

TestGenie
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Social Science — Class 10

Chapter(s): The Age of Industrialisation (History)

Maximum Marks: 39

Time Allowed: 1 Hour 10 Minutes

Section A — MCQ & Assertion-Reason (1 mark each)

Q1. A historian claims that late 19th-century Britain did not mechanise every industry as quickly as popular images suggest. Which evidence best supports this claim? [1 mark]

- A) By the late 18th century, Britain's cotton imports rose from 2.5 million to 22 million pounds.
- B) At the end of the 19th century, less than 20% of the total workforce was employed in technologically advanced industrial sectors.
- C) By 1873, Britain exported iron and steel worth about £77 million, double the value of cotton exports.
- D) Factories began to appear in England by the 1730s and multiplied in the late 18th century.

Q2. A Bombay mill-owner in 1908 wants to reduce dependence on exports and target Indian buyers. Which change described in the chapter most directly enables this shift? [1 mark]

- A) Manchester imports into India rose sharply because British mills were diverted to war production.
- B) From 1906, export of Indian yarn to China declined due to competition from Chinese and Japanese mills, pushing Indian mills toward cloth production.
- C) The East India Company appointed gomasthas to supervise weavers and examine cloth quality.
- D) By 1941, over 35% of handlooms were fitted with fly shuttles, raising handloom output.

Q3. Consider the table on Indian textile trade shares: Table: Share of piece-goods in India's exports

- 1811-12: 33%

- 1850-51: 3% Which inference best fits the chapter's explanation for this decline? [1 mark]

- A) Indian weavers voluntarily switched to agriculture because wages in farming rose sharply.
- B) Indian exports declined mainly because the Company stopped giving advances to weavers after 1760.
- C) British industrialisation and protective import duties in Britain reduced Indian textile competitiveness and market access over time.
- D) Indian exports fell because Indian mills produced only fine cloth and not coarse yarn.

Q4. A workshop in mid-19th-century Britain receives orders for 500 varieties of hammers and 45 kinds of axes with different shapes and finishes. Which production choice is most consistent with the chapter's reasoning? [1 mark]

- A) Shift fully to steam-powered mechanised production because it guarantees variety at low cost.
- B) Use hand labour because such varied, intricate, shape-specific goods depended on human skill rather than standardised machine production.
- C) Outsource the entire job to colonies because machine-made goods were preferred by British elites.
- D) Stop production because factories had completely displaced workshops by the 1840s.

Q5. Which option best captures how the East India Company's political power after the 1760s changed the bargaining position of Indian weavers? [1 mark]

- A) Weavers gained greater freedom to sell to competing buyers because the Company removed market restrictions.
- B) Weavers could demand higher prices because European companies relied on Indian brokers for quality control.
- C) Weavers lost the ability to bargain and sell freely because the Company asserted monopoly trade and tied them through advances and gomastha supervision.
- D) Weavers became independent producers because the Company encouraged direct exports by village households.

Q6. Assertion (A): Proto-industrialisation in England involved large-scale production for an international market even before factories became widespread.

Reason (R): Urban crafts and trade guilds in towns restricted entry, regulated prices and competition, making it difficult for new merchants to expand production within towns. [1 mark]

- A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true but R is false.
- D) A is false but R is true.

Q7. Assertion (A): In Victorian Britain, the abundance of labour reduced the urgency for industrialists to replace workers with machines.

Reason (R): When labour is easily available, wages tend to be low, and introducing machines requires large capital investment that employers may avoid. [1 mark]

- A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true but R is false.
- D) A is false but R is true.

Q8. Assertion (A): The East India Company's system of advances increased the weavers' freedom to sell in multiple markets.

Reason (R): Once weavers took loans, they were required to hand over the cloth to the Company's agent (gomastha) and could not sell to other traders. [1 mark]

- A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true but R is false.
- D) A is false but R is true.

Q9. Assertion (A): Technological change in Britain spread slowly across industries during the Industrial Revolution.

Reason (R): New machines were expensive, often broke down, repairs were costly, and merchants were cautious because machines were not always as effective as claimed. [1 mark]

- A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true but R is false.
- D) A is false but R is true.

Q10. Assertion (A): In colonial India, the earliest cotton mills mainly produced coarse cotton yarn rather than cloth.

Reason (R): Indian industrialists avoided competing directly with Manchester cloth imports, and yarn was not a major part of British imports into India. [1 mark]

- A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true but R is false.
- D) A is false but R is true.

Section B — Very Short Answer (2 marks each)

Q11. Answer in exactly two sentences.

Explain how the gomastha-and-advance system changed (i) who controlled quality and supplies and (ii) the weaver's freedom to sell, after the East India Company gained political power. [2 marks]

Q12. Answer in exactly two sentences.

Why did many Victorian British industrialists prefer hand labour in some industries even after machines became available? Give one industry example mentioned in the chapter. [2 marks]

Q13. Answer in exactly two sentences.

Using the chapter's timeline, explain how the American Civil War indirectly hurt Indian cotton weavers in the 1860s. [2 marks]

Section C — Short Answer (3 marks each)

Q14. Answer in 3 numbered points (about 60-80 words).

Explain why technological change in Britain did not spread rapidly across all industries, even though inventions existed. Use evidence from the chapter. [3 marks]

Q15. Answer in 3 numbered points (about 60-80 words).

Analyse how colonial rule reshaped India's port-to-inland textile trade network between the 1750s and early 1800s. [3 marks]

Q16. Answer in 3 numbered points (about 60-80 words).

Explain how the First World War changed industrial opportunities for Indian mills, and mention two types of war-related goods produced. [3 marks]

Section D — Long Answer (5 marks each)

Q17. Explain why industrial change in Britain (c. 1750-1900) cannot be described as a simple story of factories rapidly replacing older forms of production. Answer in: (a) one-sentence introduction, (b) five numbered points with headings, each in exactly two sentences, and (c) one-sentence conclusion. [5 marks]

Q18. Assess how colonial rule reshaped the Indian textile economy from the mid-18th to the early 20th century. Your answer must cover BOTH (a) the decline of older export networks and (b) the emergence of new factory and handloom responses. Answer in:

one-sentence introduction, five numbered headed points (two sentences each), and one-sentence conclusion. [5 marks]

Section E — Case Study (4 marks each)
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Q19. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: [4 marks]

A district officer in eastern India compiled notes in the 1870s after visiting two weaving settlements and a nearby market town. In Settlement A, older weavers recalled that their families once sold fine cloth through local traders who arranged credit and transported bales to a port; now the same traders had little credit and fewer buyers. In Settlement B, several households had recently switched from weaving to agricultural labour, saying that imported cloth sold in the town at very low prices and looked "showy", so customers stopped ordering locally made pieces. At the same time, a sudden rise in raw cotton prices forced remaining weavers to buy inferior cotton or reduce production.

In the town, the officer noticed bundles of imported cloth with printed labels. The shopkeeper explained that customers asked for cloth that looked "reliable" and that labels with familiar religious images made foreign cloth seem trustworthy. A few local handloom weavers still sold niche products with distinctive borders that buyers preferred for ceremonies, but they complained of long working hours and involving the whole family to meet deadlines.

- (i) Identify TWO linked reasons from the passage that explain why Settlement A's older export-linked trade network weakened. (1 mark)
- (ii) How do the labels described in the town illustrate a strategy to create new consumers for imported goods? Answer in one precise sentence. (1 mark)
- (iii) Explain, using evidence from the passage, how weavers faced a 'double squeeze' even before considering competition from Indian factories. Write two distinct points. (2 marks)

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Social Science — Class 10
Chapter(s): The Age of Industrialisation (History)

Section A — MCQ & Assertion-Reason (1 mark each)

A1.

Answer:

Correct option: (B)

At the end of the 19th century, less than 20% of the total workforce was employed in technologically advanced industrial sectors.

Explanation:

A small share of the workforce in advanced sectors shows that large numbers still worked in traditional and non-mechanised work settings even late into the 19th century. This directly challenges the idea of rapid, universal mechanisation across industries. Hence, option (B) is correct.

A2.

Answer:

Correct option: (B)

From 1906, export of Indian yarn to China declined due to competition from Chinese and Japanese mills, pushing Indian mills toward cloth production.

Explanation:

When yarn exports to China fell after 1906, Indian industrialists began shifting from spinning yarn to producing cloth for the home market, aligning with the mill-owner's goal. This is a clear causal link stated in the chapter's description of changing industrial strategy. Hence, option (B) is correct.

A3.

Answer:

Correct option: (C)

British industrialisation and protective import duties in Britain reduced Indian textile competitiveness and market access over time.

Explanation:

The chapter links the long decline of Indian textile exports to the development of cotton

industries in England and pressure to impose import duties so Manchester goods faced less competition. This reduced the space for Indian fine textiles in European markets, matching the sharp fall shown in the table. Hence, option (C) is correct.

A4.

Answer:

Correct option: (B)

Use hand labour because such varied, intricate, shape-specific goods depended on human skill rather than standardised machine production.

Explanation:

The chapter explains that machines were oriented towards uniform, standardised goods, while many products with intricate designs and specific shapes needed human skill. The hammer-and-axe example is explicitly used to show why hand labour remained important. Hence, option (B) is correct.

A5.

Answer:

Correct option: (C)

Weavers lost the ability to bargain and sell freely because the Company asserted monopoly trade and tied them through advances and gomastha supervision.

Explanation:

After gaining political power, the Company asserted monopoly rights, appointed gomasthas, eliminated competition, and used advances that bound weavers to supply only to the Company at low prices. This directly reduced weavers' bargaining space described in the chapter. Hence, option (C) is correct.

A6.

Answer:

Correct option: (A)

Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

Proto-industrialisation refers to international-market production organised outside factories, especially in the countryside. Merchants shifted to rural production largely because town guilds controlled production and blocked new merchants, which explains why this pre-factory, large-scale system developed. Hence, option (A) is correct.

A7.

Answer:

Correct option: (A)

Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

The chapter explains that Britain had no shortage of labour; low wages made hand labour cheaper and machines required heavy investment. This cost logic directly explains why employers did not always want labour-saving machinery. Hence, option (A) is correct.

A8.

Answer:

Correct option: (D)

A is false but R is true.

Explanation:

The system of advances tied weavers to the Company rather than freeing them, because the loan obligated them to supply only to the Company through the gomastha. The reason accurately states this binding mechanism, making the assertion incorrect. Hence, option (D) is correct.

A9.

Answer:

Correct option: (A)

Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

The chapter explicitly notes that technological changes occurred slowly and did not spread dramatically. High costs, frequent breakdowns and uncertain performance made industrialists cautious, which directly explains the slow diffusion. Hence, option (A) is correct.

A10.

Answer:

Correct option: (A)

Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

Explanation:

The chapter states that early Indian cotton mills produced coarse yarn because competing with Manchester cloth in the Indian market was risky, and British imports

focused more on cloth than yarn. This reasoning explains the production choice of early mills. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Section B — Very Short Answer (2 marks each)

A11.

Answer:

After the Company gained political power, it appointed gomasthas to supervise weavers, collect supplies, and examine cloth quality, shifting control of production and inspection to Company agents. Through advances (loans), weavers who accepted money had to sell only to the gomastha and lost the freedom to bargain or sell to other buyers.

This question tests the mechanism of colonial control, not just naming terms: gomasthas institutionalised supervision and quality checking, while advances created dependence and a captive seller. Many students mention only 'low prices' but miss the structural change-control over both market access and the production process. Together these steps eliminated competition and reduced weavers' bargaining power.

A12.

Answer:

Many industrialists preferred hand labour because labour was abundant and cheap, and seasonal demand made it economical to hire workers temporarily rather than invest large capital in machines. For example, gas works and breweries needed extra workers mainly during the cold months when demand peaked.

The chapter links production choices to labour-market conditions and seasonality, showing that 'industrialisation' did not automatically mean 'machines everywhere'. A strong must state both the economic logic (cheap labour vs costly machines) and a concrete example like gas works or breweries to earn full marks.

A13.

Answer:

When the American Civil War cut off cotton supplies from the US, Britain turned to India and exports of raw cotton from India increased. This pushed up raw cotton prices in India, so weavers were starved of good-quality cotton and had to buy it at exorbitant rates, making weaving unprofitable.

The question checks cause-and-effect across regions: a war in the US altered Britain's sourcing, which changed India's raw cotton availability and prices. Many students treat the Civil War as a distant event; the chapter uses it to show how global shocks transmitted hardship to Indian producers through colonial trade priorities.

Section C — Short Answer (3 marks each)
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A14.

Answer:

- 1) Cost and risk: New technology was expensive, and machines often broke down, making repairs costly, so merchants were cautious about adopting them.
- 2) Limited effectiveness claims: Machines were not always as effective as inventors and manufacturers claimed, so industrialists delayed switching from existing methods.
- 3) Uneven sectoral use: Even powerful technology like the steam engine spread slowly; early on it was concentrated in cotton, mining, canal works and iron works, not across all industries.

A15.

Answer:

- 1) Monopoly and port shift: European companies gained concessions and monopoly rights, leading to the decline of older ports like Surat and Hoogly while Bombay and Calcutta grew.
- 2) Collapse of indigenous finance: As exports from old ports fell, the credit system that financed earlier trade dried up and local bankers went bankrupt.
- 3) European-controlled shipping: Trade through new ports came under European companies and ships, forcing surviving Indian trading houses to operate within colonial-shaped networks.

A16.

Answer:

- 1) Import gap and home market: With British mills busy with war production, Manchester imports into India declined, creating a large home market for Indian mills.
- 2) War supplies demand: Indian factories were asked to supply war needs, which expanded production beyond normal civilian demand.
- 3) Expansion of capacity and labour: New factories were set up and old ones ran multiple shifts; goods included jute bags and cloth for army uniforms (also tents, leather boots and saddles).

Section D — Long Answer (5 marks each)

A17.

Answer:

Industrialisation in Britain was uneven and layered, with new factory systems expanding alongside resilient older production forms.

- 1) Proto-industry before factories: Large-scale production for international markets existed before factories through a merchant-controlled rural network. Peasants and artisans worked in households for advances, linking town merchants with countryside producers.
 - 2) Guild limits and rural shift: In towns, powerful craft and trade guilds regulated entry, competition and prices, making expansion difficult for new merchants. This pushed merchants to the countryside where labour was available and regulation weaker.
 - 3) Sectoral leadership changed over time: Cotton grew fastest up to the 1840s, but later iron and steel led as railway building expanded demand for metals. By 1873 Britain's iron and steel exports were about £77 million, showing that "industrial growth" had multiple engines, not one.
 - 4) Traditional industries and domestic production persisted: Even by the late nineteenth century, less than 20% of the workforce was in technologically advanced industrial sectors. A significant share of textiles output continued outside factories in domestic units, so factories did not monopolise production.
 - 5) Technology diffusion was cautious and slow: New machines were costly, often broke down and repairs were expensive, so industrialists hesitated to adopt them widely. Even the steam engine, improved and patented in 1781, had only 321 engines in England by the early nineteenth century, concentrated mainly in cotton and mining-related uses.
- Therefore, Britain's industrialisation combined new mills and selected technologies with enduring hand-based and household production shaped by markets, costs and institutions.

A18.

Answer:

Colonial rule altered India's textile economy by dismantling older merchant-controlled networks and reorienting production and markets to suit imperial priorities.

- 1) Breakdown of pre-colonial export networks: Indian cotton and silk once dominated international markets through strong inland-port linkages and Indian financiers who advanced credit to weavers. As European companies gained concessions and monopoly rights, old ports like Surat and Hoogly declined and credit networks dried up, weakening Indian trading houses.
- 2) Company control over production and prices: After the 1760s the East India Company imposed monopoly-like control by using gomasthas to supervise weavers and check quality. The advances system tied weavers to company orders, blocked sales to other buyers and reduced bargaining power, leading to resentment and desertion of villages.
- 3) Manchester imports and shrinking markets: In the early nineteenth century Britain protected its own industry with duties and pushed British manufactures into Indian markets. As cheap machine-made cloth entered India, the export share of Indian

piece-goods collapsed and local markets were flooded, making it hard for hand producers to compete.

4) Raw cotton shocks and double pressure: During the American Civil War, Britain turned to India for raw cotton, raising prices and starving Indian weavers of good-quality supplies. Later, Indian factories added a second competitive pressure by supplying machine-goods domestically, further squeezing craft producers.

5) Indian industrial response and continued small-scale strength: Indian entrepreneurs set up mills (Bombay 1854; jute in Bengal 1855) but early mills focused on coarse yarn to avoid direct competition with Manchester cloth. In the twentieth century, handloom weavers adapted through innovations like the fly shuttle and specialised designs that mills could not easily imitate, while swadeshi and wartime disruptions opened space for Indian cloth production.

Overall, colonial rule caused both deindustrialising shocks to traditional textiles and selective industrial growth, with survival strategies emerging in both mills and handlooms.

Section E — Case Study (4 marks each)
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A19.

(i) Identify TWO linked reasons from the passage that explain why Settlement A's older export-linked trade network weakened.

Answer:

The network weakened because European company dominance reduced buyers and dried up credit for local traders, and because the shift of trade control towards new company-shaped routes/ports reduced the role of older merchant channels that had financed and moved fine cloth.

(ii) How do the labels described in the town illustrate a strategy to create new consumers for imported goods? Answer in one precise sentence.

Answer:

They used branding and familiar religious imagery to signal quality and build trust, making foreign-manufactured cloth appear desirable and culturally familiar to buyers.

(iii) Explain, using evidence from the passage, how weavers faced a 'double squeeze' even before considering competition from Indian factories. Write two distinct points.

Answer:

First, demand-side pressure: cheap, showy imported cloth captured the local market, so customers reduced orders for locally woven pieces and many weavers shifted to agricultural labour.

Second, supply-side pressure: a spike in raw cotton prices forced remaining weavers to buy poorer cotton or cut output, raising costs and lowering viability even for those trying to continue weaving.