OCR H573 | INDEPENDENT REVISION

# A* Model Essay

## Gender & Society

Christian Thought

## Can fixed social roles for women and men be justified by Christian teaching?

1,640 response words | Complete annotated PDF | Individual topic edition

### What is included

A complete original response, an argument plan, paragraph-level AO1/AO2 annotations and source works for further reading.

A* describes the intended style of this teaching model. This is independently written, not an OCR-marked script or a guaranteed grade.

Use this model to study argument and evaluation, then write your own answer. Do not submit it as your own assessed work.

Individual-use digital edition | 10 November 2026

# Argument plan

Can fixed social roles for women and men be justified by Christian teaching?

Thesis: Christian teaching can affirm embodiment, family responsibilities and different individual vocations without assigning authority or opportunity by sex. Fixed hierarchical roles depend on contested interpretations and are less convincing than an egalitarian reading that tests social arrangements against the full humanity of women and the gifts of each person.

### 1. Creation and complementarity can support equal worth alongside different roles.

Counter-argument: Difference does not establish that one sex should possess authority or a fixed social vocation.

Interim judgement: Embodied difference is compatible with equality but does not prove hierarchy.

### 2. Some biblical household and Church passages appear to restrict women's roles.

Counter-argument: Mutuality, shared dignity and women's ministry challenge their universalisation.

Interim judgement: The whole Christian vision and historical context should govern application rather than isolated proof texts.

### 3. Feminist criticism exposes exclusion and tests the Church's claim to affirm everyone.

Counter-argument: It may import a secular standard or undervalue chosen motherhood and family life.

Interim judgement: Equality should expand genuine vocation and agency, not impose a new uniform lifestyle.