

Short Answer Questions

Q. 1. Give three historical processes which have shaped modern cities in decisive ways.

Ans. (i) The rise of industrial capitalism.

(ii) The establishment of colonial rule over large parts of the world.

(iii) The development of democratic ideas in many countries of the world.

Q. 2. How were the cities different from villages?

Ans. (i) Towns and cities that first appeared on river valleys were larger in scale than any other human settlements.

(ii) Ancient cities could develop only when an increase in food supplies was made.

(iii) Cities were often the centres of political power, trade and industry, religious institutions and supported various social groups like artisans, merchants and priests.

Q. 3. What was the condition of children during the 18th and 19th centuries?

Ans. (i) Large number of children were pushed into low-paid work, often by their parents.

(ii) A child was forced into crimes as it was thought that he could earn more from stealing than by making matchboxes a week.

(iii) It was only after the Compulsory Elementary Education Act, in 1870 and Factory Acts, in 1902 that children were kept out of industrial work.

Q. 4. What was the condition of poor labourers in London?

Ans. (i) Factory or workshop owners did not house the migrant workers; instead, individual landowners put up cheap and unsafe tenements for the workers.

(ii) A study shows that about one million Londoners were very poor and were expected to live upto an average age of 29. These people were more than likely to die in a workhouse, hospital or lunatic asylum.

(iii) Better-off city dwellers demanded that slums be cleared away.

Q. 5. What steps were taken to clean up London?

Ans. (i) Attempts were made to decongest localities, make the open spaces green, reduce pollution and landscape the city.

(ii) Large blocks of apartments were built.

(iii) Demands were made for new 'lungs' for the city and the idea of Green belt around London was offered.

Q. 6. What were the reasons for the breaking down of the family as an institution?

Ans. Women of the upper and middle classes faced higher level of isolation.

Ties between members of the household loosened and among the working class, the institution of marriage tended to break down.

Many social reformers felt that the family as an institution had broken down, due to working women so they need to push these women back into their homes.

Q. 7. State how a city's large population was both a threat and an opportunity.

Ans. In the severe winter of 1886, when outdoor work came to a standstill, the London's poor exploded in a riot demanding removal of poverty.

Many shopkeepers closed their shops as thousands marched from Deptford to London. They were dispersed by the police.

A similar riot occurred in 1887, which was also brutally suppressed by the police and what is known as the Bloody Sunday of November 1887.

Two years later, thousands of dockworkers went on strike.

So, large masses could be drawn into political causes in the city. A large population in a city was therefore, both a threat and an opportunity.

Q. 8. How did industrialisation change the form of urbanisation in the modern period?

Ans. The earlier industrial cities of Britain such as Leeds and Manchester attracted large numbers of migrants to the textile mills set up in the late 18th century.

In 1851, more than three-quarters of the adults living in Manchester were migrants from rural areas.

The city of London was a powerful magnet for migrant populations.

Q. 9. What was the status of women folk in the conservative industrial towns?

Ans. (i) Women of upper and middle classes faced higher level of isolation, although their lives were made easier by domestic maids.

(ii) Women who worked for wages had some control over their lives particularly among the lower social classes.

(iii) As women lost their industrial jobs and conservative people railed against their presence in public places, women were forced to withdraw into their homes.

Q. 10. What was the role of a 'Jobber' in the chawls?

Ans. He settled disputes.

He organised food supplies, or arranged informal credit for the people in chawls.

He also brought important information on political developments.

Q. 11. What changes were brought in London city after the Industrial Revolution?

Ans. (i) Older cities like London changed dramatically when people began pouring in after the Industrial Revolution.

(ii) Factory or workshop owners did not house the migrant workers.

(iii) Instead, individual landowners put up cheap and usually unsafe tenements for the new arrivals.

Q. 12. How did Charles Dickens in his novel ‘Dombey and Son’ depict the massive destruction in the process of construction of underground railway?

Ans. Dickens had depicted the process of construction in the following manner:

19th century London was a city of clerks and shopkeepers, of small masters and skilled artisans, of soldiers and servants, of casual labourers, street sellers and beggars.

“Houses were knocked down; streets broken through and stopped; deep pits and trenches dug in the ground; enormous heaps of earth and clay thrown up, there were a hundred thousand shapes and substances of incompleteness, wildly mingled out their plans, upside down, burrowing in the earth... .”

Q. 13. Describe the influx of migrants in Bombay.

Ans. (i) Bombay became the capital of Bombay Presidency in 1819 after the Maratha defeat in Anglo Maratha war. The city quickly expanded.

(ii) With the growth of trade in cotton and opium, large communities of traders and bankers as well as artisans and shopkeepers came to settle in Bombay.

(iii) The establishment of textile mills led to a fresh surge in migration.

Q. 14. How was ‘Marine Drive’ devised?

Ans. A successful reclamation project was undertaken by the ‘Bombay Port Trust’, which built a day dock between 1914 and 1918 and used the excavated earth to create the 22 acre Ballard Estate. Subsequently, the famous Marine Drive of Bombay was developed.