

## Short Answer Questions

**Q. 1. How was cloth manufactured in England during the proto-industrial period?**

**Ans.** Merchants were based in towns but the work was done mostly in the countryside.

A merchant clothier in England purchased wool from a wool stapler.

From there, it was carried to the spinners, then spun yarn was taken to the fullers and then to the dyers.

The finishing was done in London before the export merchant sold the cloth in the international market.

**Q. 2. Why was the steam engine slow to be accepted by industries?**

**Ans.** James Watt improved the steam engine and patented the new engine. His industrialist friend, Mathew Boulton manufactured the new model.

But for years he could find no buyers.

Steam engines were used in cotton and wool industries, mining, canal and iron works.

Steam engines were not used in any of the other industries till much later in the century.

So, even the most powerful new technology that enhanced the productivity of labour manifold was slow to be accepted by industrialists.

**Q. 3. How was infrastructure developed after the 1840s?**

**Ans.** Building activity intensified in the cities, opening up greater opportunities of employment.

(i) Roads were widened.

(ii) New railway stations came up.

(iii) Railway lines were extended, and tunnels dug up.

(iv) Drainage and sewers were laid.

(v) Rivers were embanked, and

(vi) Number of workers in the transport industry doubled.

**Q. 4. How did the British establish a monopoly in cotton and silk trade?**

**OR**

**What steps were taken by East India Company to control the market of cotton and silk goods?**

**Ans.** The company eliminated the existing traders and brokers to establish direct control over weavers. It appointed a paid servant called Gomasthas to supervise weavers, collect suppliers and examine the quality of cloth.

It prevented company weavers from dealing with other buyers. Once an order was placed, the weavers were given loans to purchase the raw material. Those who took loans had to hand over the cloth they produced to the Gomasthas only. They could not take it to any other trader.

**Q. 5. Why was the 'Jobber' employed by Indian industrialists?**

**Ans.** Industrialists employed the Jobber, an old trusted worker.

He got people from his village, got them jobs and helped them settle in the cities.

Jobbers therefore, became persons with authority and power. He began demanding money and gifts for the favour he did and started controlling the lives of the workers.

**Q. 6. How did the 'fly shuttle' help in improving the handloom production?**

**Ans.** Fly shuttle was a mechanical device used for faster weaving.

By the second decade of the 20th century, weavers were using looms with the fly shuttle.

It increased productivity per worker, speeded up production and reduced labour demand.

**Q. 7. How did the small-scale industries predominate in India?**

**Ans.** While factory industries grew steadily after the war, large industries formed a small segment of the economy. Most of them were located in Bengal and Bombay.

Over the rest of the country, small-scale production continued to predominate.

In some instances, handicrafts production actually expanded in the 20th century.

While cheap machine-made thread wiped out the spinning industry in the 19th century, handloom cloth production survived, despite problems.

**Q. 8. Why was the industrial growth slow till the First World War?**

**Ans. (i)** The war created a dramatically new situation, with the British mills busy with war production to meet the needs of the army.

**(ii)** Manchester imports into India declined. Indian mills had a vast home market to supply.

**(iii)** As the war continued, Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs like jute bags, cloth for uniform, boots, etc.

**Q. 9. Why could Manchester never recapture its old position in the Indian market after the war?**

**Ans.** Unable to modernise and compete with the US, Germany and Japan, the economy of Britain crumbled after the war.

Cotton production collapsed and exports of cotton cloth from Britain fell dramatically.

Within the colonies, local industrialists gradually consolidated their position substituting foreign manufacturers and capturing the home market.

**Q. 10. What was the condition of the weavers in surviving the famines and competition?**

**OR**

**How could certain groups of weavers survive the competition with mill industries?**

**OR**

**How could you say that famines did not affect the sale of Banarasi or Baluchari saris?**

**Ans.** Amongst weavers, some produced coarse cloth while others finer cloth.

The coarse cloth was bought by the poor and its demand fluctuated.

In times of bad harvests and famines, rural poor could not possibly buy the cloth.

But the rich could buy this finer cloth, when the poor starved. So famines did not affect the sale of Banarasi or Baluchari saris.

These weavers lived tough lives and worked for long durations. Very often, the entire family, including women and children had to work to survive.

**Q. 11. What does the picture indicate on the famous book ‘Dawn of the Century’?**

**Ans. (i)** There is an angel of progress, bearing the flag of the new century, and is gently perched on a wheel with wings, symbolising time.

**(ii)** The flight is taking her into the future.

**(iii)** Floating about, behind her, are the signs of progress—railway, camera, machines, printing press and factory.

**Q. 12. What picture is shown on the cover of two magicians?**

**Ans. (i)** The one at the top is Aladdin from Asia, who built a beautiful palace with his magic lamp.

**(ii)** The one at the bottom is the modern mechanic, who with his modern tools weaves a new magic; builds bridges, ships, towers and high-rise buildings.

**(iii)** Aladdin is shown representing the East and the past and the mechanic stands for the West and modernity.

**Q. 13. How were there clashes between gomasthas and weavers later on?**

**OR**

**“The establishment of political power by the East India Company resulted in ruination of the Indian weavers”. Support the statement with suitable examples.**

**Ans.** Earlier, supply merchants belonged to the same village and looked after the needs of weavers.

The new ‘gomasthas’ were outsiders, with no social links with villagers.

They acted arrogantly and sometimes punished weavers for delay in supply.

Prices received from the company were miserably low.

Loans tied them to the British company.

In many places, weavers deserted villages and migrated to other places for setting up their own looms.

**Q. 14. How did factories emerge on the landscape of England?**

**Ans. (i)** In the early 19th century, factories increasingly became an intimate part of English landscape.

**(ii)** The new mills were so magical that the sight of those factories or developing new technology, dazzled the people.

**(iii)** They concentrated their attention on the mills, almost forgetting the by-lanes and the workshops where production still continued.

**Q. 15. Where did the workers come from?**

**Ans. (i)** In most industrial regions, workers came from the districts around. Peasants and artisans who found no work in the village went to industrial centres in search of work.

**(ii)** About 50 per cent workers in the Bombay cotton industries came from the neighbouring district of Ratnagiri, while the mills of Kanpur got workers from the villages within the district of Kanpur.

**(iii)** Most often mill workers moved between the village and the city, returning to their village homes during harvests and festivals.

**Q. 16. “The system of advance proved harmful for the weavers.” How?**

**Ans.** As loans flowed in and the demand for fine textiles expanded, weavers eagerly took the advances, hoping to earn more.

Many weavers had small plots of land which were cultivated to take care of their family needs. Now they had to lease out the land and devote all their time to weaving.

Weaving required the labour of the entire family with children and women all engaged in different stages of the process.

Now after losing land, the weavers became dependent on others for their food supplies and other needs.