

Lesson objective

- The aim of this lesson is to use film clips and independent study to find out more about how Muslims get married and why marriage is important to them.

Lesson outcomes

- ALL will be able to **explain** what takes place at a Muslim wedding
- MOST will be able to **express an opinion** about having more than one wife
- SOME will be able to **see both sides** of the issue of arranged marriages

Introduction

- In western countries, Muslims will usually choose their own marriage partners and most Muslims will marry other Muslims.
- In Islamic countries, marriages are generally arranged within Muslim communities. **HOWEVER** the Qur'an does not lay this down, and the Qur'an states that no one is forced to marry against their will.



Rules

- The criteria for selecting a marriage partner are: wealth, beauty, rank, character, compatibility and religion.
- The Quran tells Muslims to select partners who are *good* and *pure* (tayyib)
- *"A woman may be married for four reasons: for her property, for her rank, for her beauty, and for her religion (and character). So marry the one who is best in the religion and character and prosper"*.

Watch the following clip carefully...





Think about...

What are the positive and negative points of an arranged marriage?

Positive

Best match

Looks

Disagree

Negative

Dating

Likes/dislikes

Love

Review

- Would you want an arranged marriage?
- Answer the question in your book by using some of the **positive** or **negative** arguments we looked at.

Lesson outcomes

- SOME will be able to **see both sides** of the issue of arranged marriages

How does it work?

- A boy's parents will search for a suitable partner for their son
- They will approach the girl's parents first.
- Then the daughter is asked for her consent (agreement) to the marriage.

Finding a partner

Many parents use advertisements via **newspapers, magazines and the internet** to find a suitable partner for their son/daughter.



INTERNET ADVERT

Female, 23, 5ft-4in, 163 cm, Never Married
Religion: Sunni (SYED)

Culture: Indian-Asian (UTTAR PRADESH)

Occupation: Student (M.B.B.S)

Location: America US (NEW JERSEY)

I am looking for a suitable match for my daughter, who has completed M.B.B.S. degree from India. Currently, she is pursuing her internship in India. She is 23 years of age, 5 feet 4 inches tall, religious, family-oriented, slim, fair and attractive. She is a green card holder.

We come from a respectable well educated Sunni family basically from U.P., India. Ours is a highly educated family with religious practice and noble values.

We are seeking a well educated, religious, intelligent, handsome, professional (Physician, Engineer etc.), who is in between 27-30 years of age. The prospective groom must be Asian Indian, sincere, and must have a good Islamic and cultural values.

If interested, kindly respond with details and contact information. Khuda Hafiz.

Contact Information:

Mrs. H.B. Jafri

XX Governor Drive

NJ 07920

Here is a real marriage profile, taken from an internet site.

1. How old is the woman?
2. Where does she live?
3. What is her appearance?
4. What do we know about her family?
5. What kind of man do the parents want to find?

Notice how detailed the profile is - this is all information parents need **so that they make the right choice.**

Watch the following clip carefully, particularly to what Mr Khan says. What is a big difference between Christian and Islamic marriage that he mentions?





Key Words

Write out the following key words on the sheet:



Monogamy

Being married to only one person at a time.



Polygamy

Having more than one wife at the same time.

Which practice does the religion of Islam follow?



Polygamy



Muslim men are allowed to have up to four wives.

In the past...

- At the time of Muhammad, it was thought to be the duty of a man to look after as many women as possible.
- Marriage was the best way to ensure that a woman was secure and treated with respect.

Today...

- Polygamy is only done under strict conditions, and any other wives must give their consent first.
- In this country polygamy is illegal and Muslim men can only have one wife.
- Some believe polygamy is wrong because it is impossible to treat more than one woman fairly.

"I think having more than one wife is a good idea". Do you agree? Give at least one reason for your answer. Write your answer in your book.

Lesson outcomes

- MOST will be able to **express an opinion** about having more than one wife

The Purpose...

- Marriage is a religious duty.
- The general purpose of marriage is that the sexes can provide company to one another, love to one another, have children and live in peace and tranquility to the commandments of Allah.

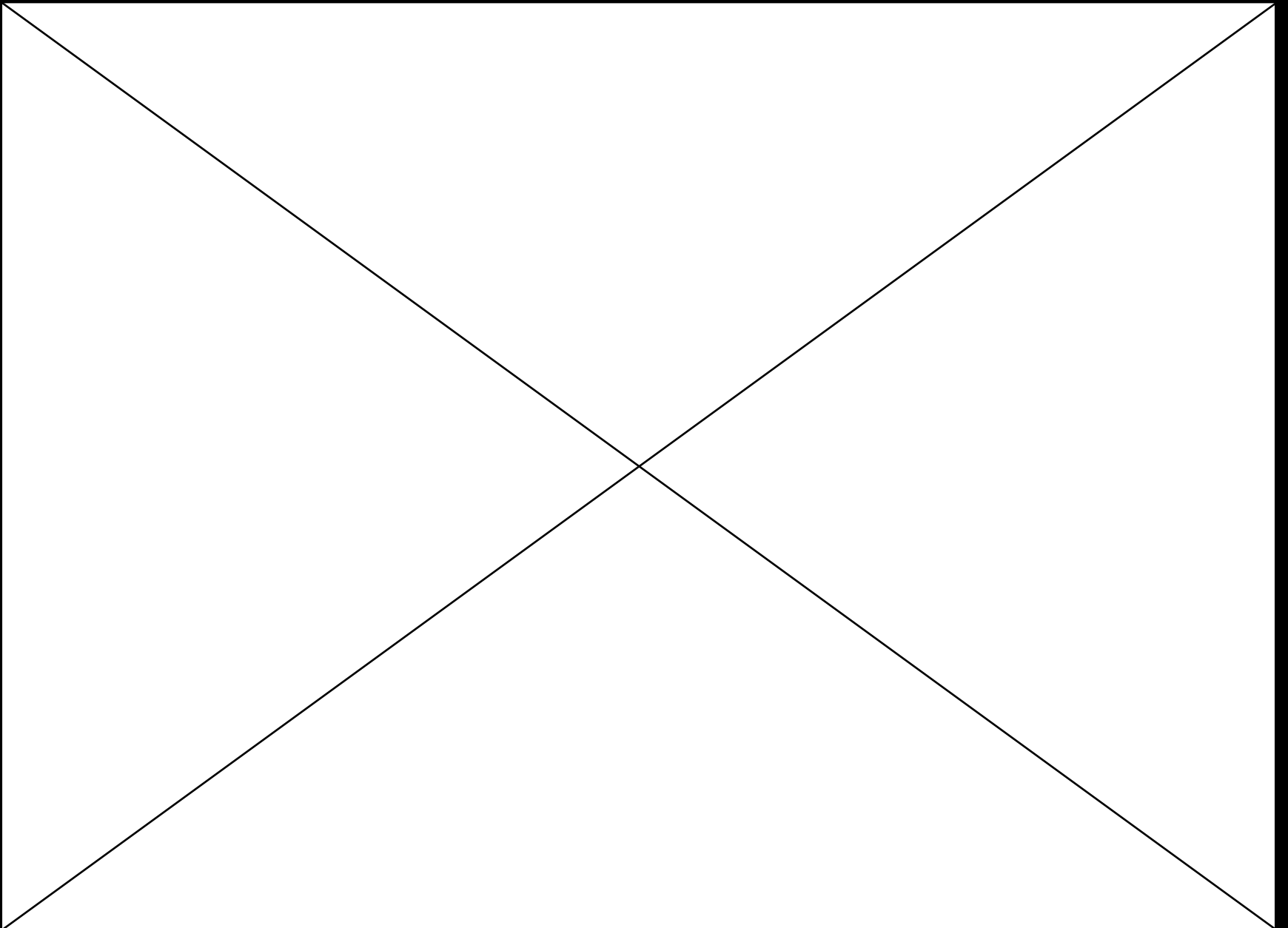


What are the four purposes of marriage?

Can any links be made with the purpose of a Christian marriage?

The Ceremony...

- Use the pieces of card stuck around the room to complete the table on the sheet.
- How many can you answer in the time you have?
- You will then see a film clip of a Muslim wedding from the UK.





Who can marry who?

- Muslim women rarely marry outside their faith.
- Muslim men can marry non-Muslims, as long as they are Christian or Jewish and their children are raised as Muslims.
- It is possible for a woman to convert to the Muslim faith.

The engagement

- The engagement period lasts three months.



- If the couple aren't married by the end of three months, they need to become engaged again.

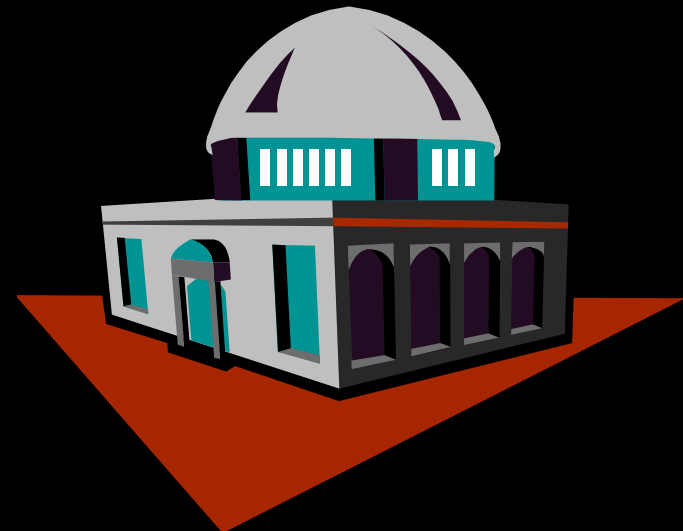
Who performs the ceremony?

- Any male Muslim who understands the traditions of Islam may perform the wedding ceremony.
- In most cases, however, the Qazi -- an elder of the mosque -- will do it.
- Female Muslims are not allowed to lead the service.



Where does it take place?

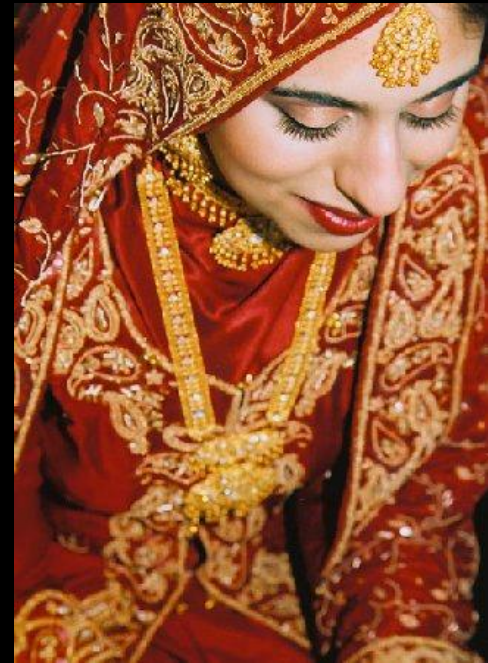
- A Muslim wedding can take place anywhere although the mosque is the preferred place



What do people wear?

- The bride wears sparkling, bright clothes, with lots of jewellery. Her hands and feet are decorated with henna tattoos (Mehndi).

The groom wears a simple outfit, either traditional or a western-style suit - or a combination of the two.



The ceremony

- The marriage party listens to a sermon given by the Muslim who is leading the service. Other than that **there are no set rituals** that have to be done; the marriage ceremony is very much up to the person leading it.
- **The ceremony ends with a prayer (Duoa) for the bride and groom and their families**



The first night...

- The bride and groom spend the first night of married life at her house, in separate rooms.
- In the morning, the bride's father will escort them to their new home and give the bride's hand to her husband, asking him to protect his daughter.

Lesson outcomes

- ALL will be able to **explain** what takes place at a Muslim wedding

Plenary

- Muslim weddings have no set pattern
- you are free to perform the ceremony however you want.
- Do you think this is better than having a set ceremony like in Christianity?