### 1: How and why have attitudes changed?

**Cohabitation** - a couple living together without being married/in a civil partnership

Today, more people cohabit than in the past. The number of people choosing to marry has reduced compared to the 1950s when most people married in a church.

**Pre-marital sex** - having sex before marriage

Today, many people have multiple sexual partners compared to the past when most had 1-2 sexual partners in their lifetime. Most people in the past believe sex should be saved for marriage.

**Why have these changes occurred?**
- Less religious society
- Contraception readily available
- Divorce rates increased as they are cheaper and more accessible
- Social and political change – homosexual relationships legalised, equal rights for both genders in the work place

### 2: Purpose and role of sex

- **Sacred** - holy and connected to God
- **Adultery** - marital infidelity/cheating on your marriage partner
- **Procreation** - creating new life/off-spring
- **Promiscuity** - having casual sexual relationships
- **Faithfulness** - lasting loyalty and trustworthiness in relationships

Christians believe sex is a gift from God and most agree it should only take place within a marriage as part of God’s plan as an expression of love. They believe this is the best place to create a family. “Go forth and multiply.”

Christians believe a married couple must be faithful and all disagree with adultery “Do not commit adultery.” as it goes the 10 Commandments and the marriage vows.

Some Christians accept cohabitation if you are truly in love and intend to marry to ensure you are compatible before marriage “Test the milk before you buy the cow.” However, St. Paul taught pre-marital sex was a sin.

### 3: Nature and purpose of marriage

**Marriage** - a legal union between two people

**Civil partnership** - legal union of same-sex couples

**Same-sex marriage** - is marriage between partners of the same sex

Christians believe marriage is a gift from God “This is why a man leaves his father and mother and united to his wife, and they become one flesh.” They agree that marriage is the rightful place to procreate as part of God’s plan. The Bible states marriage should be homogamous between a man and woman for life.

They believe it is a lifelong union of love blessed by God “till death do we part.” Many believe it is a sacrament - a sacred blessing from God. Christians believe it is a spiritual bond of trust that reflects the love of Christ. It is a covenant/agreement before God in which the couple promise to live faithfully “to love and to cherish”.

Christians do not have to marry. Jesus himself was not married. Some Christians believe they have a vocation from God to be a priest/monk/nun.

### 4: Non-religious attitudes - sex and marriage

**Sex:**
Consenting adults should be allowed to share sexual relationship, provided it does not hurt anyone else, so sex outside marriage is fine.

Most agree that a sexual relationship should be based on truth and respect. This relationship should be exclusive (one partner at a time).

Many humanists agree with Christians that adultery is wrong as it breaks the trust and may involve breaking the promises made.

**Marriage:**
Humanists believe marriage is the best environment to raise children, but are happy to cohabit too. They do not agree with religious ceremonies, as they believe marriage is a human institution. Many marry to show their commitment to their partner.

Many atheist have similar views to humanists, although some accept multiple sexual partners.

### 5: Types of families

- **Nuclear** - two parents and their children living together
- **Family with same-sex parents** - two same-sex parents and their child(ren)
- **Blended family** - step families that have joined together through marriage
- **Single-parent family** - one parent and child(ren)
- **Extended family** - parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles

### 6: Purpose of family

- **Procreation** – a key purpose of marriage is for a couple to have children. The family reflects Christ’s relationship with the Church.
- **Stability and protection** - create a loving, safe and nurturing environment based on Christian values such as generosity, compassion, tolerance, enabling them to develop loving relationships.
- **Educating children** - teach children how to pray, take them to church and having their children baptised.
- "** Honour your mother father**" - is particularly important when parents are elderly and need support.
- "**Love one another**" - it is in the family children learn to love.