



GCSE

4171/02

**ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE
HIGHER TIER
UNIT 1 (READING)**

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 7 November 2012

1 hour

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Resource Material.

An 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark available for this unit is 40.

The number of marks in brackets will give you an indication of the time you should spend on each question or part-question.

Answer **all** the following questions.

The passage on the opposite page is an internet essay, 'How fair is Fairtrade?', by Brendan O'Neill.

The separate Resource Material is a newspaper article, 'Going for Gold', by Liz Jones.

Look at the first page of the newspaper article 'Going for Gold' in the separate Resource Material.

1. According to Liz Jones, what are the conditions like in the mine and village of San Luis?

You must use evidence from the text to support your answer. [10]

Now look at the second page of the newspaper article.

2. How does Liz Jones try to show that the village and mine at Santa Filomena are examples of the benefits of Fairtrade? [10]

You must use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Now look at the internet essay 'How fair is Fairtrade?' on the opposite page.

3. What does Brendan O'Neill think and feel about Fairtrade?

You must use the text to support your answer. [10]

To answer the next question you will need to refer to both texts.

4. What do these two texts say about the impact of Fairtrade on **people** in developing countries?

Organise your answer into two paragraphs, using the following headings:

- what Liz Jones says;
- what Brendan O'Neill says.

You must make it clear from which text you get your information. [10]

How fair is Fairtrade?

The Fairtrade label is increasingly common. But while shoppers seem keen to pay a little over the odds for Fairtrade products, I have to ask how effective it really is in helping farmers in developing countries.

Fairtrade products are popping up everywhere. Gone are the days when you had to trek to an off-the-beaten-track shop to buy a chocolate bar or a woolly jumper. Now you just need to visit the High Street. Topshop sells Fairtrade tunics, bubble tops and racer-back vests. Marks and Spencer works with more than 600 Fairtrade cotton farmers in developing countries, using their cotton to produce chinos, jeans and a host of fashion items. Sainsbury's sells Fairtrade coffee and chocolate, and recently announced that the only bananas it will sell in future will come from Fairtrade producers.

There are more than 2,500 product lines in the UK that carry the Fairtrade mark. Last year we spent £290 million on Fairtrade food, furniture and clothing. The aim of Fairtrade is clear – to get a better deal for producers in developing countries. In order to win the Fairtrade tag, companies have to pay more than the market price for their products. This means producers have extra money to invest in education for their children and other social needs.

But I am not totally convinced that Fairtrade is a good idea. By focusing just on getting a fair price, the Fairtrade movement doesn't encourage mechanisation so workers are forced to continue doing back-breaking work and don't escape poverty.

So how fair is Fairtrade? Is it just about getting workers in developing countries to accept their situation by giving them, at best, just a little bit more? I suspect that Fairtrade can end up being a trap for workers in developing countries, making them dependent on charity-minded shoppers in the West. I worry that these workers can become prisoners of our shopping habits as they depend on us paying higher prices for their goods.

We all want to be charitable to people who are less fortunate than we are, but I would also ask how a few extra pennies a day from Fairtrade can be celebrated as an outstanding achievement for the poor. I recently read about some Fairtrade farmers in Peru who were being paid about £2 a day for working from 6am to 4.30pm. This is more than they normally earn, but not much more. We are surely right to be concerned that the Fairtrade movement is focusing on increasing wages by fairly small amounts rather than really changing poor countries through development and modernisation. Perhaps Fairtrade is more about flattering Western shoppers than changing the lives of people in developing countries. It appeals to our vanity and makes us feel good about ourselves but really does little to improve the lives of the poor.

It seems to me that Fairtrade is not the best way out of poverty for everyone.

Brendan O'Neill

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4171/02-A

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Resource Material

Going for Gold?

Just make sure it's Fairtrade

Often I have nights when I complain that I'm so tired I feel as though I've been working down a mine all day. Like most people, I have no concept of how hard some people – mostly in developing countries and mostly female – work to bring us luxury goods. But now that I am in a gold-mining village called San Luis in the middle of the desert in Peru, I'm beginning to get the idea.

Mine shafts are given female names but it's forbidden for women to enter them, which is why women are relegated to the back-breaking work of grading rubble on the surface. When I get permission to enter one of the mine shafts – called 'Diana' – I have no idea how anyone could work there. Dark, dusty and sometimes wet, it keeps making me think of the Chilean gold miners who were trapped for 69 days. The only light is from my helmet, and there are steep, dark drops to seams below us in the mountain. I suffer both vertigo and claustrophobia.

Over the past few years, we have become familiar with the term 'blood diamonds', gems mined by workers in terrible conditions that are sold to fund the arms trade. But we know little about where the rest of our jewellery comes from. There are no big chunks of gold in these mines, just gold dust that has to be extracted by crushing rock into powder before it is treated with mercury and cyanide. In San Luis, there are opencast mines next to where children play. Houses are made of old sacks. The miners are on desperately low wages, there is no crèche and there are no safety rules for the handling of chemicals and dynamite. Child labour is common. 'My children are thin and small,' says Yessica, the wife of a miner and a mother of two. I find it hard to believe that anyone involved in this industry is poverty stricken when gold sells for over £1,000 an ounce. But of course, these miners receive just a fraction of the price the gold brings in the West.



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However, I am also in Peru to see the first Fairtrade gold extracted from the Peruvian mines. The village of Santa Filomena, home to 3,000 people and situated in a remote mountain area, is one of only nine places in the world producing Fairtrade gold, and it is almost too good to be true.

The difference between Santa Filomena and the neighbouring village of San Luis, which is not Fairtrade, is enormous. Fairtrade miners earn £250 a month and an extra 5% for being environmentally-friendly. Santa Filomena straddles a river and this means the mine is wet, which can be hazardous, causing rock falls. However, while the big mining companies will blow up a mountainside, the Fairtrade miners respect the environment. To be rated 'Fairtrade', the dangerous chemicals used to treat the gold in the mines are not allowed to enter the eco-system.

In Santa Filomena, there are shops, a health clinic, sick pay, maternity leave and rapidly improving sanitation. There is no running water but there are proper wooden houses instead of slums. There is a crèche and a school.

I speak to Paulina, 25, who toils sorting rubble and who has invited me to her home to meet her children, Jennifer, nearly 3, and Shamel, 5. Her husband is also a miner. Paulina came here to find work and her house is two rooms, with a tiny stove and a coop of chickens outside. What does she want her children to be when they grow up? 'I don't want them to be miners. But now there is a way out – at least they get to go to school,' she says.

Each week, the gold is carried up the mountain by the miners and then driven to La Paz where it is refined and exported. A lump is placed in my hands. It's big and heavy and worth about £30,000. Fairtrade gold means some of the poorest people in the world, working in a very dangerous industry, have protection and a future.

Liz Jones