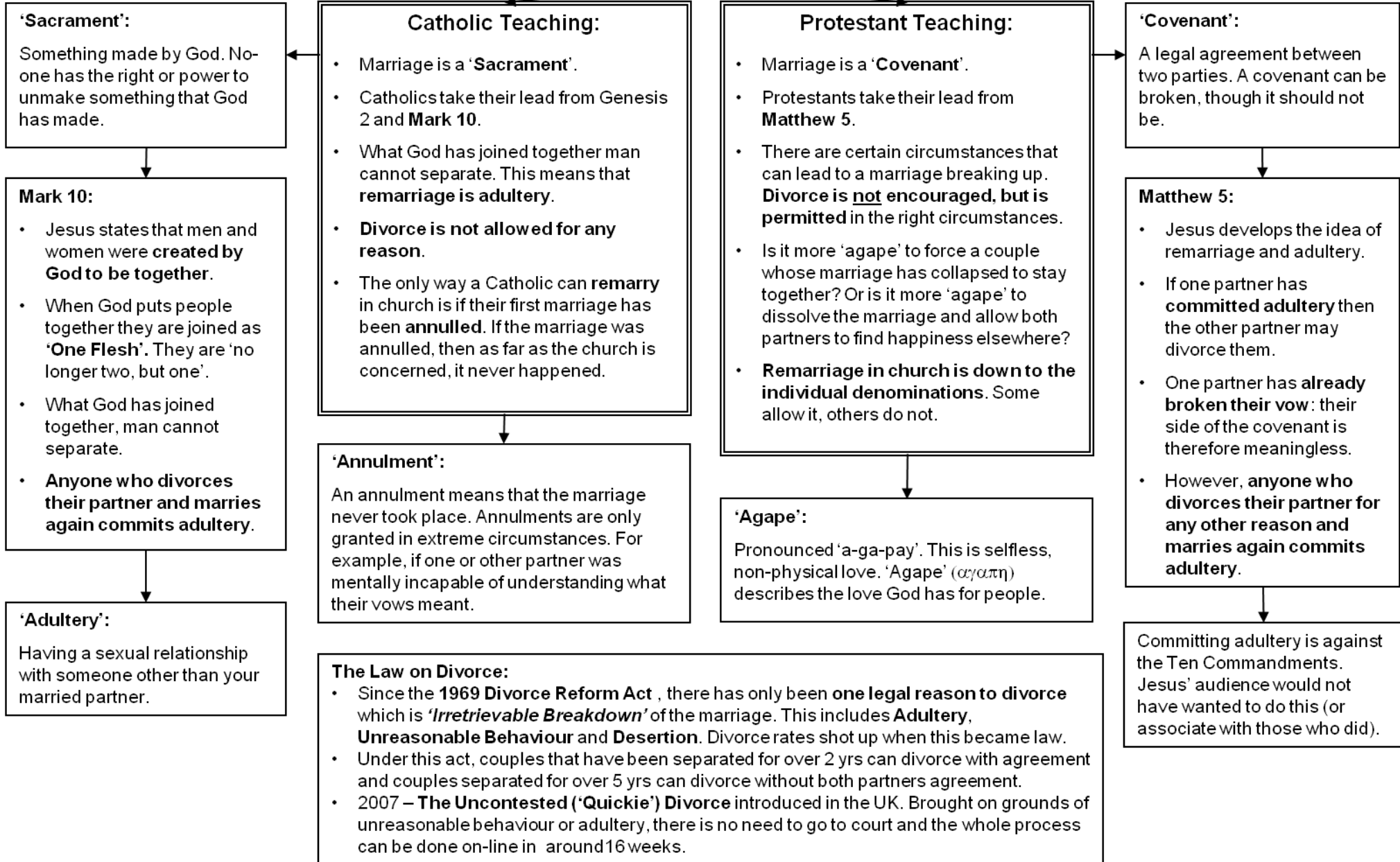
One of the most famous references to homosexuality comes from **Genesis 19**: the story of **Sodom and Gomorrah**. These two cities were destroyed because of their sin, the chief one being listed as their homosexuality. Scholars have become divided over the reference which states that:

*'...The men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house; and they called to Lot, 'Where are the men, who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, so that we may **know them**'.*

Traditionally the phrase '**know them**' was translated in the same way as when Adam '*knew*' Eve (Genesis) or that Mary had not '*known*' a man (Matthew): this '*knowledge*' is **sexual**. More recently, scholars have attempted to translate the phrase a different way, saying that the men of Sodom only wanted to '**meet**' Lot's visitors, though it is hard to see why the city would need to be destroyed simply for over-enthusiastic welcoming of strangers!

# Divorce and Remarriage

*The legal dissolution of a marriage leaving both partners free to marry again.*



# Sexual Relationships

## SEX and CHRISTIANITY:

All Christian denominations teach that the only proper context for sex is **within marriage**. See 'Christian Marriage' and 'Divorce' for more information.

## Biblical References: *Sex Before Marriage*

### 1 Corinthians 6: 18-20

- *'Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.'*
- You should **honour God with your body as it is a Temple of the Holy Spirit**.

### Song of Songs:

- Old Testament poem that outlines the perfect physical / spiritual relationship.
- Likened to the relationship between God and His church.
- Note – this relationship is envisaged as **within marriage**.

### Exodus 20:

*'Do not commit adultery'*.

## 'Adultery':

Having a sexual relationship outside of your marriage

## Contraception

### Natural Methods:

- **Calendar method** – prediction of a woman's fertile period.
- **Withdrawal** – male partner withdraws before ejaculation
- **Temperature method** – body temperature rises after ovulation.
- **Cervical mucus** – runs clear around the time of ovulation.
- **Symptothermal** – combines temperature and cervical mucus methods.

### Artificial Methods:

- **Barrier methods** like the condom or cervical cap to stop sperm reaching ovum.
- **Hormonal methods** – contraceptive pill etc.
- **Postcoital** – only used in exceptional circumstances. 'Morning After Pill'.
- **Intrauterine Device** – such as the coil.
- **Sterilisation / Vasectomy** – surgical procedure.

### Catholic Teaching:

- **Catholics only allow natural methods of contraception.**
- **Natural Law:** the purpose of sex is **reproduction**. Artificial methods go against the natural purpose of sex
- *'All marriage acts must remain open to the transmission of life'* Pope Paul VI

### Protestant Teaching:

- **Protestants will allow either natural or artificial methods of contraception. It is down to the individual's conscience.**
- Sex does not just have to be about procreation. It has a valuable **unitive** ('bringing together') power that helps married relationships develop.

## Biblical References: *Homosexuality*

### 1 Corinthians 6: 9-10

- Homosexuals will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

### Leviticus:

- Old Testament law code which states that homosexuality is 'detestable'. It carries the death penalty.

### Genesis 19:

- Story of Sodom and Gomorrah, two cities destroyed by God for (amongst other things) homosexuality.

### Romans 1:26-27

- *'Even the women pervert the natural use of their sex by unnatural acts. In the same way the men give up natural sexual relations with women and burn with passion for each other. Men do shameful things with each other and as a result they bring upon themselves the punishment they deserve for their wrongdoing.'*

## CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TO HOMOSEXUALITY

It is against God's will. Whenever the Bible mentions it, it is negative

Homosexuality is OK, but homosexual practice is a sin

Homosexuality is normal and sex is fine in the right context.

Homosexual practice is a gift from God and should be celebrated



## A note about Homosexuality:

At the time the Bible was written, homosexuality was considered to be a choice, and often formed part of the temple worship of other religions. Where it is mentioned it is usually as part of a passage regarding 'idol worship'. Naturally, the Bible writers would be against such practice!

**OCR GCSE Philosophy & Ethics - B603 Ethics 1: Medical Ethics  
Exam Questions**

**Part (a) – 1 mark**

Part A is usually a very short question based on explaining what a key word / term means. Your answer will be pretty short – it is only worth one mark so don't spend 25 minutes answering the question!

- 'What is an Abortion?' [1]
- 'What is Euthanasia?' [1]
- 'What is Fertility Treatment?' [1]
- 'What is Stewardship?' [1]

**Part (b) – 2 marks**

Often, the (b) question will often ask you to add detail to the answer you gave in part (a). It is a temptation to use bullet points but try not to: good exam style says that your answers should be given in full sentences. As you can see, there are two marks available so you'll need to give two reasons to get top marks.

- 'State **two** reasons that some Christians might accept for seeking an abortion' [2]
- 'What is Passive and Active Euthanasia?' [2]
- 'Give **two** reasons Christians might object to Cloning' [2]
- 'Provide **two** examples of how animals are used in medical research' [2]

**Part (c) – 3 marks**

The (c) question will usually ask a more open question. The previous two parts were quite narrow but this offers more scope. You might need to show that there is more than one opinion – but always try to use a specific Christian / Biblical teaching in support.

- 'What does the Bible say about Euthanasia?' [3]
- 'What does Christianity teach about Abortion?' [3]
- 'What does the Bible say about the Sanctity of Life?' [3]
- 'What do Christians believe about when life begins?' [3]

**Part (d) – 6 marks**

The (d) question is an 'Explain' question. You will be asked to explain how Christian beliefs influence their decision-making or attitudes. Often, there will be different sides to the argument so you'll need to stick to the P.E.E formula in your answers. You will need to provide arguments and explanations to support the different reasons for Christian action / faith.

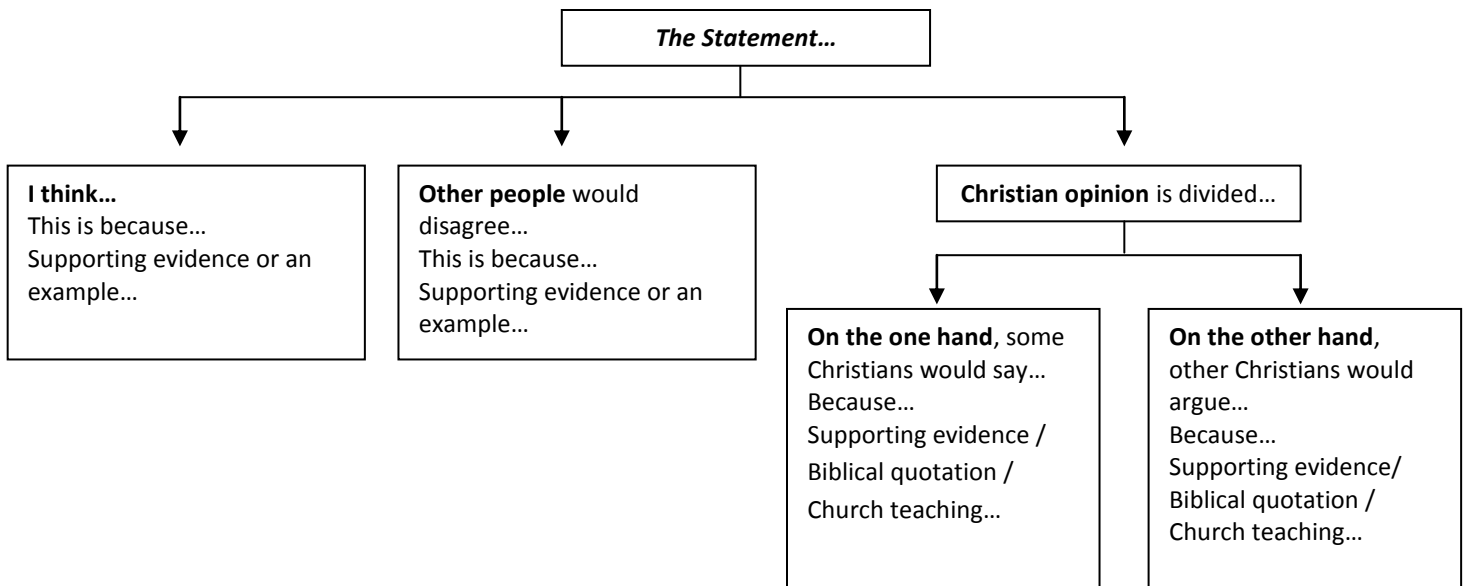
- 'What are the Christian responses to abortion?' [6]
- 'What are the Christian responses to Fertility Treatment and Embryology?' [6]
- 'Explain Christian opinions on the use of animals in medical research' [6]
- 'How do Christians respond to Euthanasia & Suicide?' [6]

**Part (e) – 12 marks**

The (e) question always follows the same format: they will make a statement and then ask you to discuss it.

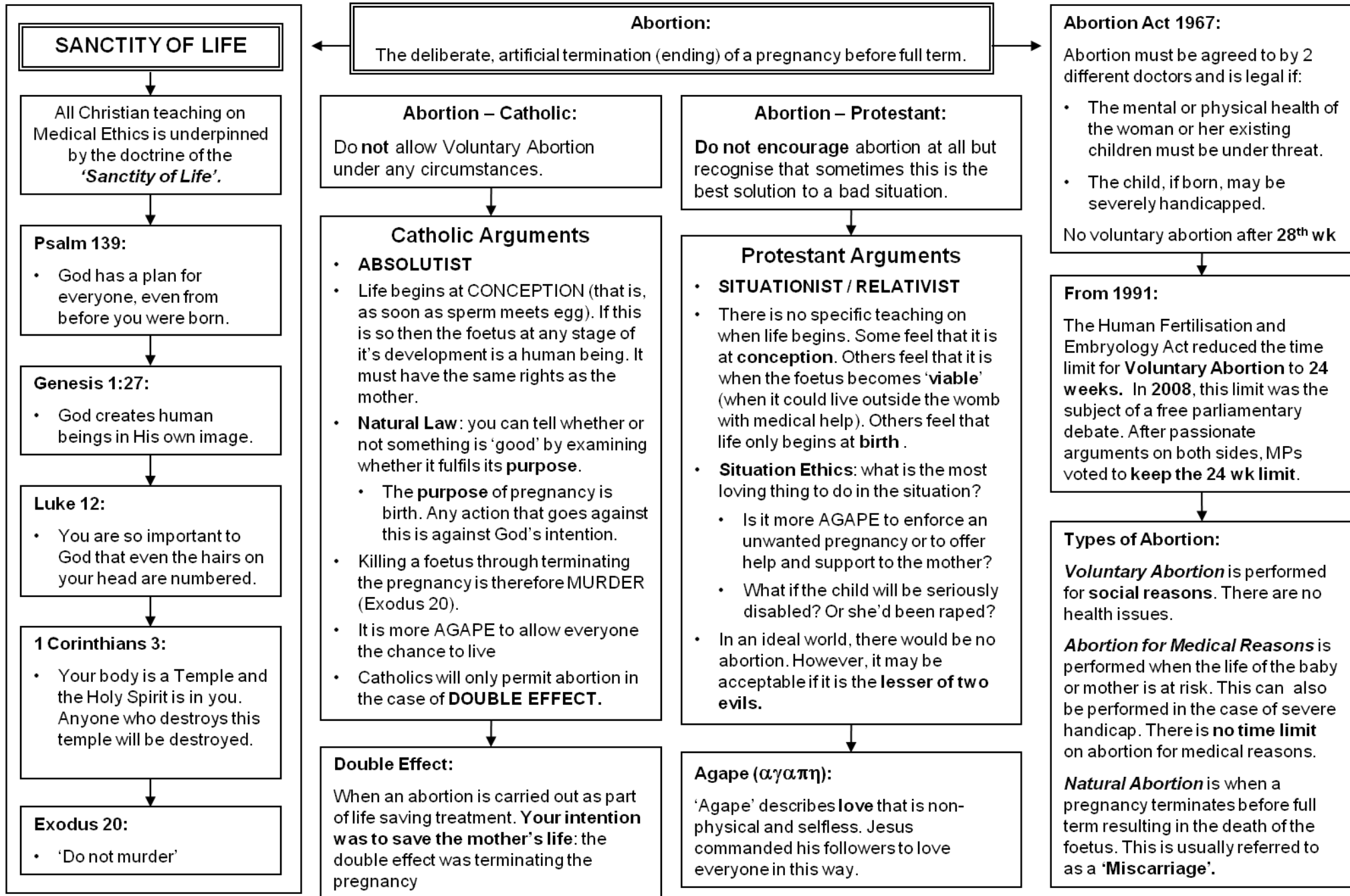
- 'Abortion is always wrong...'
- 'Only God should be allowed to take a life...'
- 'Experimenting on embryos is perfectly acceptable...'
- 'No animal should have to die to save a human...'
- 'It is everyone's right to have a child...'

...Discuss this statement. You should include **different, supported points of view** and a **personal viewpoint**. You must **refer to Christianity** in your answer. [12]





# Christianity and Abortion



## Euthanasia and Suicide

### DEFINITIONS:

#### Voluntary Euthanasia:

- Often called '*Assisted Suicide*', this is where the patient requests to die. Usually they will be unable to kill themselves.

#### Involuntary Euthanasia:

- When the person killed is capable of consenting to their own death but does not do so. This amounts to murder in most cases.

#### Non-Voluntary Euthanasia:

- When the patient is unable to consent. A good example would be of a patient in a coma from which they will not recover. This is also termed a '*PVS*' or '*Persistent Vegetative State*'.

*All of these can all be 'passive' or 'active'.*

#### 'Passive' Euthanasia:

- This is when treatment that is artificially prolonging life is withdrawn, allowing the patient to die. A good example is turning off a ventilator.

#### 'Active' Euthanasia:

- This is deliberately taking action designed to end a patient's life. For example, a doctor could deliberately prescribe an overdose. This is currently illegal in the UK.

**Euthanasia:** from the Greek words 'eu' (ευ meaning 'good' or 'gentle') and 'thanatos' (θανατος meaning 'death'). Euthanasia is essentially taking a life to minimise suffering – sometimes called a 'mercy killing'.

**Suicide:** to deliberately end your own life.

#### Christian Teaching on Euthanasia:

1. Human life is a **gift from God**. As such it is sacred.
2. Death is an event in eternal life, not an end in itself. **The soul lives on** after the body dies.
3. People should receive **good terminal care**. All of the patients' needs, including the spiritual should be met.

Most Christian denominations do **not oppose Passive Euthanasia**. Sometimes extraordinary means of prolonging life may be inappropriate.

#### 'Double Effect' and Euthanasia:

Whilst **Catholics** agree with the above, the doctrine of '**Double Effect**' can also be applied. For example, painkilling drugs may shorten a patient's life but the intention was to relieve pain, not kill

#### Christian Alternative to Euthanasia – *The Hospice Movement:*

The modern Hospice movement, set up by Dame Cicely Saunders in 1967, is founded on the principle of '**Palliative Care**'. Patients' needs are met through counselling, pain relief, support for carers and an emphasis on dignity and the value of life.

#### Christians on Suicide:

1. Suicide used to be seen as a mortal sin (i.e. you have committed murder on yourself).
2. These days, churches realise that suicide is the last resort of people that are desperate. The churches feel that **counselling and support** are important, **not judgement**.

#### Christian response to Suicide – *The Samaritans*

Started by Chad Varah in 1953. Set up to provide confidential counselling to those considering suicide. The Samaritans promote the idea of loving your neighbour and providing support so that people won't feel isolated and alone and won't feel like they have to resort to suicide.

#### KEY CONCEPT: 'Agape':

Pronounced 'a-ga-pay'. This is selfless, non-physical love. 'Agape' (αγαπη) describes the love God has for people.

Jesus commanded people to '*love (agape) one another as I have loved you*'. John 13: 34

#### KEY CONCEPT: 'Sanctity of Life'

1. **All life is a gift from God** (Genesis 1; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139 etc)
2. **Human Life is particularly special** because it is the only thing made in **God's 'image'** or 'likeness' (Genesis 1:27).
3. We should therefore not feel free to take life (Exodus 20)

#### Biblical References:

##### 2 Samuel 1: 9-16

- King Saul is terribly wounded in battle and says to a comrade: '*Stand over me and kill me! I am in the throes of death, but am still alive*'.
- The soldier kills him as asked. When he reports what happened to King David, David has him killed because he had '*killed the Lord's anointed*'.

##### Job:

- The Old Testament book of Job tells the story of an innocent and godly man who suffers all kinds of terrible misfortunes.
- His wife advises him to '*Curse God and die!*' (kill himself) as it would be better than suffering.
- Job refuses to do so and accepts his suffering. He is eventually rewarded by God for his faith.

##### Exodus 20:

- '*Do not murder*'.

## Embryology, Fertility Treatment and Cloning

### To use Assisted Conception?

- Many Christians feel that to use **any** form of assisted conception **goes against God's plan** for their lives.



### Biblical References:

#### Psalm 139: 13, 16

- *'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb... Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.'*
- Shows two things. Firstly, **God** is responsible for the creation of life, both **body and soul**.
- Secondly, God has a **plan** for that life.

#### Jeremiah 1: 5

- *'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you...'*
- God is responsible for the formation of life in the womb. Life is a **gift** from God.

#### 1 Samuel 1: 5

- *'But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her and the Lord had closed her womb.'*
- God has a **plan** for everyone's life. In some cases this means that He has planned that you do not have children.

### Types of Assisted Conception

#### Artificial Insemination:

This can be broken down into **AIH** (Artificial Insemination by the **Husband**) and **AID** (Artificial Insemination by a **Donor**). Sperm is collected and inserted into the uterus where fertilisation should occur normally.

#### IVF:

In Vitro Fertilisation. Eggs are fertilised outside the womb and the resulting embryo(s) are implanted into the uterus.

#### G.I.F.T.:

Gamete Intra-Fallopian Transfer. Eggs and sperm are harvested and then inserted directly into the fallopian tube via catheter. Fertilisation should occur naturally.

#### Egg Donation:

A donor egg is fertilised by the sperm of the partner of the woman whose uterus the embryo is to be implanted in.

#### Embryo Donation:

Similar to egg donation except that the egg is fertilised by a donor (rather than the woman's partner) as both partners may be infertile or carry a genetic defect.

#### Surrogacy:

A woman volunteers to carry a baby to full term (possibly for money) and gives it to the childless couple at birth. There are different types of surrogacy:

- **AI Surrogacy:** intended father's sperm and surrogate's egg.
- **IVF Surrogacy:** embryo is created by the intended parents and transferred to the surrogate.
- **Donor Surrogacy:** either donor sperm or donor egg.

Generally AI is considered fine as it is the most natural of the methods outlined. However, **Catholics** feel that **AID** can be considered to be **adultery**.

IVF can be seen as a **wasteful** procedure with many perfectly healthy embryos unused. Embryos are **frozen**, but can only be stored for **5 years** before being **destroyed**.

**Catholics** disagree with the creation of surplus embryos as they feel that life begins at conception: destroying these embryos = murder. *Sanctity of Life*: 'Natural Law'

Catholics prefer GIFT as the **eggs are fertilised naturally** in the fallopian tube unlike other procedures which create embryos outside the womb.

In both **Embryo Donation** and **Donor Surrogacy**, neither of the intended parents may be genetically related to the foetus!

Surrogacy is dangerous and there have been several high profile cases where the surrogate has **died**. Furthermore, there are also instances of people paying for babies and the surrogate opting to keep the child.

### Genetic Engineering:

Definition: 'altering something's DNA for a specific purpose'. It can be broken into:

#### Somatic Cell Gene Therapy:

- Medical. Alterations to the DNA remain in the body. Cannot be passed on.

#### Germ Line Gene Therapy:

- Medical. These cells are involved in production of eggs and sperm so any alterations may be passed onto future generations.

#### Enhancement Genetic Engineering:

- DNA is altered to change physical appearance. Currently illegal.

### Cloning:

Definition: 'creating a genetically identical animal or plant from another':

#### Therapeutic Cloning:

- Medical. Tissue (not a baby) is created to replace damaged cells using stem cells taken from embryos.

#### Ethical Issues to Consider:

'**Admixed embryos**' (combining animal and human DNA to provide a source of stem cells) became **legal in 2008**.

'**Saviour siblings**' – embryos created with the right DNA to provide transplants for sick brothers / sisters

#### Church Teaching on Cloning:

Catholic – disagree with cloning. It is against Natural Law and the Sanctity of Life (embryos are created simply to be used for their stem cells and destroyed). Humans should **not** be used as a means to an end. They are an end in themselves

# The Use of Animals in Medical Research

## Biblical References:

### Luke 8: 26-39

*The Healing of a Demon-Possessed Man ("Legion" and the Pigs)*

- Jesus meets a demon-possessed man who has been an outcast for some time
- The man calls out for Jesus not to 'torture him'. Jesus asks the man's name and he replies '*Legion, for we are many*'.
- Jesus casts out the demons into a herd of pigs, that immediately run into the river and are drowned.

### Exodus 20

- '*Do not murder*'.

### Genesis 1: 28

- '*Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature...*'

### Genesis 2: 15

- '*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it...*'

The 'Sanctity of Life' teaches that ALL life is a gift from God. However, humans make use of animals in many different ways, some of them have been questioned ethically. In the Bible, humans are called to 'rule over' and 'take care' of animals and the planet. These concepts are called 'Dominion' and 'Stewardship'.

## 'Dominion':

- Based on **Genesis 1: 28**. Humans are told to '**rule over**' animals and the planet.
- Dominion suggests power and authority to make decisions on the fate or welfare of the thing one has dominion over.
- Does not necessarily suggest compassion, but people can have authority over something and still show love.

## 'Stewardship':

- Based on **Genesis 2: 15**. Humans are told to '**take care**' of animals and the planet.
- To be responsible for the safety of something. To look after something.
- Stewardship suggests making decisions based on the best interest of the thing one is Steward to.
- Suggests a compassionate role.

## FOR Animal Testing:

- ☺ God has given humans the authority to run the planet as they see fit. This includes using animals to save human lives (Dominion – Christian).
- ☺ Testing procedures and products on animals has had a positive effect overall.
- ☺ The medical advances in the treatment of cancer, cardiac complaints and infectious diseases is hard to ignore.
- ☺ 'Agape' – what is more loving? To save life through testing or to allow people to die to save a few lab animals?
- ☺ 'Image of God' – human life is more important as we are made in God's image.

## AGAINST Animal Testing:

- ☹ Not everyone agrees with the morality of animal testing: is a human life any more valuable than that of an animal? After all, both were created by God (Stewardship – Christian).
- ☹ Animal testing is painful and destructive (Exodus 20).
- ☹ Some products tested on animals are cosmetic. Surely they should be tested on people?
- ☹ With the advances in science animal testing is an out-dated relic.
- ☹ 'Golden Rule' – would you like to be treated like this?
- ☹ 'Agape' – surely it cannot be loving to test products on animals?

## The Uses of Animals by Humanity:

- Pets, livestock, conservation, help and companionship, food, transport, burden, entertainment.

## Should we use 'Xenotransplantation'?

- A xenotransplant is the **transplant of an organ to a different species**.
- A species is defined by whether or not two separate animals can successfully mate. For example, a collie and a Labrador are completely different animals but can successfully mate as they are both of the same species.
- Xenotransplants are needed due to the fact that there **aren't enough human organs** available for transplant. There are several objections:
  - a) To harvest the organs we have to **kill the donor**. In some cases, **specifically breed** or engineer the donor.
  - b) We are **introducing foreign DNA** into the gene pool. What about diseases crossing species boundaries (e.g. HIV / AIDS).

## 'Sanctity of Life':

1. **All life is a gift from God** (Genesis 1; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139 etc)
2. **Human Life is particularly special** because it is the only thing made in **God's 'image'** or 'likeness' (Genesis 1:27).
3. We should therefore not feel free to take life (Exodus 20)

