

Lesson objective

- The aim of this lesson is to use a sorting exercise to help you understand and evaluate what Muslims believe about divorce; who can get one, how and in what circumstances.

Lesson outcomes

- ALL will be able to describe how a divorce is done in Islam, and what a divorce is allowed for.
- MOST will be able to explain the importance of the three month waiting period (Iddah)
- SOME will be able to compare Christian and Muslim views on divorce and decide which view they agree with the most.

Starter - True or False?

- Anyone can have a divorce if they ask for it
- The most common reason for divorce is "unreasonable behaviour"
- Half of all marriages in the UK end in divorce

Divorce

- In the UK, the law on divorce applies to everyone, regardless of what religion they are.
- Muslims and Christians are allowed to be legally divorced, even if their religion says it is wrong.
- You have to separate in your head what *religion* says about divorce and what the *law* says.





Islam and divorce



- Cut out the sixteen boxes carefully from the sheet.
- You have to stick the boxes in the correct place on the big A3 sheet.
- **HINT:** Do the easier ones first - all those that mention "Qur'an" must go in the bottom left hand box.

Answers - How a divorce is done

- A man has to tell his wife that he wants a divorce three times over three months
- When a husband asks for a divorce the couple still live together during the three month period but they don't have sex
- A couple can get back together during the three month period
- The couple can divorce and re-marry after the three month period is up
- Once she is divorced, a woman can marry again after three months
- The husband has to carry on looking after his wife until she marries again, even after they are divorced

Answers - What a divorce is allowed for

- You can get a divorce if the husband won't give any money to the wife
- You can get a divorce if one partner stops being a Muslim
- You can get a divorce if the husband is away for a long time or is put in prison
- You can get a divorce if one of the partners can't or won't have sex

Answers - What does the Qur'an say?

- The Qur'an says that divorce is not a good thing
- The Qur'an says that the three month waiting period is very important
- The Qur'an says that you can't throw your wife out of your house, even if you want a divorce!

Answers - How do Muslim teachings help?

- Muslim teachings on divorce reduce unhappiness
- Muslim teachings on divorce stop unpleasantness
- Muslim teachings on divorce mean that an unhappy couple don't have to stay together

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Three months later

- Do you think that the three-month waiting period is a good idea?
- Yes....
- No....
- Try to come up with at least one reason for YES and one reason for NO

Three months later

- YES... gives the couple time to work out their differences
- YES... stops the couple rushing and making the wrong decision
- NO... if the man is being unfair to his wife, she still has to live with him for three months
- NO... the couple might hate each other even more after three months!

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Mirror, mirror on the wall...

Which of these are **Christian** views and which are **Muslim** views?

Divorce after three months

Couple free to re-marry after three months

Divorce is sometimes allowed in cases of adultery

Divorce is not allowed at all

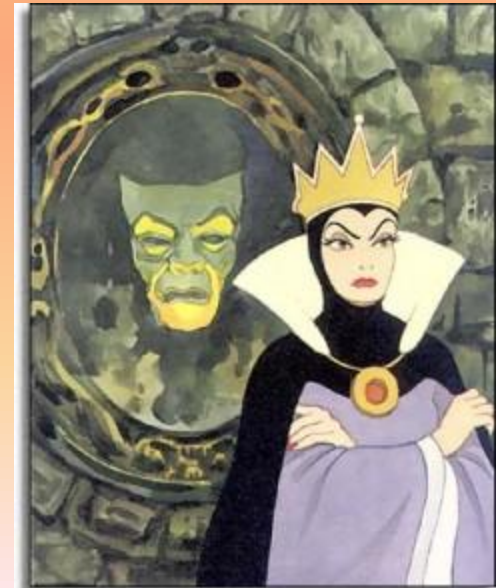
Couples can sometimes re-marry but sometimes can't

Divorce if man won't provide for women

Mirror mirror on the wall...

- ...who is the fairest?
- I agree with **Christian**/**Muslim** teachings on divorce because....

(give at least **one** reason for your answer)



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A Milhouse divided



- In this episode of the Simpsons, Milhouse's parents split up. As you watch, make notes on the sheet about the following...
- What causes the break up?
- What does Homer do to make sure the same doesn't happen to him and Marge?
- What does the programme tell us about marriage?



Plenary - True or False?

- Divorce is banned in Islam
- The couple must wait three months before being able to divorce
- Once the couple have asked for a divorce, they can't get back together