**Analyse the importance of Maimonides to Judaism**

Maimonides contributed to greater understanding of the Jewish faith for both a Jew and a non-Jew through his writings, teachings and the lifestyle in which he lived. Although his writings were not always initially accepted and annoyed some, they were very supportive of the Jewish beliefs and practices, which made them hard to be ignored.

Of his all of his books the ones believed to have the most importance to Judaism are the Book of Commandments; Mishneh Torah; The Guide for the Perplexed; and the 13 Principles of Faith because they streamlined the Jewish faith for the everyday believer. These texts were composed as a response to the diasperia of Jew’s and also to inform the average illiterate Jew of the teachings of the Torah. Below is a small summary table of the structure and purpose of each book.

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| **Book** | **Structure and Purpose** |
| Book of Commandments | Established the 14 principles for catergorising and choosing commandments, it is the introduction to the Mishneh Torah |
| Mishneh Torah | Contains the code of Jewish Law and is divided into 3 sections; the book of knowledge; 13 books detailing Jewish ritual and civil laws; and the notion of the Messiah |
| The Guide for the Perplexed | A blend of both sacred and secular, composed to defend Judaism against a secular society and also attends to the question of anthropomorphisms |
| 13 Principles of Faith | A list of commentary that will enable the world to prepare for the Messiah |

Maimonides was also one of the most influential Rabbi’s as his writings expressed understanding, which he made available to the people of his community. In order to make his work more accessible he composed his writings in Arabic, the common language for where he was, and in Hebrew. He was also influential due to the context in which he wrote, the Islamic conquest of Spain and his own exile. He was a much respected theologist of Jewish law and religion, however due to his outspokenness and disagreements regarding his views, Maimonides was, at times, chased as a criminal.

Throughout his life Maimonides believed in preaching his faith whilst traveling and working. As a trained medical practitioner, he traveled using his skills to support himself and actively lived his life as according to the Torah. Although throughout most of his life he constantly moved, Maimonides teachings are universally significant to the Jewish and Islamic societies due to their invaluable insight. Due to his travels Maimonides was also able to respond to numerous issues which may by why his writings are still having an impact today.