

Roman Catholic Church and its view of Family

Instructions and answers for teachers

These instructions should accompany the OCR resource 'Roman Catholic Church and its view of Family' activity which supports OCR GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies.



GCSE REFORM GCSE (9–1) Religious Studies Lesson Element

Roman Catholic Church and its view of Family

Task 1
Read article the following article from BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-30890989>

What does the Pope say about the family?

What might be the advantages to religions of encouraging followers to have large families?

Why might some Christians find this controversial?

Version 1

OCR
oxfordcambridgeandrsa.com

The Activity:

This resource comprises of 2 tasks.



This activity offers an opportunity for English skills development.

Associated materials:

'Roman Catholic Church and its view of Family' Lesson Element learner activity sheet.



This resource is an exemplar of the types of materials that will be provided to assist in the teaching of the new qualifications being developed for first teaching in 2016. It can be used to teach existing qualifications but may be updated in the future to reflect changes in the new qualifications. Please check the OCR website for updates and additional resources being released. We would welcome your feedback so please get in touch.



The activity

This material is designed to support teachers to meet the new GCSE content for part d. relationships and families, religious teachings about the nature and purpose of families in the 21st century, sex, marriage, cohabitation and divorce. Issues related to the nature and purpose of families; roles of men and women; equality; gender prejudice and discrimination. How varied interpretations of sources and/or of teachings may give rise to diversity within traditions (textual study or religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world).

Introduction to the task

This lesson element includes a stimulus that focuses on the Roman Catholic view of the family but will likely lead to questions regarding other Christian views and non-religious views too. The suggested questions could be asked by the teacher to the whole class as the basis for a group discussion or specific questions could be put to certain groups depending on the specific context.

Prior learning

- Natural Moral Law
- Sanctity of Life
- The importance of the Holy Family
- RC teaching on marriage, sex and artificial contraception

Warm-up activity

As a warm up for the discussion you can use the below couple of questions:

Q: *What does breed like rabbits mean?*

A: To have many offspring

Q: *If two rabbits start a family how many relatives could they potentially have at the end of three years?*

A: According to QI (<http://qi.com/infocloud/rabbits>) two rabbits starting a family could in 3 years have 33 million relatives!

Roman Catholic teaching prohibits sex outside marriage and the use of artificial contraception.

Traditionally Catholics have therefore been encouraged to have large families in keeping with Genesis 1:28 (*Be fruitful and multiply*). However in a recent interview the Pope said there was no need to 'breed like rabbits'.



Main activity (Task 1)

Read article from the BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-30890989>

(NB Teachers may wish to watch the first video with their class which is only 22 seconds long and in Italian with subtitles.)

Having read the article the following questions can be posed to students to assess prior knowledge and to judge their comprehension of the material.

- What does the Pope say about the family?
- What might be the advantages to religions of encouraging followers to have large families?
- Why might some Christians find this controversial?

NB – If this question proves difficult then the teacher is advised to use the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). A link to the section on Catholic teaching on the family is attached below. The teacher may wish to focus on 2201, 2221 and 2249.

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a4.htm#

Having covered the above it would be interesting to show students the following from The Tablet, which is a Catholic newspaper.

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/1708/0/pope-francis-says-he-is-truly-sorry-for-telling-catholics-not-to-breed-like-rabbits->

It would be interesting to then ask the students why the Pope issued an apology and what issues this might raise for Catholics and other Christians.

Additional Activity: Is this the whole story? (Task 2)

In 2013 the Westminster Faith Debates produced some incredibly interesting research into religious attitudes in modern British society - http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/1368520681_Summary_Press_Releases_WFD2.pdf

The appendix of the research is good to use to look at a broad range of sexual issues including contraception and sex outside marriage. It can be used to show students that there is a difference between what is taught and what is practised.

Suggested Activities based on the above data

- Using the You Gov statistics in appendix 9 from the research, get the students to guess the correct answer to the questions from the table below.
- You could choose a student or two and conduct a 'Play Your Cards Right' type game where someone gives an initial answer and then has to decide if this is the correct answer.

Question	Answer
What % of Catholics would feel guilty if they used contraception?	
What % of Catholics would feel guilty if they had pre-marital sex?	
What % of Catholics would feel guilty if they had extra-marital sex?	

- What do these answers show us about attitudes towards sex and the family within Catholicism?
- Based on his comments that we looked at earlier and his apology/retraction how do you think the Pope would react to these findings?

Teacher info to support preparation

Religious Literacy – Key terms include Sacrament of Marriage and conjugal.



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