

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. How did factories in England multiply in the late 18th century?

Ans. (i) British cotton industries boomed in the late 18th century.

(ii) A series of inventions in the 18th century increased the production process.

(iii) Processes of carding, twisting, spinning, and rolling were made faster.

(iv) Richard Arkwright created the cotton mill. Now the costly new machines could be purchased, set up and maintained in the mill.

(v) Within the mill, all the processes were brought together under one roof and management.

(vi) This allowed a more careful supervision over the production process, a watch over quality and the regulation of labour, all of which had been difficult to do when production took place in the countryside.

Q. 2. How rapid was the process of industrialisation in Britain?

Ans. (i) The most dynamic industries in Britain were cotton and metal. Cotton was the leading sector. With the expansion of railways in England and its colonies, the demand for iron and steel increased rapidly.

(ii) The new industries could not easily displace traditional industries. Textiles was a dynamic sector, but a large portion of the output was produced outside factories, within domestic units.

(iii) The pace of change in the traditional industries was not set by steam powered cotton or metal industries. Ordinary and small innovations were the basis of growth in many nonmechanised sectors such as food processing, building, pottery, glass work, etc.

(iv) Technological changes occurred slowly. New technology was expensive and merchants and industrialists were cautious about using it. The machines often broke down and repair was costly. They were not as effective as their investors claimed.

Q. 3. What kind of lives did the workers lead during Industrial Revolution?

Ans. (i) As news of possible jobs reached the countryside, hundreds left for the cities.

(ii) If one had a relative or a friend in a factory, he was more likely to get a job quickly.

(iii) Many jobseekers had to wait for weeks, spending nights under bridge or in night shelters.

(iv) Seasonality of work in many industries meant longer periods without work. After the busy season was over, the poor were on the streets again.

(v) The period of employment, the number of days of work determined the average daily income of the workers.

Q. 4. Why were the British worried about imports from other countries?

Ans. As cotton industries developed in England, industrial groups began worrying about imports from other countries.

They pressurised the government to impose import duties on cotton textiles so that Manchester goods could sell in Britain, without facing any competition from outside.

Industrialists persuaded the East India Company to sell British manufactures in Indian markets as well.

Export of British cotton goods increased dramatically in the early 19th century.

At the end of the 18th century, there had been virtually no import of cotton piece goods into India but by 1850, cotton piece goods constituted over 31 per cent of the value of Indian imports.

Q. 5. What problems did the cotton weavers face in India?

Ans. (i) Their export market collapsed.

(ii) Local market also shrank as it was flooded with Manchester imports.

(iii) Produced by machines at lower costs, the imported cotton goods were so cheap that weavers could not easily compete with them.

(iv) By 1860, weavers could not get sufficient supply of raw cotton of good quality.

(v) When American Civil War broke out and cotton supply from the US was cut off, Britain turned towards India.

(vi) As raw cotton exports from India increased, the price of raw cotton shot up.

Q. 6. Why did industrialists in India begin shifting from yarn to cloth production?

Ans. When Indian businessmen began setting up industries; they avoided competing with Manchester goods in the Indian market.

Since yarn was not imported by British in India, early cotton mills in India started producing coarse cotton yarn rather than fabric.

The yarn produced in Indian spinning mills was used by handloom weavers in India or exported to China.

As the Swadeshi Movement began, nationalists told people to boycott foreign cloth.

Industrial groups organised themselves to protect their collective interests.

From 1906, the export of Indian yarn to China declined since produce from the Chinese and Japanese mills flooded the markets.

So industrialists in India began shifting from yarn to cloth production.

Cotton piece goods production in India almost doubled between 1900 and 1912.

Q. 7. How did the British market their goods in India?

Ans. (i) Advertisement of the product: Advertisements make products appear desirable and necessary. They try to shape the minds of people and create new needs. During the Industrial age, advertisements played a major role in expanding the markets for products.

(ii) Putting labels on the cloth bundles: The label was needed to make the place of manufacture and the name of the company familiar to the buyers. When buyers saw 'MADE IN MANCHESTER' written in bold on a label, they would feel confident about buying the cloth.

(iii) Images of Indian Gods and Goddesses: It was as if association with Gods gave divine approval to the goods being sold. Images of Krishna or Saraswati was intended to make the manufacture from a foreign land appear somewhat familiar to the Indian people.

(iv) Printing calendars to popularise their products: Unlike newspapers and magazines, calendars were used even by people who could not read. They were hung in the tea shops and in poor people's homes, just as much as in offices and middle class houses.

Q. 8. Why did merchants turn to countryside, rather than setting up business in towns?

Ans. (i) Merchants supplied money to peasants and artisans, persuading them to produce for an international market.

(ii) Demand for goods increased since the European powers had acquired colonies and sold their goods in these colonies.

(iii) But merchants could not expand production within towns because the urban crafts and trade guilds were very powerful.

(iv) Rulers granted different guilds the monopoly rights to produce and trade in specific products.

It was therefore difficult for new merchants to set up business in towns. So they turned to countryside.

Q. 9. In what ways the proto-industrial production helped the poor farmers in countryside?

Ans. (i) In the countryside, poor peasants and artisans began looking for merchants. This was a time when open fields were disappearing and commons were closed.

(ii) Cottagers and poor peasants, who had earlier depended on common lands for their survival, had to now look for alternative sources of income.

(iii) Many had small land holdings, which could not provide work for all the members of the family.

(iv) So merchants came around and offered advances to produce goods for them, peasants eagerly agreed.

(v) By working for the merchants, they could remain in the countryside and continue to cultivate their small plots.

(vi) So income from proto-industrialisation supplemented their shrinking income from cultivation and raised their standard of living.