

Marriage quiz - Yes or No answers -

all questions refer to England unless otherwise stated

In England the list of forbidden marriages was drawn up by the Church of England in 1560 and remained unchanged until the 20th century.

1. Is it permitted for first cousins to marry?
Yes this has always been allowed in England however it is still illegal in some places including many US states.
2. Is it permitted for adoptive parents and children to marry?
No. Marriage (Prohibited Degrees of Relationship) Act 1986 includes these relationships as relationships of affinity - not seen as in the interests of society to allow them to marry.
3. Is it permitted to marry your former spouse's parent or child?
Yes. It has been permitted since the 1986 Marriage Act which set out the current degrees of prohibition.
4. Is it permitted to marry your deceased wife's sister?
Yes but this has not always been the case. It was on the list of banned relationships in the Marriage Act of 1836. It was removed in the (Deceased Wife's Sister's) Marriage Act of 1907.
5. At the time of Jesus were marriages solemnised in the synagogue?
No. In Palestine at that time marriage was a family affair and not that of the temple or synagogue. Marriage is not a formal religious rite anywhere in Scripture. Only find some evidence of this around the 4th Century. It wasn't until 1215 that the church declared marriage a sacrament and set up a system of canon law around it. In 1549 - Thomas Cranmer includes marriage vows in Book of Common Prayer
6. Was public registration of marriage compulsory in 1740?
No, The Marriage Act 1753, full title "An Act for the Better Preventing of Clandestine Marriage", popularly known as Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act, made the public registration of marriages compulsory. State involvement in marriage begins - marriage had to be in a CofE Church or chapel and by a CofE priest with two witnesses - leads on to ...
7. In 1835 could an English Methodist get married in a Methodist Church?
No In 1753, the Marriage Act, promoted by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hardwicke, declared that all marriage ceremonies must be conducted by a minister in a parish church or chapel of the Church of England to be legally binding. Although Jews and Quakers were exempted from the 1753 Act, it required religious non-conformists and Catholics to be married in Anglican churches. This restriction was eventually removed by Parliament in the Marriage Act of 1836 which allowed non-conformists and Catholics to be married in their own places of worship. It was also made possible for non-

religious civil marriages to be held in register offices which were set up in towns and cities. John Wesley wanted Methodists to continue to marry in the parish church but Methodists pressed and in 1845 Conference gave a cautious welcome to solemnisation of marriages in Methodist Churches and promised regulations within 12 months (that never came). The Conference insisted that no Wesleyan minister should feel compelled to conduct weddings. NB John Wesley published thoughts on marriage three times - revising them to reflect his experience, pastoral concerns and theological reflection (1745 before he was married, 1748 whilst he was married, and 1785 after he was married).

8. In 1275 was the age of consent 15 years of age for a girl in England?
*No An age of consent statute first appeared in secular law in 1275 in England as part of the rape law. The statute, Westminster 1, made it a misdemeanor to "ravish" a "maiden within age," whether with or without her consent. The phrase "within age" was interpreted by jurist Sir Edward Coke as meaning the age of marriage, which at the time was 12 years of age. 1576 law making it a felony to "unlawfully and carnally know and abuse any woman child under the age of 10 years" was generally interpreted as creating more severe punishments when girls were under 10 years old while retaining the lesser punishment for acts with 10- and 11-year-old girls. 1929 - **Age of Marriage Act** - prior to this boys aged 14 and girls aged 12 could marry*
9. In 2006 could Same Sex committed couples living together have legal rights towards each other?
Yes if they were in a Civil Partnership. Up until 2005 they couldn't - this is when Civil Partnerships were introduced adding the legal benefits of marriage to non-married partners. In 2013 - Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act - marriage of same sex couples became legal. This was the first time the Methodist and civil understanding of marriage was different.
10. In 1940 did a divorced person have to go before a District Disciplinary Committee to remain as a Methodist Church member?
Yes - this remained the case up until the late 1940s. 1969 Divorce Reform Act - previously divorce only possible due to adultery or prolonged separation - now couples could divorce after they had been separated for two years (or five years if only one of them wanted a divorce). A marriage could be ended if it had irretrievably broken down, and neither partner had to prove "fault".