

The Age of Industrialisation

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (3 MARKS)

PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS

Q.1. Explain any three major problems faced by new European merchants in setting up their industries in towns before the Industrial Revolution. [Delhi 2008]

Ans. (i) With the expansion of world trade and the acquisition of colonies in different parts of the world the demands of goods began to grow. But the merchants could not expand production in towns. So they had to persuade the rural artisans and craftsmen to produce goods for international market, which was often difficult.
(ii) The main obstacle for the merchants in towns were the powerful merchants and crafts guilds. These guilds were association of producers who trained the crafts people, maintained control over production, regulated competition and prices and restricted the entry of new people into the trade.
(iii) Rulers granted monopoly right to production and trade in specific products only to the guilds. It was therefore difficult for new merchants to set up industries in towns.

Q.2. Explain any three reasons for which the population of London City expanded over the nineteenth century. [Delhi 2008]

Ans. Between 1810 and 1880 the population of London multiplied fourfold. London became a powerful magnet for migration of population even though it did not have large factories. It became a city of clerks and shopkeepers of small masters and skilled artisans, of a growing number of semi-skilled and sweated out workers, soldiers and servants, casual labourers, street sellers and beggars. There was a dockyard where many people earned livelihood. People came to the city looking for jobs. Five major types of industries that employed large number of people were clothing and footwear, wood and furniture, metals and engineering, printing and stationary and precision products such as surgical instruments, watches, objects of precious metals.

Q.3. How had a series of inventions in the eighteenth century increased the efficiency of each step of the production process in cotton textile industry? Explain. [AI 2008]

Ans. A series of inventions such as Spinning Jenny, Flying Shuttle were invented to increase efficiency.
(a) Invention of process like carding, twisting, spinning and rolling. These steps in the production process of the textile industry enhanced the output per worker and enabled him to produce stronger yarn.
(b) Richard Arkwright created a Cotton Mill. This enabled to set up new machines in the mill where all the processes were brought together under one roof.
(c) People were trained to be Stapler or Fuller. A Stapler was a person who sorted wool according to fibers and the Fuller used to gather cloth by pleating with the newly invented machines.

Q.4. Who were the jobbers? Explain their functions. [AI 2008]

Ans. Jobber: 'Jobbers' were usually employed by the industrialists to recruit the right people for work from villages out of the various job seekers. A jobber often demanded money or gifts for his favour (that is for finding a job for someone).

The main functions of a Jobber were:

- (i) Getting people from villages.
- (ii) Ensuring them jobs.

(iii) Helping them to settle in the city and to provide them money in times of crisis.

Q.5. Define the term 'trade surplus'. How was the income received from trade surplus with India used by Britain? [AI 2008]

Ans. The value of British exports to India was much higher than the value of British imports from India. This difference was the trade surplus for Britain. Britain used this surplus to balance its trade deficits with other countries, that is with those countries from which Britain was importing more than exporting. Britain's trade surplus also helped it in paying the so-called home charges which included private remittances to home by British officials and traders, interest payments of India's external debt and business of British officials in India.

Q.6. Why did the upper class people prefer to use hand products in the Victorian period ? Explain with examples. [Foreign 2008]

Ans. In Victorian Britain there was no shortage of labour and vagrants moved to the cities in large numbers in search for jobs. Wages were low. So industrialists had no problems of labour shortage, or cost of wages. They did not introduce machines that got rid of human labour and required large capital investment. A range of products could be produced only by manual labour. These required human skill. Among the upper class people there was demand for such products. The upper class aristocrats and bourgeoisie preferred things produced by hand which symbolised refinement and class. They were better finished, individually produced and carefully designed for them.

Q.7. Explain the miserable conditions of Indian weavers during the East India Company's regime in the eighteenth century. [Foreign 2008]

Ans. After establishing political control, the East India Company asserted monopoly of trade. They developed a system of management to eliminate competition and ensure continuous and regular supply of textile goods.

- (i) The company established indirect control over the weavers through their paid agents called 'gomasthas' who supervised the weavers, collected supplies and examined the quality of cloth.
- (ii) This system prevented the weavers from dealing with other traders. In 19th century cotton weavers in India faced two problems, British machine-made goods flooded Indian market. So for Indian weavers export market collapsed and local market shrank. The imported textile goods were so cheap that Indian goods could not compete with them. Indian weavers presented a picture of decline and desolation.
- (iii) Indian weavers could not get sufficient supply of raw cotton of good quality. Raw cotton was exported, so price of raw cotton went up. Indian weavers were forced to buy raw cotton at exorbitant price. In this situation they could hardly make any profit.
- (iv) By the end of 19th century the Indian weavers faced another problem, Indian factories began production. Weavers, could not compete with machine made goods could not survive.

NCERT QUESTIONS

Q.8. Explain what is meant by proto-industrialisation.

Ans. Even before factories began to be widespread in England and Europe, there was a large-scale industrial production for international market. This was not based on factories. Many historians now refer to this phase of industrialisation as proto-industrialisation.

Q.9. Explain why in seventeenth century the merchants of towns in Europe began employing peasants and artisans within the villages.

Ans. In 17th and 18th century's merchant from towns in Europe began moving to the countryside supplying money to peasants and artisans persuading them to produce for an international market. With the growth of world trade and acquisition of colonies in different parts of the world, the demand for goods increased. Since production in towns and cities was controlled by powerful guilds, the merchants began employing peasant and artisans from villages. These artisans were not controlled by guilds.

Q.10. Why did some industrialists in 19th century Europe prefer hand labour over machines?

Ans. In 19th century, some British industrialists preferred manual labour to machines.

- (i) New technology was expensive and industrialists were cautious about using these,
- (ii) Machines often broke down and repair was costly.
- (iii) In Victorian Britain there was no shortage of human labour. The industrialists had no problem of labour shortage or high wage costs.
- (iv) In seasonal industries, where production fluctuated with season, industrialists usually preferred hand labour, employing workers only for the season, when it was needed.

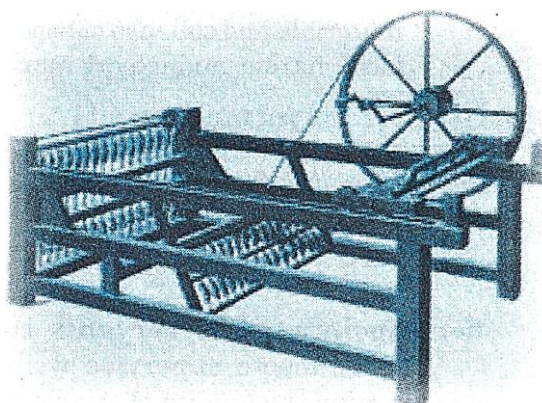
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Q.11. Explain the role of a guild in the production process of crafts.

Ans. In seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the trade guilds were powerful. Trade guilds were the association of producers that trained craftsmen, maintained control over production, regulated competition and prices and restricted the entry of new people into the trade. They often had monopoly right to trade and produce a specific craft.

Q.12. How did factory production begin in England?

Ans. A series of innovations in 18th century resulted in the effectiveness of the production process. They enhanced the output per worker, enabling each worker to produce more and they now could make stronger threads and yarn.



Spinning Jenny

The Spinning Jenny and other devices were invented to speed up textile production. Richard Arkwright laid the foundation of the factory system.

He setup a cotton mill, which could be purchased, set up and maintained in the factory. Where the whole process for the manufacture of cloth would be carried, but under one roof.

In the mill, all the process were brought together under one roof and managed by a supervisor. Workers could come to the mill to work.

This allowed more careful supervision, over the production process, proper check over the quality and regulation of labour. Previously everything was done at different places. This mill may be equated with a factory for production.

Q.13. Why were some industrialists reluctant to introduce machines?

Ans. Refer to Ans. 10 (3 Marks).

Q.14. Why did the bourgeoisie prefer handmade products in 19th century?

Ans. In Victorian Britain - the upper class -the aristocrats and the bourgeoisie preferred things produced by hand. Handmade products came to symbolise class.

They were better finished, indirectly produced and carefully designed.

Q.15. "After 1840, the life of workers improved in England". Explain.

Ans. After the 1840s building activity intensified in the cities, opening up greater opportunities of employment, Roads were widened, tunnels dug, drainage and sewers laid, rivers embanked, each activity required hundreds of labourers. The number of workers employed in transport industry doubled in the 1840's.

Q.16. Why is it necessary to use advertisements for various products?

Ans. Advertisements play an important role in the sale of merchandise. It is one of the ways to create new consumers. Advertisements make products appear desirable.

These try to shape the minds of people and create new needs.

From the beginning of industrial age advertisements have played a part in expanding markets for products and in shaping new consumer culture.

Q.17. Examine the nature of the network of Indian export trade before 1750.

Ans. A variety of Indian merchants and bankers were involved in the network of export trade-financing production, carrying goods and supplying exporters.

Supply merchants linked the port towns to inland regions. They gave advances to weavers, procured woven cloth from weaving villages and carried the supply to the ports. At the port big shippers and export merchants had brokers who negotiated the price and bought goods from the supply merchants operating inland. This network of Indian merchants collapsed by 1750.

Q.18. What role did a jobber play for an industrialist?

Ans. Even when the mills multiplied getting jobs was difficult.

The numbers of people seeking jobs were always more than the available jobs. The industrialists employed a jobber to get new recruits.

Usually jobbers were old and trusted workers.

They got people from villages, ensured them jobs, helped them settle in the city and provided them with money in times of crisis.

The jobbers thus became powerful and men of authority. In exchange of the service they demanded money and gifts for his favour and often controlled the lives of the workers.

Q.19. How did Indian entrepreneurs accumulate capital for investment?

Ans. Many Indian entrepreneurs earned huge capital from China trade- the trading of opium to China and taking tea from China to England.

The Company employed many Indians as junior players in this trade. Having earned some wealth businessmen had vision of developing industries in India.

In Bombay Parsis like Dinshaw Petit and Jamsetjee Nusserwanjee Tata accumulated initial wealth partly from exports to China and partly from raw cotton shipments to England. Capital also accumulated through other trade networks.