Religious Studies – Philosophy and Ethics

Theme 1- Issues of Equality - gender, prejudice and discrimination



- Diverse attitudes towards the role of men and women in worship and authority (Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican)
- Interpretations of 1 Timothy 2:11-12; Galatians 3:27-29

| Key Concepts | | | |
|--------------|--|------------------|--|
| Adultery | Married person choosing to have sex with someone else. | Contraception | Methods to prevent a woman becoming pregnant. |
| Divorce | Legal ending of a marriage. | Gender Equality | All genders have the same rights. |
| Cohabitation | Living together without being married or in a civil partnership. | Responsibilities | Actions or duties you are expected to carry out. |
| Commitment | Making and keeping a promise. | Roles | The position of a person e.g. teacher. |

Attitudes to the role of men and women in worship (Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican)

There are different practices in different denominations. Many Christians argue that all of Jesus's disciples were men and so men should take the lead in worship. Others argue God created humans in the image of God so all are equal, that Jesus taught you should not discriminate (e.g. story of the Good Samaritan) and showed respect to women who were some of his closest followers. In Catholic and Orthodox denominations women can take active roles such as being nuns and helping ministers lead worship. Women can't however be ordained to become priests. In the Anglican church women are now allowed to lead worship and become Bishops. Individual Christian's attitudes are often supported by their interpretations of biblical passages and teachings and actions of Jesus.

Interpretations of 1 Timothy 2:11-12

Paul in **1 Timothy** refers to 'women should learn in quietness' and that women should not teach or assume 'authority over a man. Some Christians take a **literal** view of this while others say it was a letter written for one particular circumstance at one particular time and that it is not relevant to modern day equal opportunities.

Interpretations of Galatians 3.27-29

Paul in **Galatians** refers to all being equal as long as there is faith in Jesus '...there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Some Christians use this quote to argue that if there is no difference then there should be no difference in the roles they are expected to carry out.

Key Sources of Authority

- 'Women should not assume authority over males'
 1 Timothy 2:11-12
- 'There is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Galatia
- Teachings of Jesus e.g. The Good Samaritan
- Practices of Jesus e.g. all the disciples were male

Key Connections

Each area of study will connect with other areas in Component 1 and Component 2 (Christianity).

Consider how...

- Roles of men and women relate to human rights and social justice (Component 1)
- Roles of men and women relate to prejudice and discrimination (Component 1)
- Roles of men and women relate to Creation (Component 3).

Exam Practice

Women and men should have equal roles in worship.

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer).

(15)