Sub topics

- Nature and purpose of Catholic marriage
- The validity of Catholic marriage
- Cohabitation and same-sex marriage
- Divorce, annulment and remarriage
- Human dignity and human sexuality
- Pope John Paul II's Theology of the body
- Nature and importance of sexual love
- Homosexuality
- Nature and purpose of the family
- Roles and responsibilities of the family
- Family planning
- Gender equality in the Bible
- Catholic teaching on gender equality
- Gender prejudice and discrimination

Key words

Marital: To do with marriage
Pro-creative: Open to creating new life; life giving
Adultery: Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not their husband or wife
Marriage: The sacrament through which the couple commit themselves to each other for life.
Cohabitation: A couple living together and having a sexual relationship without being married to one another
Annulment: A statement by the Catholic Church that there was no valid marriage in the first place
Artificial contraception: Artificial methods used to prevent a pregnancy from taking place
Family planning: The practice of controlling how many children couples have and when they have them.
Gender prejudice: Expecting someone to behave in a particular way because of their gender
Gender discrimination: Taking actions that treat one person/a group of people differently because of their gender.

Assessed tasks

1. ***Mid module assessment***
2. ***End of module assessment***

Possible H/WK tasks-

Self/Peer assessed H/WK tasks

1. ***12 Mark essay: Catholic teaching on contraception is outdated***
2. ***Write an article for a Catholic teen magazine that explores the importance of having sex within marriage for Catholics***

Students may be set additional assessed tasks by their class teacher which will help the class teacher to assess their progress and inform their planning.

Opportunities for independent learning/Stretch and challenge

Read article: Is cohabitation linked to divorce?

Go to http://www.theologyofthebody.net/ and read more in-depth explanations of theology of the body- Listen to the podcasts

Read the extracts from the encyclical Humane Vitae on the nature and purpose of sexual love and responsible parenthood and consider the importance of these teachings today. (available on teams-shared area)

Research some countries that allow same-sex marriages such as UK, France and Canada, and some countries that forbid them- for example HUNGARY, KENYA AND Poland. Examine the arguments given by both sets of countries for their decision on this issue.

Listen to episode 35 of Panpsycast on the ethics of prem-martial sex and record different perspectives/attitudes towards pre-marital sex

Complete independent exam questions from shared area.

Theology of the body and human sexuality

- The Catholic Church teaches that humans were created male and female to be complementary partners. This forms the basis of Catholic teaching on marriage and relationships.
- Pope John Paul in his 'Theology of the Body' teaches that human beings as sexual beings, male and female must recognise their body as being a reflection of the image of God. In this way, humans should respect the bodies of one another and not exploit their own body or others bodies.
- The Catholic Church opposes sex before marriage and adultery because both are not done in an exclusively committed marital relationship and may be solely for the purpose of pleasure- which can be seen as exploiting the body.

Marriage and divorce

- Catholic understand marriage to be a sacrament. This means it is not just a commitment between the couple but a sacred covenant between the couple and God.
- In a Catholic marriage the couple make a lifelong commitment to one another through the vows. The vows are to be lived out every day in their marriage.
- Because marriage is understood as a covenant with God, it cannot be broken and therefore the CATHOLIC Church does not allow divorce. Divorce is the legal separation of a married couple. This also means that remarriage is only accepted in the Church if a partner has died and the widow is remarrying.
- If a Catholic marriage is deemed to not have been valid at the time of the commitment, then it can be annulled- the marriage is declared null and void in this instance.

Family life and family planning

- -The Catholic Church teaches that the family is the 'basic cell of society.'
- This means that the family has an important role in educating children about their faith and about what is right and wrong.
- The family is often referred to the domestic Church which means the Church in miniature. This is because the family is where children come to understand love and where they are introduced to their faith.
- The Catholic Church teaches that there are specific roles in the family for Mothers and fathers. These roles are equally important and help a family to function properly.
- Catholics support natural family planning but oppose artificial contraception as it goes against the pro-creative purposes of sex.

Gender equality

- Gender prejudice and discrimination have been key issues within society historically. In the last 50 years there have been huge improvement in this area in the UK.
- The Catholic Church opposes gender prejudice and discrimination and teaches that all genders were created in the image of God and are therefore equality in dignity and are worthy of respect.
- The Bible teaches that both men and women in equal and many would argue that the Bible, in particular Jesus in the New Testament, is revolutionary for its time in terms of the roles given to women.