

Situation 1

Rebecca is eight weeks pregnant. She has a highly-paid job, which she loves. Before realising she was pregnant, she applied for a promotion and is due to start this new role next month.

If she does go through with the pregnancy, she will be raising the child with minimal help from the father. He is a man Rebecca had been on a few dates with but had decided not to start a relationship with.

Rebecca would have family support from her parents and sister, all of who live near to her. However, she does not want to burden her parents – who are in their late 60s – with childcare.

Situation 2

Aisha has a genetic condition which limits her quality of life. She is married to John, whom she describes as the 'ideal husband'. They have been married for nearly 10 years and are very happy. With John's help, Aisha is managing her condition well.

When they first married, Aisha and John made the conscious decision not to have children. They felt that it was too much of a risk that Aisha's condition may be passed onto her child.

Aisha has recently found out she is pregnant. The doctors have told her that the pregnancy may be very difficult for her and may result in a miscarriage. If the baby is born, there is a good chance it will inherit her genetic condition. Despite their worries, they are both excited at the possibility of having a child.

Situation 3

Zeeshan and Charlotte are a cohabiting couple in their late 20s.

They live in a big city and, owing to the high price of rental accommodation, are forced to live in a poor quality one-bedroom flat.

Charlotte is twenty weeks pregnant and very concerned about bringing a child into the world. She is currently training to be a physiotherapist and is working part-time as a cleaner. Zeeshan lost his job three months ago and has been unable to find another. He is currently receiving benefits whilst he searches for a job.

Situation 4

Alice is in Year 11 and turns 16 next year. She has just found out she is pregnant. Her boyfriend, who is also in Year 11, has been very supportive and said he will stand by her no matter what decision she makes.

Alice has not told her parents yet. She thinks they will be disappointed in her, but believes they will support her financially if she decides to have the baby.

Both Alice and her boyfriend are very worried about the impact the pregnancy will have on their ability to do well in their GCSEs.