Essential Spellings and definitions

These terms are essential to this unit of work, you must know how to correctly spell these terms and also know what they mean. Please focus on these each week too!

MONOTHEISM	Belief in one God
ATHEISM	Belief there is no God
THEISM	Belief in a God
AGNOSTISM	Unsure of God's existence
OMNIPOTENT	God is seen as all-powerful
OMNISCIENT:	God is seen as all-knowing
OMNIBENEVOLENT	God is seen as all-Loving
IMMANENT	God is active in the world
TRANSCEDENT	God is separate from time and space
INCARNATION	God 'in the flesh'. In human form.
TRINITY	Three persons of God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
RESURRECTION	Jesus rose from the dead 3 days after his crucifixion
ASCENSION	Jesus rose up to Heaven 40 days after his resurrection
SALVATION	The act of being saved from sin

Homework A. Set date:

Due Date:

Belief in God

Christians are **monotheistic,** which means that they believe in only one God. Christians share this belief with the other main world religions such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism.

There are approximately 2.3 billion Christians in the world; which is approximately 31% of the world's population. In Britain it is easy to think that Christianity is on the decline as fewer people are going to church than there used to be. However, just because Christians may not go to church it does not mean that they no longer believe in God. Secondly Christianity is actually expanding (getting bigger) in other parts of the world, in particular in South America and Africa.

Understanding God is complex. God is unlike anything else. Even finding the right words to describe God is difficult. God is often referred to as a He but this is not helpful as God does not have a physical body. How can God be a 'He' if God has no body? God is transcendent which means that God exists outside of time and space and not part of the physical world/ universe that we live in.

All religious believers believe that God created the universe. They believe that God purposely created the universe and that humans have a very special place in creation. Christians believe that because God is omnipotent (all powerful) God has the power to create the complex and amazing universe in which we exist.

Christians believe that humans can have a special relationship with God if they choose to. God gives humans freewill which means that everyone is 'free' to make all their own choices. Christians believe that God is benevolent which means that God is loving and good and loves humans.

1. What does the word monotheistic mean?	6. What does transcendent mean?
2. Which other world religions are monotheistic?	7. What word is used to explain that God created the universe?
3. Approximately how many Christians are there in the world?	8. What is freewill?
4. Where in the world is Christianity expanding (getting bigger)?	9. Who can have a relationship with God?
5. Why is referring to God as a He not very helpful?	10. What does Benevolent mean?

Score: /

Nature of God

Christians have many beliefs about God's nature, one is they consider God to be holy, which means something set apart from everything else for a special purpose and worthy of worship. They also believe that although many Christians refer to God as 'he' or 'Father' they do not believe God is male. God is beyond gender – showing both traditional male and female characteristics.

In order to be the perfect 'Supreme being', it is important that Christians understand that God is **omnipotent.** God is all powerful with unlimited authority – there is nothing God cannot do or achieve. For Christians, the idea that God is loving is very important. They believe that because God loves humans; **omnibenevolent**, God wants what is best for them. They believe that God created humans because he is all loving and desired to bestow his love upon his creatures.

God is also believed to be the perfect giver of justice; he is just (fair). This not only means deciding on right and wrong but being the perfect judge of human character.

Christians also believe God is **transcendent**, he has no beginning or end and is beyond space and time.

Despite all the terms that Christians use to try to explain God's nature, they still believe that God is beyond our understanding and is unknowable.

1. What is omnipotence?	6. What is the Christian understanding of God's transcendence?
2. What do Christians believe about God's omnipotence?	7. How is God the perfect giver of justice?
3. What is the belief about God's gender?	8. How is God unknowable?
4. What is the definition of omnibenevolent?	9. How is God holy?
5. How does God show he is omnibenevolent?	10. What is the definition of just?

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The Trinity

The **Trinity** is the idea that there is one God but that God has 3 different 'persons': Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christians believe in one God who has 3 'persons'. God is **transcendent** as God the Father. (Creator). God is **immanent** as the Son Jesus and through the Holy spirit. The Holy Spirit is also impersonal as it is a force but personal through God the Father and Son. Christians are **monothe-ists.**

The concept of the **Trinity** is confusing. Christians accept this but say God cannot be known. The nature of God is beyond human understanding. We cannot make full sense of it. The Trinity helps Christians attempt to understand God by describing all three of the following at once: There is only one God. Each person in the **Trinity** are fully God. The persons of the **Trinity** are not the same. Many Christians will admit that they do not fully understand how the whole trinity works together but they can understand God and get close to God when they focus on one particular part.

Christians often use symbols that show the concept of the **Trinity**, showing the concept 'three in one'. One of the earliest and simplest symbol is an equilateral triangle, with each of its sides representing one of the Persons of the **Trinity**. Other symbols are also used:



1. What is the trinity?	6. How does the trinity help Christians? (1point)
2. What is the belief about God the Father?	7. How does the trinity help Christians? (1point)
3. What is the belief about God the Son?	8. What do Christians often use to help represent the trinity?
4. What is the belief about God the Holy Spirit?	9. How are Christians monotheistic when God has 3 persons?
5. How does the trinity help Christians? (1point)	10. How else could you remember the Trinity? (Think of something with 3parts)

Score:	/10
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Homework D. Set date:

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God the Father

Christians believe God has a role like a human Father. They believe he created the world, they believe he looks out for us and helps us in times of need, they believe he tries to guide and teach us how to behave, they believe he judges us and punishes us if we are bad.

Gods Creation - Genesis

Long ago, before the earth and all things in it, there was only God.

On day one God said, "Let there be light." God called the light day, and the darkness He called night.

On day two God made the sky.

On day three God separated the land from the waters and created flowers, trees, and grass.

On day four God made the sun, moon, and stars.

On day five the birds and fish were created.

On day six God made animals and then He made people to be like Him. He named the man Adam, and Adam named his wife, Eve.

God rested on day seven. He saw everything He had made and said that it was good.

<u>Genesis for Fundamental Christians (Bible is exact)</u>)—Seen as an exact description & explanation of the creation of the world. Some Christians would be very upset to think that this is a story and would take the creation story to be a literal event that actually took place.

<u>Genesis for Liberal Christians (Bible has meaning)</u>— That God was involved in the creation of the world, so compatible with the Big bang. Some Christians believe that the creation story taken from the bible is a myth. They believe it is a story with a meaning behind it.

1. What do Christians think about God's role? (1point)	6. What does God create on the 7th day of Creation according to Genesis?
2. What do Christians think about God's role? (1point)	7. What is the view of the Bible from a Fundamental point of view?
3. What does God create on the 6th day of Creation according to Genesis?	8. What is the view of the Bible from a Liberal point of view?
4. What does God create on the 4th day of Creation according to Genesis?	9. How do Fundamental Christians understand the Genesis story?
5. What does God create on the 2nd day of Creation according to Genesis?	10. How do Liberal Christians understand the Genesis story?

Score: /10

God the Son

Birth—Around 6-4BC a Census of all the Roman people was ordered. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem from Nazareth to be registered. Whilst there Mary gave birth to Jesus, fully human (baby born of Mary) and fully divine (God). God became incarnated (born in the flesh) .He was a Jew. She had to put Jesus in a manger in a stable because there was no room at the inn. As Jesus became older he was baptized by John, "as soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment Heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Life—When Jesus was old enough, he needed to start his work teaching the people. He couldn't do this alone so he chose 12 disciples as his friends and followers. Jesus also helped others he performed miracles such as the Ten Healed of Leprosy 'Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.' Jesus also told many stories during his life which had deeper meanings — we call these parables.

Death—The Romans were concerned that Jesus would lead a rebellion against them; they were afraid of losing their power. He was put to death by Pontius Pilate who was known for being ruthless. Jesus was crucified (killed on a cross) around 30-33CE on a hill called Golgotha outside Jerusalem for 'crimes against Rome'. After Jesus was killed on the cross his body was buried in a sealed tomb; but Christians believe it didn't stay there very long. In the Bible it says that three days later Jesus came back to life and showed himself to many people. He even let his disciple Thomas touch his wounds! Christians believe Jesus defeated death when he died on the cross and that they too will have eternal life. Jesus continued to visit his disciples for 40days after his **resurrection**; these are known as the **resurrection** appearances. After these 40days he ascended to Heaven, this is known as the **ascension**.

1. When did Mary and Joseph travel to?	6. How else did Jesus help people?
2. Where was Jesus placed at birth?	7. What is a parable?
3. Who was Jesus baptized by?	8. How did Jesus die?
4. What did God say when Jesus was baptized?	9. What happened three days after her was placed in the tomb?
5. Who did Jesus ask to help teach his message?	10. What happened after Jesus rose from the dead?

Homework F. Set date:	Due Date:

God the Holy Spirit

Christians believe that when Jesus died and left the Earth, God sent the Holy Spirit to influence and guide Christians to lead good lives and bring people closer to God. The Holy Spirit is the unseen power of God, at work in the world past, present and future. Some Christians believe with God's help they can use the Holy Spirit to heal people.

Impact of the Holy Spirit— Guides Christians today – e.g. leaders ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance when choosing a new head of the Church. Involved in Baptism – filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit therefore equips people to live the Christian life.

Review Task: Which of the following statements match each part of the trinity.

Colour code God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Spirit.

, -	God guides and nurtures humanity as a	Gods presence in the world today
in it	parent	
Perfect example of how humans	Gives people the power to heal today	God incarnate. Came to Earth to save
should live		humanity

1. What is the Holy Spirit supposed to do for a Christian? (1point)	
2. What is the Holy Spirit supposed to do for a Christian? (1point)	
3. What is the impact of the Holy Spirit for a Christian? (1point)	
4. What is the impact of the Holy Spirit for a Christian? (1point)	

Homework G. Set date:

Due Date:

The Fall and Salvation

In the book of Genesis the story is told of the first humans who lived in paradise, who turned away from God and who took humanity away from God and true happiness.

The Fall

Adam and Eve were happy in the Garden of Eden where God provided for all of their needs. God gave them only one rule: do not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. The serpent came to Eve and tempted her with lies and convinced her to eat from the tree. Then Eve gave some of the fruit to Adam and he also ate it. At that point they both realised their sin and guilt at disobeying God. For the first time, people experienced shame. Because of their sin, God banished Adam and Eve from the garden. The story of the fall is how sin entered the world.

What does **Salvation** mean to Christians? - To be saved from sin and the consequences of it. To be granted eternal life with God. To get close to God again.

Christians believe that Jesus' death makes up for the original sin committed by Adam and Eve and so can bring people back to God. The crucifixion was the result of human evil set against an innocent man. Jesus could have avoided being crucified – when being crucified some people shouted to him to use his powers to get down from the cross. However, he knew that his death was necessary to restore the relationship between God and believers and make the opportunity for **salvation** available to all people. This enables Christians to gain atonement, to be at one with God.

1. What is the Genesis story about?	6. What did Eve do after being tempted?
2. Who were the first humans?	7. What did they realise?
3. Where did the live?	8. What is salvation?
4. What was the one rule of this place?	9. Why did Jesus not stop his crucifixion?
5. Who came to tempt Eve?	10. What did the crucifixion restore?

Homework H. Set date:

Due Date:

The Bible

The Bible is the Holy Book in Christianity. There are many different types of books in the Bible, out the 66 books, some are history, poetry, biography and these are split into two main sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The style of writing depends on the purpose of writing.

Old Testament – This contains 39 books and it prepares the world for Jesus.

New Testament - This contains 27 books, telling the stories about the life of Jesus and all teachings and letters from after Jesus was alive.

Reading the Bible

A Bible reference is made up of 3 parts: Luke 6:11. Luke is the Book, 6 is the Chapter and 11 is the verse.

Views on the Bible

- Fundamentalist Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God and it is all true.
- Some Christians believe that the Bible is accurate, but it is not God's actual words.
- Liberal Christians believe that the Bible is symbolic and may not all be completely true. Instead they look to the meaning in the stories.

1. What is the Bible?	6. What is the Verse in Matthew 8:30?
2. How many books are in the Bible?	7. What is the Chapter in Psalm 105:30 ?
3. What does the Old Testament include?	8. Which type of Christian think the Bible is all true?
4. What does the New Testament include?	9. Which type of Christian think the Bible has a meaning?
5. What is the Book in Matthew 8:30?	10. What is another view of the Bible from some Christians?

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The Bible: A Guide to Life

The Bible has many different uses for Christians. It can be seen as a guidebook for life where Christians can turn to for advice, guidance and reassurance.

Absolute law—As the Bible is classed as the Word of God, some of the teachings within it are classed as absolute law. An absolute law is one that must be followed at all times, such as the Ten Commandments. Because these are laws set down by God, then they must be obeyed. Christians believe that some laws in the Bible are unchanging and apply in all situations regardless of the circumstance. Christians are expected to follow these laws, and they believe people will be judged on this after death.

Guidance—The Bible is used by Christians to give them guidance about how they can live their lives in the way God would want them to. There is guidance in the Bible on many areas of life and Christians will turn to this advice when they are faced with a dilemma

Worship— Another main use of the Bible is for it to be read during worship services and ceremonies. Passages from the Bible are read and discussed during regular worship services where the priest will read a certain passage of the Bible, this passage will often have some meaning

Ceremonies -The Bible plays a key role during rites of passage and ceremonies. In each ceremony there will be readings from the Bible. The scripture passages chosen will link the ceremonies to the life and teaching of Christ,. Christian rites of passage include Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.

1. What does the Bible give Christians? (1 Point)	6. When is the Bible read?	
2. What does the Bible give Christians? (1 Point)	7. Why might the priest chose a certain passage during worship?	
3. What does the Bible give Christians? (1 Point)	8. What are religious ceremonies in Christianity? (1 Point)	
4. What is absolute law?	9. What are religious ceremonies in Christianity? (1 Point)	
5. What is an example of absolute law?	10. How does the Priest chose the correct passage for the ceremony?	

Parable—Good Samaritan

A parable is a story with a meaning.

There once was a Jewish man walking along a road. He was coming from Jerusalem and was heading to Jericho, which was a full day or two of walking. The road was rocky and there were small hills all around. Suddenly a group of men jumped out from behind a hill. They took all his belongings and tore off most of his clothes. They didn't want him to follow them so they beat him up very badly, and left him lying and bleeding on the side of the road.

A few minutes later, a priest was walking down the same path and noticed the man lying on the side of the road, Instead he crossed the road and walked on the other side and acted like he didn't see the man. About an hour or so later, another man, called a Levite, was walking down the road. Levites were people who assisted priests with their work. He slowed down and walked a little closer to the man, but then kept walking without helping him at all.

Just a few minutes later, another man came walking. He was a Samaritan. One thing you should know about Samaritans is that Jews didn't like them. Jews usually didn't treat Samaritans very well, so they never got along. The man who was dying on the road was a Jew. But as soon as he saw the man, he went over to him and felt compassion for him. He put bandages on his sores and poured oil and wine (which were quite expensive) on the sores to prevent them from getting worse. Then he lifted the man on his own donkey and took him to a hotel to take care of him. The next day the Samaritan took out enough money so the man could stay at the hotel until he was well enough to leave. He paid the man at the front desk and asked him to take care of the man. If he wasn't better after about two months the Samaritan would come back and pay for any extra cost.

1. What is a parable?	6. What was important about the man being a Samaritan?
2. Who was robbed?	7. How did the Samaritan help him? (1point)
3. Who walked past the injured man first?	8. How did the Samaritan help him? (1point)
4. Who walked past the injured man next?	9. How did the Samaritan help him? (1point)
5. Who walked past the injured man next?	10. What is the meaning behind the parable?

Homework K. Set date:

Due Date:

Score:

Parable—Prodigal Son

There was a man who had two sons. The younger son spoke to his father. He said, 'Father, give me my share of the family property. So the father divided his property between his two sons. Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living. He spent everything he had. Then the whole country ran low on food. So the son didn't have what he needed. Then he began to think clearly again. He realised he had everything as home and wanted to return to his father.

While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattest calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

The older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants. He asked him what was going on. "Your brother has come home," the servant replied. 'Your father has killed the fattest calf. He has done this because your brother is back safe and sound.' The older brother became angry. He refused to go in. So his father went out and begged him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've worked like a slave for you. I have always obeyed your orders. You never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But this son of yours wasted your money with some prostitutes. Now he comes home. And for him you kill the fattest calf!'

"'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.'

1. How many sons did the man have?	6. What did the father plan?
2. What did the father do?	7. What was the eldest sons reaction? (1Point)
3. What did the youngest son do?	8. What was the eldest sons reaction? (1Point)
4. Why did he return?	9. What was the fathers response?
5. How did the father react to his return?	10. What is the meaning behind the parable?

Parable—Sheep & Goats

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.' The good people will then answer him, 'when, Lord did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you into our homes, or naked and clothed you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you? Jesus replied, 'I will tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me!'

'Whenever you refused to help these least important ones, you refused to help me'. These then, will be sent off to eternal punishment, but the good people will go to eternal life.

God's Judgement

Some Christians believe that this judgement will happen when they die. Others believe that there will be a **Day of Judgement** at the end of time, when everybody will be judged at the same time. Some believe that judgement will happen in two stages: an initial **personal judgement** when you die, fol-

1. What is the Bible?	6. What is the Verse in Matthew 8:30?
2. How many books are in the Bible?	7. What is the Chapter in Psalm 105:30 ?
3. What does the Old Testament include?	8. Which type of Christian think the Bible is all true?
4. What does the New Testament include?	9. Which type of Christian think the Bible has a meaning?
5. What is the Book in Matthew 8:30?	10. What is another view of the Bible from some Christians?

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Life After Death

Heaven—Christians use earthly image to explain their understanding of heaven, but Christianity teaches that heaven is a state of being, not a physical place. It is being with God outside time and space. Heaven is where they experience the presence of God forever – eternally.

The Bible describes heaven using images such as blinding light, singing and beauty. Christianity teaches that death is not the end. It separates life on earth which is temporary and subject to the limitations of time and space with life with God which is eternal and beyond time and space. Death is not something to be feared. Many believe that they will be reunited with loved ones who have already died which helps them with the awful pain of bereavement.

Hell: Hell is often seen as the opposite of heaven. Christians understand it to be a state of existence without God. The Bible depicts hell as a place of unquenchable fire. This is a metaphor but it led to the most horrific paintings in the Middle Ages which were used to scare and frighten people into obeying the rules of the Church. It was depicted as a place of eternal suffering, terror, fire and torture ruled by the Devil. It is pictured as a fiery pit somewhere beneath the earth.

Many Christians reject those literal views of hell. Biblical descriptions of hell are symbolic – because God does exist it is better to be in his presence. They teach that hell is eternal separation from God. This separation results from the deliberate rejection of any relationship with God so hell is not what God decides for people or what He wants but is a result of Free Will – free choice.

Hell is where the body and soul both cease to exist at the point of physical death.

1. What do Christians use to show their view of Heaven?	6. What is Hell?	
2. What is Heaven?	7. What images are used in the Bible for Hell?	
3. What images are used in the Bible for Heaven?	8. What was the idea of the Medieval paintings?	
4. What does the idea of Heaven give to Christians?	9. What do those Christians believe who have a non literal view of Hell?	
5. What do Christians believe about death?	10. What cease to exist as physical death?	

Faith in Action

Salvation: In Christian belief, salvation means to be saved from sin and the consequences of it and be given eternal life with God in heaven. This is brought about by Jesus. Sin has separated humans from God and salvation enables humans to get close to God again.

Salvation through Works: In Jesus' time his fellow Jews believed that in order to be accepted by God they had to obey the law. This meant following all the commandments laid down in scripture as their religious leaders interpreted them. Some Christians follow this approach which is called 'salvation through works'. You have to earn the relationship with God through doing good things and avoiding sin.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid works wherever it is needed in the world; no matter what religion the people are who need its help. Christian Aid works with about 570 local organisations, or partners, around the world. Christian Aid believes in helping people to find their own solutions to the problems they face, and works to end poverty and change the rules that keep people poor. They believe that everyone have the right to have enough food and water, a safe place to live, be able to go to school and see a doctor when they're sick.

Christian Aid is seen by many as a way of showing concern for those in need by putting love in to action. It enables people to show their neighbours (anyone in the world) that they care. Christians believe that they should show love to their neighbours everywhere and help those who suffer. They are to follow Jesus' teachings and example. If they don't they are not fulfilling what it really means to be a Christian. Christian Aid is supported by churches in Britain and Ireland, and bases its ideals on Christian teaching. The charity believes that we can change all that is unfair in the world if all people work together.

1. What is salvation?	6. What do Christian Aid believe? (1 Point)
2. What does salvation give?	7. What do Christian Aid believe? (1 Point)
3. What is salvation through works?	8. What do Christian Aid believe? (1 Point)
4. Where do Christian Aid work?	9. What is love in action?
5. What is the aim of Christian Aid?	10. What does the charity believe?

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Homework O. Set date:

Due Date:

Faith in Action

Justice involves making sure everyone is treated equally. Christians believe that God wants justice in the world, so they often try to practise it.

Fairtrade

One way many Christians live out their beliefs that they should bring justice is to support the Fairtrade campaign. They make sure that they buy Fairtrade products and that they take part in the campaign for fairer trade laws.

Fairtrade is when people who grow and produce food (for example coffee and chocolate) and other products (e.g. clothing) are paid a fair price for their work. This helps make sure they have enough money to look after themselves and their families, and also makes sure that they work in safe conditions. Choosing fair trade products helps improve the lives of the people who make or grow the product. It treats them in a Fair way.

Fairer trade rules would make a massive difference. If the rules were fair, poor farmers and traders would be better able to grow their businesses and give more work to others.

This would mean they could afford: to feed and clothe their families, send their children to school and pay for medicines.

1. What is justice?	6. What products could be included in Fairtrade? (1 Point)	
2. What helps bring justice?	7. What products could be included in Fairtrade? (1 Point)	
3. What campaign do Christians take place in?	8. What does Fairtrade help those people with?	
4. What is Fairtrade?	9. What differences does Fairtrade make? (1 Point)	
5. What products could be included in Fairtrade? (1 Point)	10. What differences does Fairtrade make? (1 Point)	

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