

# Candidate 1 evidence

200 words max!

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies National 5 Resource Sheet	
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number
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## N5 RMPS Assignment

## Should people wait for marriage to have sex?

Premarital sex is a widely discussed subject nowadays. Times have changed and people have different views on the topic than back in the 1950's for example, however, a lot of religious people believe what their religion has taught them. I have found that Christians and Jews have quite similar views to the topic. By looking at Christian, Jewish, Utilitarian and Humanist responses to the topic I will aim to determine whether it is right or wrong to have sex prior to marriage.

Many orthodox Christians believe premarital sex cannot take place. "But at the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. A man will leave his mother and father and be united with his wife and they will become one flesh. Therefore what God has created let no one separate." This is a quote found in the Genesis. Some orthodox Christians believe you give away a part of yourself when you have sex and a special bond is formed between the two people. Many orthodox Christians will then believe that premarital sex is wrong. I think this is a good argument Christians can make about the topic however I do not fully agree with it because, once again, times have changed and views to this topic have turned over the years, therefore for me this is a weak argument about premarital sex.

Many liberal Christians believe premarital sex can indeed take place. "Sex has been here before marriage, so if we went back in time and eliminated all the sex we wouldn't even be here." I found this opinion on Religious Forums. Large amounts of liberal Christians believe that premarital sex can take place as long as we are not hurting ourselves or other people. It is a fact that sex has been around longer than marriage has so I think this is a good view/argument because it is important that nobody gets hurt and hurting others can be considered a sin.

A lot of orthodox Jews believe premarital sex cannot take place. "Premarital sex is traditionally not approved of because it does not take place within the context of kiddushin (Hebrew word for 'holy')." This quote has been found on My Jewish Learning. Many Jews believe sex is something holy and traditionally should be reserved for marriage because similarly to orthodox Christian's views, a special bond is formed. So, many orthodox Jews believe premarital sex cannot take place. This is a strong argument for Jews because they take their religion and teachings very seriously. I personally don't think premarital sex would cause a problem however I cannot change an orthodox Jew's view.

Some liberal Jews are less strict towards the subject because they look at the details written in the Torah. "The written Torah does not forbid sex before marriage with the exceptions of adultery and incest." This has also been found on My Jewish Learning. Some liberal Jews believe that sex before marriage can take place but with boundaries such as adultery and incest which are unacceptable. I personally think this is a good and strong view towards premarital sex because it does not forbid sex

prior to marriage with the exceptions of adultery and incest which are initially sins and should not be committed.

Utilitarianism teaches it can be right to have sex before marriage as long as the greatest amount of people is happy. "Sex can be right as long as it tends to promote happiness. Wrong in a sense where it tends to bring the opposite of happiness and the situation is wrong." I found this quote on Blog Spot. Some utilitarian's believe it is right to have sex as long as happiness is produced and that we are fully aware of the consequences it can bring us such as unwanted pregnancies and STI's. I agree with Utilitarian views on the topic because instead of looking at any religious teachings they look at consequences of the actions and whether it brings happiness or sadness in order to decide whether it is right or wrong instead of looking at any traditional teachings.

In Humanism, it is taught and believed by many that sex before marriage can take place as long as we are mentally and physically mature enough for it. "Large numbers of Humanists believe sex is a pleasure that can be enjoyed responsibly." I found this quote on a presentation called Understanding Humanism. Many humanists believe sex before marriage can take place and it is a pleasure that can be enjoyed as long as we are mentally and physically mature for it and that we are responsible enough for it to accept consequences that may happens such as unwanted pregnancies once again. I think this is a strong argument because I believe we have to be mature physically and mentally enough for certain things because we reach a point where we will be able to be responsible for our own actions.

In conclusion, there are many, many different opinions towards premarital sex, some being religious and some being non-religious. As times change, views towards marriage also change and some people do not find the need to marry and if they are religious, it would be wrong for them to have sex. Thus why I think that religious teachings are a bit too strict for modern opinions. In the end it will be only our personal opinion and what we will think about sex prior to marriage but by looking at all the information I have gathered, I agree with liberal Jewish and Utilitarian the most because some Liberal Jews do not consider it as a sin unless it is adultery or incest that is unacceptable by nearly all communities around the world. I agree with utilitarian because they look at feelings and consequences actions can bring instead of teachings. Therefore to answer my essay question, I don't think it is wrong to have sex before you marry nowadays because marriage is not as important to people now as it was back in the old days.

This topic is relevant in today's society because it makes religious people think about whether they want to have sex before marriage or whether they want to follow their traditional teachings. The amount of different views and opinions makes it really hard to determine whether it is right or wrong because there are really good arguments for and against sex before marriage, in the end it will really depend on a personal choice and what it will bring in the future.

of producing happiness. They do believe however that marriage is a security for children.

My view:

Having looked at information, I agree with the non-religious view on the relevance of marriage. I believe that as long as two people love each other and are not harming anyone else around them, marriage is not necessary. Many couples these days live together with their children and are unmarried, this suggests that many people believe marriage is no longer necessary. I believe that married and unmarried couples are treated very differently which I do not agree with. In Joe Walker's RMPS Morality & belief book it says "The Law is very clear: couples living together do not have the same rights as married couples and civil partners." In the years 2015/16 there were 9,943 divorces in Scotland, this shows an extremely large amount of people's marriages has ended in divorce and may make people think of the consequences that comes with that. However I do agree marriage gives people financial stability that unmarried couples do not have, for example if someone died who was in a relationship but unmarried died, the other person would not have the rights to property or pension etc. This would be different for married couples.

Conclusion:

In conclusion Christians believe marriage is still necessary because it shows true responsibility and commitment to someone and the only way to have kids is through marriage. Utilitarians believe that two people getting married makes most people happy rather than unhappy, marriage is still necessary otherwise they would disagree. In the survey I held it shows an overwhelming amount of 96% of people said marriage is no longer necessary in today's society. Overall, marriage is no longer necessary in today's society because there are many negative impacts of marriage that can affect people in many different ways.