

LESSON 3: RESOURCE 2

What religions have to say about marriage

For the teacher:

Use the following information to create cards with the statements to put together.

Activity

Link the statements to the religions and see how many you get right or can guess correctly.

Christianity	Hinduism	Islam
Men and women are equal in a marriage sharing the roles	It is a religious duty to be married and produce children	Couples are not allowed to 'go out' together
Marriage is an agreement between the couple and God and therefore is a sacrament	Marriage is not only between a man and a woman but two families as well	Often the couple are only allowed to meet when members of the family are present
Marriage is never ending. It only ends at death. A ring symbolises the marriage will be forever	Marriages are often arranged by elders or parents and based upon their star signs and compatibility	Arranged marriages are allowed but 'forced marriages' are forbidden
Sexual intercourse should only happen within marriage	Many couples do not really get to know each other until after they are married	The couple must voluntarily agree to marry

<p>The purpose of marriage is to have children</p>	<p>It's acceptable for a woman to marry a man from a higher varna but not the other way round</p>	<p>A man can marry someone from Christianity or Judaism but a woman can only marry a Muslim man but any child must be brought up as a Muslim</p>
<p>Some denominations accept same sex partnerships/unions and other denominations do not accept any union between same sex couples</p>	<p>Members of the same varna and jati marry</p>	<p>Adultery is a serious offence and can be punished</p>
<p>Because the vows are said in front of God divorce is frowned upon</p>	<p>The marriage ceremony takes place at the bride's home</p>	<p>Sometimes the bride does not attend the ceremony and is represented by an agent and witnesses who have heard she agrees to the marriage</p>
<p>Men and women are free to choose whom they marry but promise to support one another in good and bad times</p>	<p>Men and women have separate roles. The man has to support his family and stay faithful. The woman has to care for the children and look after her mother in law and manage the house</p>	<p>The usual role of for the man is to work and the woman's role is to care for the home and the children</p>

Laws of the UK on Marriage/Civil Partnerships

Union between a man and woman entered freely

Can only be married to one person at a time

Divorce is permitted on the grounds of irretrievable breakdown

Same sex couples can enter into a civil partnership but it is not a marriage

You have to be over 16 years old to get married, but with your parents' permission

At 18 years old men and women are free to marry if they so choose

It is a legal binding contract

Both civil and hetero sexual couples enjoy the same benefits on tax relief or employment benefits for example

There are strict rules about whom you cannot marry related to blood relatives

Polygamy is against the law