

RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

MODULE A Families

08 - Marriage, including legal perspectives

Year 6

Spring Term: Lessons 3-4



Lesson Overview

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

**Engage
&
Activate**

Whole Class & Paired Activities

Why do people marry?



40 minutes

**Explore
&
Explain**

Whole Class & Group Activities

Marriage and civil partnership



30 minutes

**Elaborate
&
Reflect**

Paired & Whole Class Activities

Marriage in Islam



35 minutes

**Evaluate
&
Review**

Whole Class & Paired Activities

Review learning



15 minutes

Lesson Plan

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Aim

To look at marriage from legal and faith perspectives

Lesson Objectives

In this lesson pupils will:

Explore reasons people get married

Consider faith perspectives on marriage

Analyse initial steps to marriage in Islam

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson pupils will have:

Defined marriage from legal and Islamic perspectives

Resolved differences and similarities between marriage and civil partnership

Completed research on marriage from different faith perspectives

Key Vocabulary

partnership

civil

contract

ceremony

Resources



Pens / Pencils



Resource sheets



Glue Stick



Highlighters



A4 Paper



Scissors

Lesson Plan

Engage
&
Activate

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Whole Class & Paired Activities

Why do people marry?

Inform the class that in this lesson we are **looking** at marriage from legal and faith perspectives.

Introduce learning objectives and learning outcomes.

Discuss key vocabulary and **share** definitions. **See** below.

Ask pupils: Why do people get married?

Create a 'spider diagram' on the board with pupil responses and **discuss**.

Possible responses could include:

- Because they are in love
- To love someone
- To have children
- To have companionship and share things with someone
- For protection from sin
- For money and wealth

Ask pupils: Why do Muslims marry?

Explain that Muslims marry for most of the reasons above. Additionally, for Muslims, marriage is considered half of their deen (faith).

Share the hadith:

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

‘When a person gets married he has completed half of his religion, so let him fear Allah with regard to the other half.’

Bayhaqi

Lesson Plan

Engage
&
Activate

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Whole Class & Paired Activities

Why do people marry?

Ask pupils: Why do people of other faiths marry?

Give pairs of pupils, **Resource 1**: Religious perspectives on marriage, to **read**.

Ask pupils to **highlight**, using coloured pens, the similarities and differences between the major world faiths on **Resource 1** and **summarise** on A4 paper.

Take feedback and **discuss**.

Lesson 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Resource 1

Views on marriage from different beliefs

- **Islam**
Most Muslims believe marriage is a fundamental building block of life. Marriage is a contract between a man and woman to live together as husband and wife. The marriage contract is called a nikah.
For most Muslims the purpose of marriage is to:
 - keep faithful to each other for the rest of their lives
 - have children and bring them up in the Islamic faith
 - complete half their religion
- **Christianity**
Most Christians believe marriage is an important part of life. They believe the purpose of marriage is to:
 - unite with someone they love for the rest of their lives
 - be faithful and make this sacrament with God's blessing and in God's presence
 - have children who can also be part of the Christian faith
- **Judaism**
Marriage is an important aspect of life for Jews. They believe the purpose of marriage is to:
 - unite with someone they love for the rest of their lives
 - please God, who is witness to all marriages
 - allow two souls to merge into one and form a complementary and mutually supportive partnership
 - have children and raise them in accordance with the Jewish tradition

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Key vocabulary

partnership to work together towards something

civil relating to ordinary people of a country, rather than members of religious organisations or the military

contract a written or spoken agreement

ceremony ritual (usually religious) steps that take place at a grand occasion

Lesson Plan

Explore
&
Explain

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Whole Class & Group Activities

Marriage and
civil partnership

Ask pupils: What is a civil partnership and how is it different to marriage?

Explain that marriage is different to a civil partnership in that:

- Marriages are performed by saying certain words (vows)
- Civil partnerships are registered by signing the civil partnership document, with no words required to be spoken
- Civil partnerships are civil events, i.e. there is no ceremony
- Marriages often have a religious ceremony

Ask pupils to **draw** a table with **three** columns, with the headings:

Marriage	Civil Partnership	Both

Pupils **cut**, **arrange** and **paste** in groups,
Resource 2a: Statements of Marriage, Civil Partnership or Both, into the correct columns of the table they have drawn.

Lesson 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Resource 2a

Marriage, Civil Partnership or Both (statements)

Cut and paste the statements into the relevant column of the table.

1. You have to be 16 or over to do this	2. This is done in accordance with the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (same sex couples)	3. This is done in accordance with the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (opposite sex couples)
4. You usually say vows to do this	5. This usually takes place through a civil ceremony or religious ceremony	6. This is done in accordance with the Civil Partnership Regulations 2019 (opposite sex couples)
7. You cannot be closely related with each other to do this	8. You cannot already be in a marriage or civil partnership to do this	9. You usually sign documents to do this
10. You can be same sex as well as opposite sex couples to do this	11. You have to have parental permission, if under 18, to do this	12. There are different rules in Northern Ireland for this
13. There are different rules in Scotland for this	14. Islamically, this is not allowed	15. This is done in accordance with the Marriage Act 2004 (same sex couples)

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Lesson Plan

Explore
&
Explain

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Whole Class & Group Activities

Marriage and
civil partnership

Take feedback and **review** the answers (**Resource 2b**).

Explain that although civil partnerships and same sex marriages are legally allowed in the UK, in Islam they are not allowed.

Marriage in Islam is between a man and a woman and has to occur through a religious ceremony (nikah). For Muslims, marriage is an act of worship that Allah has given the guidelines on how to enter into, as well as how to maintain.

Lesson 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Resource 2b

Marriage, Civil Partnership or Both (answers)

Marriage	Civil Partnership	Both
3. This is done in accordance with the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (opposite sex couples)	2. This is done in accordance with the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (same sex couples)	1. You have to be 16 or over to do this
4. You usually say vows to do this	6. This is done in accordance with the Civil Partnership Regulations 2019 (opposite sex couples)	7. You cannot be closely related with each other to do this
5. This usually takes place through a civil ceremony or religious ceremony	9. You usually sign documents to do this	8. You cannot already be in a marriage or civil partnership to do this
15. This is done in accordance with the Marriage Act 2004 (same sex couples)	14. Islamically, this is not allowed	10. You can be same sex as well as opposite sex couples to do this
		11. You have to have parental permission, if under 18, to do this
		12. There are different rules in Northern Ireland for this
		13. There are different rules in Scotland for this

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Lesson Plan

Elaborate
&
Reflect

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Paired & Whole Class Activities

Marriage in Islam

Ask pupils: What steps do Muslims take to get married?

Give pairs of pupils **Resource 3a**: Statements of Steps of Marriage, and **ask** them to **highlight** those that are for an Islamic marriage only.

Give pupils **Resource 3b**: Definitions.

Discuss and **define** with pupils, those statements which are not Islamic, e.g. Nangchang, using **Resource 3b**.

Lesson 02: Marriage, including Legal Perspectives
Teacher Resource 5

Marriage, Civil Partnership or Both (statements)

Cut and paste the statements into the relevant columns of the table

1 - Khutbah (religious sermon)	2 - Sheva Brachot	3 - Giving engagement gifts
4 - Exchanging of rings	5 - Nangchang	6 - Waleemah (wedding feast)
7 - Proposing	8 - Nikah (marriage)	9 - Engagement party
10 - Mangalfera	11 - Giving wedding gifts	12 - Cake cutting
13 - Milni	14 - Engagement	15 - Performing Istikharah (prayer to seek guidance) and seeking advice
16 - Viewing each other	17 - Mahr (dowry)	18 - Marriage vows

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Lesson 02: Marriage, including Legal Perspectives
Resource 3b

Statements of steps of marriage (with comments)

- 1 - Khutbah (religious sermon) - given by the one performing the marriage ceremony
- 2 - Sheva Brachot - part of a Jewish wedding when the Rabbi or guests recite 7 blessings
- 3 - Giving engagement gifts
- 4 - Exchanging of rings
- 5 - Nangchang - part of a Buddhist wedding where the ceremony and the formal engagement takes place
- 6 - Waleemah (wedding feast) - a feast given by the husband
- 7 - Proposing - asking for the hand in marriage by the bride's side to the groom or the groom's side to the bride
- 8 - Nikah (marriage) - when the marriage contract is accepted
- 9 - Engagement party
- 10 - Mangalfera - part of a Hindu wedding when the bride and groom walk around the fire four times, praying and exchanging vows of duty, love, fidelity, and respect
- 11 - Giving wedding gifts
- 12 - Cake cutting
- 13 - Milni - part of a Sikh wedding when the bride side and the groom side meet and the holy shabads (hymns from the Sikh Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib) are sung
- 14 - Engagement - the time between accepting the proposal and accepting the marriage contract
- 15 - Performing Istikharah (prayer to seek guidance) and seeking advice - should be done AFTER the decision is made but some people do it before making the proposal
- 16 - Viewing each other - Done if the intention to marry is there and before proposing (only view as much of each other as is normally possible - for a woman wearing a face veil the man is allowed to see her face as well)
- 17 - Mahr (dowry) - a compulsory gift given to the bride from the groom on the wedding
- 18 - Marriage vows - part of a Christian wedding

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Lesson Plan

Elaborate
&
Reflect

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Paired & Whole Class Activities

Marriage in Islam

Ask pupils to now **cut out** the statements on **Resource 3b** that are for an Islamic marriage, **put** them in order and then **paste** on **A4** paper.

Take feedback and **discuss**.


Use Resource 3c: Answers, for support.

Lesson 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Resource 3b

Statements of steps of marriage (with comments)

- **Khutbah** (religious sermon) – given by the one performing the marriage ceremony
- **Sheva Brachot** – part of a Jewish wedding when the Rabbi or guests recite 7 blessings
- **Giving engagement gifts**
- **Exchanging of rings**
- **Nangchang** – part of a Buddhist wedding where the ceremony and the formal engagement takes place
- **Waleemah** (wedding feast) – a feast given by the husband
- **Proposing** – asking for the hand in marriage by the bride's side to the groom or the groom's side to the bride
- **Nikah** (marriage) – when the marriage contract is accepted
- **Engagement party**
- **Mangalfera** – part of a Hindu wedding when the bride and groom walk around the fire four times, praying and exchanging vows of duty, love, fidelity and respect

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Lesson Plan

Evaluate
&
Review

Lessons 3-4: Marriage, including legal perspectives

Whole Class & Paired Activities

Review learning

Review learning by referring to learning objectives and learning outcomes.

Pose questions to check understanding and clarify misconceptions using **think, pair, share**:

- Give **two** reasons why people get married.
- Choose **two** faiths and explain their perspectives on marriage.
- What are the differences between civil partnership and marriage?
- Give **four** steps that lead to marriage in Islam.
- Define marriage from an Islamic perspective.
- What is the Islamic viewpoint on same-sex marriage?
- What is the legal viewpoint on same-sex marriage?

Resource 1

Views on marriage from different beliefs

▪ **Islam**

Most Muslims believe marriage is a fundamental building block of life. Marriage is a contract between a man and woman to live together as husband and wife. The marriage contract is called a nikah.

For most Muslims the purpose of marriage is to:

- keep faithful to each other for the rest of their lives
- have children and bring them up in the Islamic faith
- complete half their religion

▪ **Christianity**

Most Christians believe marriage is an important part of life. They believe the purpose of marriage is to:

- unite with someone they love for the rest of their lives
- be faithful and make this sacrament with God's blessing and in God's presence
- have children who can also be part of the Christian faith

▪ **Judaism**

Marriage is an important aspect of life for Jews. They believe the purpose of marriage is to:

- unite with someone they love for the rest of their lives
- please God, who is witness to all marriages
- allow two souls to merge into one and form a complementary and mutually supportive partnership
- have children and raise them in accordance with the Jewish tradition

Resource 1

Views on marriage from different beliefs

▪ **Hinduism**

Many Hindus see marriage as a life-long, sacred ceremony that binds a man and woman together. It takes the Hindu couple into the second ashrama and is believed by many to be the right situation in which to have children.

▪ **Sikhism**

Marriage is an important aspect of life and its purpose is to:

- form an equal partnership in the presence of God
- help each other unite their souls with God

▪ **Buddhism**

There is no obligation for Buddhists to marry and most Buddhists believe marriage is a choice. As long as they are both happy to do so, Buddhists are allowed to cohabit. As a result, Buddhists do not have any formal teachings on what the marriage ceremony should consist of. The closest that Buddhists come to one is to hold a blessing or celebration but there are no religious elements to the event.

Resource 2a

Marriage, Civil Partnership or Both (statements)

Cut and paste the statements into the relevant columns of the table.

1. You have to be 16 or over to do this	2. This is done in accordance with the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (same sex couples)	3. This is done in accordance with the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (opposite sex couples)
4. You usually say vows to do this	5. This usually takes place through a civil ceremony or religious ceremony	6. This is done in accordance with the Civil Partnership Regulations 2019 (opposite sex couples)
7. You cannot be closely related with each other to do this	8. You cannot already be in a marriage or civil partnership to do this	9. You usually sign documents to do this
10. You can be same sex as well as opposite sex couples to do this	11. You have to have parental permission, if under 18, to do this	12. There are different rules in Northern Ireland for this
13. There are different rules in Scotland for this	14. Islamically, this is not allowed	15. This is done in accordance with the Marriage Act 2004 (same sex couples)

Resource 2b

Marriage, Civil Partnership or Both (answers)

Marriage	Civil Partnership	Both
3. This is done in accordance with the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 (opposite sex couples)	2. This is done in accordance with the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (same sex couples)	1. You have to be 16 or over to do this
4. You usually say vows to do this	6. This is done in accordance with the Civil Partnership Regulations 2019 (opposite sex couples)	7. You cannot be closely related with each other to do this
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		11. You have to have parental permission, if under 18, to do this
		12. There are different rules in Northern Ireland for this
		13. There are different rules in Scotland for this

Resource 3a

Statements of steps of marriage

Highlight the steps of marriage which are for an Islamic marriage only.

1. Khutbah (religious sermon)	2. Sheva Brachot	3. Giving engagement gifts
4. Exchanging of rings	5. Nangchang	6. Waleema (wedding feast)
7. Proposing	8. Nikah (marriage)	9. Engagement party
10. Mangalfera	11. Giving wedding gifts	12. Cake cutting
13. Milni	14. Engagement	15. Performing Istikharah (prayer to seek guidance) and seeking advice
16. Viewing each other	17. Mahr (dowry)	18. Marriage vows

Statements of steps of marriage (with comments)

- **Khutbah** (religious sermon) – given by the one performing the marriage ceremony
- **Sheva Brachot** – part of a Jewish wedding when the Rabbi or guests recite 7 blessings
- **Giving engagement gifts**
- **Exchanging of rings**
- **Nangchang** – part of a Buddhist wedding where the ceremony and the formal engagement takes place
- **Waleemah** (wedding feast) – a feast given by the husband
- **Proposing** – asking for the hand in marriage by the bride’s side to the groom or the groom’s side to the bride
- **Nikah** (marriage) – when the marriage contract is accepted
- **Engagement party**
- **Mangalfera** – part of a Hindu wedding when the bride and groom walk around the fire four times, praying and exchanging vows of duty, love, fidelity and respect

Statements of steps of marriage (with comments)

- **Giving wedding gifts**
- **Cake cutting**
- **Milni** – part of a Sikh wedding when the bride side and the groom side meet and the holy shabads (hymns from the Sikh Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib) are sung
- **Engagement** – the time between accepting the proposal and accepting the marriage contract
- **Performing Istikharah** (prayer to seek guidance) and seeking advice – should be done AFTER the decision is made but some people do it before making the proposal
- **Viewing each other** – done if the intention to marry is there and before proposing (only view as much of each other as is normally possible - for a woman wearing a face veil the man is allowed to see her face as well)
- **Mahr** (dowry) – a compulsory gift given to the bride from the groom on the wedding
- **Marriage vows** – part of a Christian wedding

Resource 3c

Islamic statements of steps of marriage (in order)

1.	Viewing each other – done if the intention to marry is there and before proposing (only view as much of each other as is normally possible - for a woman wearing a face veil the man is allowed to see her face as well)
2.	Proposing – asking for the hand in marriage by the bride’s side to the groom or the groom’s side to the bride
3.	Performing Istikharah (prayer to seek guidance) and seeking advice – should be done AFTER the decision is made but some people do before making the proposal
4.	Engagement – the time between accepting the proposal and accepting the marriage contract
5.	Khutbah (religious sermon) – given by the one performing the marriage ceremony
6.	Nikah (marriage) – when the marriage contract is accepted
7.	Mahr (dowry) – a compulsory gift given to the bride from the groom on the wedding
8.	Giving wedding gifts
9.	Waleemah (wedding feast) – a feast given by the husband