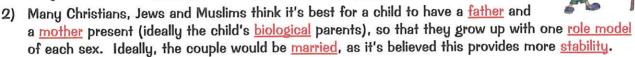
All religions

Families

As the saying goes, 'you can choose your GCSEs, but you can't choose your family'. Or something like that...

Family is Important to Christians, Jews and Muslims

Ideally, a <u>stable family</u> can give a child a sense of <u>identity</u> and a feeling of <u>security</u>.
 They'll learn how to <u>behave</u>, how to give and receive <u>love</u>, and about <u>right</u> and <u>wrong</u>.



3) For religious people, family life can be a way of introducing their children to their faith.

Christianity and Catholic Christianity

Family life is <u>important</u> for most Christians.
 It's seen as a way to build a <u>stable society</u>.

"family is 'the first and vital cell of society'." Pope John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio 42 (Catholic teachings on family)

 Many Christians believe it's important to have <u>children</u> and <u>educate</u> them in the <u>faith</u> — see for example <u>Catechism of the Catholic Church 2226</u> and this quote.

"bring [your children] up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 NIV

- This might include activities at <a href="https://home.nc.nib.google.com/home.
- Children become part of the faith at <u>baptism</u>, and this develops as they attend <u>church</u> and prepare for <u>confirmation</u> (see p.9). Many churches provide <u>Sunday schools</u>, which teach Christian <u>ideas</u> through <u>Bible</u> stories. Catholic children attend <u>catechism classes</u> to prepare them for their first confession and communion.
- · Festivals such as Christmas and Easter have a strong emphasis on celebration within the family.
- Children are asked to honour their parents to look after and respect them (Exodus 20:12).

Judaism

- Family life is also very important to Jews, as it's through the family that the Jewish religion and customs are passed on. Children are seen as a divine gift Psalm 127:3 NIV says "Children are a heritage from the Lord". Orthodox Jews consider anyone whose mother is Jewish to be Jewish Progressive Jews say the father can 'pass on' Jewishness as well.
- Children should <u>look after</u> their parents <u>honouring</u> your parents is a mitzvah (Exodus 20:12).
- Many Jewish <u>rituals</u> happen in the <u>home</u>, such as <u>celebrating Shabbat</u> or <u>keeping kashrut</u> (see p.32) so family life is important for <u>educating</u> children about the Jewish <u>faith</u>.
- Rituals like <u>brit milah</u> (male circumcision) and <u>simchat bat</u> (a girl's naming ceremony) <u>connect</u> the child to the faith. Their <u>bar/bat mitzvah</u> ceremony (p.33) requires them to <u>learn</u> about Judaism.
- Talmud Bava Batra 21a explains how <u>teachers</u> were introduced to <u>educate</u> children about the <u>Torah</u> from age 6 or 7. This ensured that <u>knowledge</u> about the Torah was <u>passed</u> from generation to generation. Now, <u>children</u> often attend classes at a <u>heder</u> (a religious school <u>run</u> by the <u>sunagogue</u>) to learn <u>Hebrew</u>, and study the <u>Torah</u> and <u>Talmud</u>. This helps them be able to <u>participate</u> in <u>prayers</u> and <u>services</u>.

Islam

- Many Muslims think <u>family life</u> teaches people to be <u>kind</u>, <u>considerate</u> and <u>affectionate</u>.
 Strong family ties help <u>strengthen</u> the Muslim community the <u>ummah</u>.
- The Qur'an asks people to <u>care for</u> their <u>parents</u> "We have enjoined upon man, to his parents, good treatment" (Qur'an 46:15). Muslims place importance on the <u>extended family</u> too.
- Rituals such as <u>aqiqah</u> (a naming ritual) and the <u>bismillah</u> ceremony, which marks the <u>start</u> of the child's <u>religious education</u>, help connect the child to the faith.
- · Following Muslim food laws by having halal food in the home helps introduce the child to Islam.
- Mosques often have <u>schools</u> (<u>madrasahs</u>) to teach children about <u>Islam</u>. They learn <u>Arabic</u> so they can read the <u>Qur'an</u> and say <u>prayers</u>. They're also taught from the <u>hadith</u> and <u>sunnah</u> (see p.19).

It's never simple, is it...

Explain why family is important for many religious people. Include an example from a source of wisdom and authority.

[6]

