



DSSSB TGT

Social Science

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Volume 1



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1 UNIT

History

Introduction to Contemporary World; Industrial Revolution - Origins, Causes, and Preconditions

Defining the Contemporary World in Exam Context

In objective exams, the Contemporary World isn't just a timeline; it's a web of interlocking events where economic shifts birthed social revolutions and global conflicts. Focus on how the Industrial Revolution sparked chain reactions leading to depressions, class struggles, and anti-colonial movements in India. Pitfall alert: Don't confuse 'contemporary' with post-1945 only—exams include 18th-20th century roots for depth.

Key markers include technological leaps, ideological battles, and power realignments post-revolutions. For MCQs, spot questions testing causality: e.g., "Which precondition enabled Britain's lead in industrialization?" Eliminate non-British factors swiftly. Mnemonic: **C-I-P-E** (Capital, Innovation, Population, Empire) for quick recall.

Exams often link this to Indian history, so internalize how global events mirrored in colonial exploitation. Time-saver: Group events by themes—economic (depressions), social (class issues), political (revolutions)—to answer 1-mark zingers in seconds.

Kickstarting the Industrial Revolution: Historical Backdrop

The Industrial Revolution, erupting in Britain around 1760-1840, wasn't an overnight explosion but a culmination of centuries-old preconditions. It transitioned humanity from manual labor to machine-driven production, reshaping economies from feudal to capitalist. In exams, questions probe origins: Remember, it began in textiles, spreading to iron and steam power.

Britain's unique position stemmed from its stable political environment post-Glorious Revolution (1688), fostering entrepreneurship without absolutist hurdles. Exam trick: Eliminate options like 'French influence'—Britain's isolation post-Seven Years' War (1763) actually aided internal focus. Real-world angle: This stability allowed accumulation of wealth from colonial trade, funding innovations.

Population growth from 5.5 million in 1700 to 9 million by 1800 provided labor surplus, but agrarian enclosures displaced peasants, pushing them to factories. Mnemonic: **P-E-A-C-E** (Population Explosion, Enclosures, Agricultural Changes, Capital Excess, Empire Expansion).

Core Causes: Economic Preconditions

Economic factors were the engine: Britain's merchant class amassed capital through triangular trade (Europe-Africa-Americas), involving slaves, raw materials, and manufactured goods. By 1750, profits from colonies like India and Americas created investment pools for machinery. Pitfall: Don't overlook proto-industrialization—cottage industries scaled up, testing MCQ distractors on 'sudden invention'.

High wages in Britain compared to Europe incentivized labor-saving devices; Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* (1776) later theorized this, but pre-dated the full boom. Exam hack: For negatives, eliminate absolute claims like 'solely due to inventions'—causes were multifaceted.

Colonial markets ensured demand: India's deindustrialization under British rule (e.g., destruction of handlooms) created captive buyers for British goods. Real-world nuance: This 'drain of wealth' theory by Dadabhai Naoroji links directly to later Indian issues—spot crossover MCQs.

Political and Institutional Causes

Politically, Britain's parliamentary system post-1688 protected property rights, encouraging risk-taking inventors via patents (e.g., Statute of Monopolies, 1624). Unlike absolutist France or fragmented Germany, unified laws facilitated trade. Mnemonic: **P-P-R** (Parliament, Property Rights, Rule of Law).

The Bank of England (1694) provided stable credit, fueling investments—contrast with unstable continental banking for elimination tips. Exam pattern: Questions often compare Britain vs. others; bold fact: No major wars on British soil after 1746 preserved infrastructure.

Enlightenment ideas promoted rationalism, indirectly supporting scientific inquiry. But beware pitfalls: Revolution was pragmatic, not purely ideological—MCQs may trick with overemphasis on philosophy.

Social and Demographic Preconditions

Socially, a mobile population from enclosures (e.g., 1700-1760 acts displacing 200,000+ farmers) created urban labor pools. Improved agriculture via crop rotation (Townshend's four-field system) boosted food supply, sustaining growth. Italic pitfall: Ignore myths of 'happy peasants'—enclosures caused pauperism, fueling later labor issues.

Literacy rose to 60% among men by 1800, aiding technical education. Family structures shifted to nuclear units, adaptable to factory life. Real-world angle: Women's roles evolved from home-based to wage labor, though exploitative—exam questions probe gender impacts.

Demographic transition: Declining death rates from better hygiene (pre-vaccination) and nutrition spurred workforce. Mnemonic: **D-F-L** (Death decline, Food surplus, Labor mobility).

Geographical and Resource Advantages

Britain's island geography offered natural defenses and sea access, dominating trade routes. Abundant coal and iron ore (e.g., South Wales fields) were crucial—coal output rose from 3 million tons (1700) to 10 million (1800). Exam trick: For MCQs on 'why Britain first?', bold resources over inventions; inventions followed needs.

Rivers and canals (e.g., Bridgewater Canal, 1761) enabled cheap transport pre-railways. Contrast with landlocked nations for elimination: E.g., "Why not Austria?"—Lack of ports.

Climate favored textiles: Damp weather suited cotton spinning. Real-world: Imported raw cotton from colonies quadrupled production efficiencies.

Intellectual and Scientific Foundations

The Scientific Revolution (Copernicus to Newton) laid groundwork, with Royal Society (1660) promoting empiricism. Inventions built on this: E.g., Newcomen's steam engine (1712) refined existing pumps. Pitfall: Don't attribute to single geniuses—cumulative knowledge; MCQs test sequences.

Protestant work ethic (Weber's thesis) encouraged thrift and innovation, though debated—use for nuanced answers. Exam hack: Link to Enlightenment for broader questions.

Educational institutions like dissenting academies trained practical skills, bypassing aristocratic universities. Mnemonic: **S-E-P** (Science, Education, Protestantism).

Agricultural Revolution as Catalyst

Often underplayed in exams, the Agricultural Revolution (1700-1850) was pivotal: Innovations like Jethro Tull's seed drill (1701) increased yields 20-30%, freeing labor for industries. Enclosures consolidated farms, raising efficiency but social costs. **Bold key:** Output per worker doubled, sustaining urban migration.

Norfolk system (four-course rotation) minimized fallows, boosting calories. Real-world: This 'revolution' predated industrial but interlinked—spot MCQ patterns on chronology.

Livestock improvements (Bakewell's selective breeding) enhanced meat/dairy. Pitfall: Avoid confusing with later Green Revolution—contextualize for India links.

Proto-Industrialization Phase

Before full factories, putting-out system decentralized production: Merchants supplied materials to rural workers, scaling output. By 1750, this primed for mechanization in textiles. Exam trick: Eliminate 'factory-first' myths; proto-phase tested market viability.

In Lancashire, cotton imports from India surged, but British calicos ban (1721) protected domestic industry. Mnemonic: **P-M-S** (Putting-out, Merchants, Scale-up).

Socially, it blurred rural-urban divides, setting stage for class issues. Real-world: Exploited homeworkers, foreshadowing labor reforms.

Global Trade Networks as Fuel

Mercantilism drove expansion: Navigation Acts (1651 onward) monopolized colonial trade, accumulating bullion. Triangular trade profits: E.g., £2 million annual from slaves by 1770. Italic pitfall: MCQs may include ethical distractors—stick to economic causes.

East India Company (1600) drained Indian wealth, funding British R&D. Exam pattern: Questions on 'why Europe dominated'—bold colonialism.

Atlantic economy integrated resources: American cotton, African labor, European capital. Time-saver: Use table for comparisons.

Factor	Britain Advantage	Comparison to France
Trade Volume	£10M exports (1780)	Hindered by wars
Colonies	Vast empire	Lost key territories
Capital	Merchant banks	State-controlled

Cultural Shifts Enabling Change

Cultural emphasis on individualism post-Reformation encouraged entrepreneurship. Coffee houses became innovation hubs, discussing ideas. **Bold:** 3,000+ coffee houses by 1700 in London alone.

Literature glorified progress (e.g., Defoe's writings), motivating society. Pitfall: Don't over-romanticize—change was uneven, with resistance.

Consumer culture rose: Demand for goods like tea spurred production. Real-world: Middle-class growth created markets.

Early Signs and Timeline Markers

Revolution's 'take-off' around 1760: Cotton spinning inventions clustered. But preconditions from 1700: E.g., population boom post-1740. Mnemonic: 17-60 Start (1700 preconditions, 1760 boom).

Phases: First (1760-1830) textiles/iron; Second (1870+) steel/electricity—but focus on origins here.
Exam hack: Numbered timelines for recall.

1. 1700-1750: Agricultural enclosures peak.
2. 1750-1760: Proto-industry maximizes.
3. 1760+: Inventions accelerate.

Real-World Angles for Depth

Beyond books, view Revolution as double-edged: Prosperity but inequality. Links to modern globalization—e.g., supply chains echo colonial trade. For India exams, note how it deindustrialized peripheries.

Nuances: Not uniform; Scotland industrialized faster than Wales. Exceptions: Agricultural areas lagged.

Mnemonics reinforce: **B-R-I-T-A-I-N** (Banking, Resources, Innovations, Trade, Agriculture, Institutions, Navigation).

Score Booster: High-Yield Questions

1. Which of the following was NOT a precondition for the Industrial Revolution in Britain?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Abundant coal resources | (b) Stable parliamentary system |
| (c) Widespread democracy | (d) Colonial trade networks. |

Ans: (c) – Elimination tip: Britain had limited suffrage.

2. The Agricultural Revolution contributed to industrialization primarily through:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Increased food imports | (b) Labor surplus from enclosures |
| (c) Decline in population | (d) Focus on cash crops only. |

Ans: (b) – Mnemonic link: Enclosures = Extra labor.

3. In the context of proto-industrialization, the putting-out system involved:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Factory-based production | (b) Merchant-supplied home work |
| (c) Government subsidies | (d) Machine exclusivity. |

Ans: (b) – Pitfall: Confuse with full factories.

4. Britain's geographical advantage for industrialization included:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Landlocked position | (b) Arid climate |
| (c) Abundant rivers and ports | (d) Mountainous terrain. |

Ans: (c) – Real-world: Enabled cheap transport.

5. The Bank of England (1694) aided the Revolution by:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Controlling prices | (b) Providing stable credit |
| (c) Banning trade | (d) Promoting agriculture only. |

Ans: (b) – Exam hack: Link to capital accumulation.

6. Which mnemonic helps recall key preconditions?

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) C-I-P-E | (b) A-B-C-D |
| (c) X-Y-Z | (d) None. |

Ans: (a) – Use for time-saving.

Industrial Revolution – Technological Innovations, Machinery, and Factory System

Textile Industry Transformations: Spinning and Weaving

Textiles led the charge, with cotton as king—imports from India/America surged 10-fold (1750-1800). James Hargreaves' Spinning Jenny (1764) allowed one worker to spin 8-16 threads, up from 1 on traditional wheels. Bold key: Multi-spindle design revolutionized home-based spinning, but initial resistance from workers fearing job loss.

Richard Arkwright's Water Frame (1769) used water power for stronger yarn, enabling factory-scale production. Exam trick: Sequence matters—Jenny for quantity, Frame for quality; eliminate options mixing them.

Edmund Cartwright's Power Loom (1785) mechanized weaving, though perfected later—output jumped 20x by 1830. Mnemonic: **J-W-P** (Jenny, Water Frame, Power Loom) for spinning-weaving progression.

Iron and Steel Advancements

Iron production exploded with Abraham Darby's coke smelting (1709), replacing charcoal—output from 25,000 tons (1750) to 250,000 (1800). Pitfall: Darby I vs. II/III—family lineage tricks MCQs; focus on coke's efficiency in blast furnaces.

Henry Cort's puddling process (1784) produced wrought iron cheaply, essential for machinery. Real-world: Enabled bridges, ships—link to infrastructure growth.

Later, Henry Bessemer's converter (1856) mass-produced steel, but for first phase, stick to iron. Table for comparison:

Innovation	Inventor	Impact
Coke Smelting	Darby (1709)	Cheaper iron, deforestation halt
Puddling	Cort (1784)	Purer iron for tools
Converter	Bessemer (1856)	Steel boom post-1850

Steam Power: The Game-Changer

Thomas Newcomen's atmospheric engine (1712) pumped mine water, but inefficient—used 30x more coal than later models. James Watt's separate condenser (1769) quadrupled efficiency, patented with Boulton. Italic pitfall: Watt didn't 'invent' steam engine—improved it; common distractor.

Applications: Factories, locomotives—steam output rose to 4 million HP by 1870. Mnemonic: **N-W-S** (Newcomen, Watt, Steam applications).

Exam hack: For negatives, "Not powered by steam initially"—textiles used water first.

Transport Revolutions: Canals and Roads

Infrastructure supported innovations: Duke of Bridgewater's Canal (1761) halved coal transport costs. Canal mileage: 100 (1750) to 4,000 (1830). Bold: ROI—£100,000 investment yielded millions.

John McAdam's macadam roads (1815) enabled faster travel, pre-rail. Real-world: Reduced spoilage for goods, boosting trade.

Telford's engineering (e.g., Menai Bridge, 1826) exemplified precision. Numbered steps for canal building:

1. Survey terrain for levels.
2. Dig trenches, line with clay.
3. Build locks for elevation.
4. Flood and test.

Railway Era Beginnings

George Stephenson's Rocket (1829) won Rainhill Trials, sparking rail boom—mileage from 0 to 6,000 by 1850. Exam trick: Distinguish Stockton-Darlington (1825, first public) vs. Liverpool-Manchester (1830, passenger).

Impacts: Time compression, market integration. Pitfall: Railways post-dated initial Revolution—don't attribute early causes.

Mnemonic: **S-R-R** (Stephenson, Rocket, Rails).

Chemical and Other Innovations

John Roebuck's lead-chamber process (1746) cheapened sulfuric acid for bleaches. Bold: Enabled brighter textiles, export surge.

Gas lighting (Murdoch, 1792) extended factory hours. Exceptions: Not all innovations British—e.g., French contributions in dyes.

Real-world: Pollution rise—link to later environmental MCQs.

Factory System Emergence

Factories centralized production: Arkwright's Cromford Mill (1771) first water-powered, employing 200+. Shift from cottage to disciplined labor. Pitfall: Early factories child-labor heavy—ages 5+, 14-hour days; exam questions on social costs.

Division of labor (Smith's pin factory example) boosted productivity 200x. Mnemonic: **C-D-E** (Centralization, Division, Efficiency).

Management and Organizational Changes

Factory system introduced time clocks, oversight—Boulton & Watt's Soho Foundry (1795) model for discipline. Italic: Resistance led to Luddite riots (1811-16)—destroyed machines; MCQ pattern on 'causes of unrest'.

Real-world: Wage systems shifted to piece-rate, incentivizing output but exploitation.

Economic Models and Formulas

Understand productivity: $\text{Output} = \text{Labor} * \text{Capital} * \text{Technology}$. Revolution multiplied technology factor 10x in textiles.

For exams, simple formula: $\text{Efficiency Gain} = (\text{New Output} / \text{Old}) - 1$. E.g., Jenny: $(16/1) - 1 = 1500\%$.

Pitfall: Don't apply modern economics retroactively—classical theories emerged during.

Interconnections with Preconditions

Innovations responded to demand: E.g., population growth needed more cloth, spurring Jenny. Capital from trade funded patents.

Exam hack: Bridge questions—"How did enclosures aid innovations?" (Labor supply).

Global Spread Teasers

Britain's lead due to patents, but smuggling spread tech—e.g., Slater to USA (1790). For India, contrast: Tech imports but colonial barriers.

Score Booster: High-Yield Questions

1. James Hargreaves is associated with:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| (a) Water Frame | (b) Spinning Jenny |
| (c) Power Loom | (d) Steam Engine. |

Ans: (b) – Sequence recall.

2. The puddling process improved:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Cotton spinning | (b) Iron production |
| (c) Canal digging | (d) Railway tracks. |

Ans: (b) – Comparison table aid.

3. Watt's improvement to the steam engine was:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| (a) First invention | (b) Separate condenser |
| (c) Water power | (d) Coal replacement. |

Ans: (b) – Pitfall elimination.

4. The first modern factory was:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Soho Foundry | (b) Cromford Mill |
| (c) Bridgewater Canal | (d) Rocket Locomotive. |

Ans: (b) – Bold date 1771.

5. Division of labor in factories led to:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Decreased productivity | (b) Efficiency gains |
| (c) Home-based work | (d) Less capital. |

Ans: (b) – Smith's example.

6. Luddite riots targeted:

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| (a) Canals | (b) Machines |
| (c) Roads | (d) Chemicals. |

Ans: (b) – Social cost link.

Industrial Revolution - Social and Economic Impacts, Urbanization, and Spread to Other Countries

Economic Impacts: Wealth Creation and Capitalism's Rise

Economically, the Revolution skyrocketed production: Britain's GNP grew 4% annually (1800-1850), from £200 million to £500 million, driven by mechanization. Capital accumulation favored entrepreneurs—'Captains of Industry' like Arkwright amassed fortunes, establishing laissez-faire capitalism. Bold key: Per capita income doubled by 1850, but uneven distribution—top 10% captured 50% gains.

Trade boomed: Exports tripled (1780-1830), with cotton comprising 50% by 1800, thanks to colonial markets. Real-world angle: This 'multiplier effect' stimulated ancillary industries like shipping, banking—e.g., Liverpool's port handled 40% of world trade by 1820.

However, cyclical booms/busts emerged—overproduction led to slumps (e.g., 1815 post-Napoleonic depression). Exam hack: For MCQs on 'economic consequences,' eliminate socialist interpretations; focus on classical growth metrics.

Wage Dynamics and Standard of Living Debates

Wages rose nominally—textile workers from 5s/week (1760) to 15s (1830)—but inflation eroded gains; real wages stagnated until 1820. Pitfall alert: Optimist vs. Pessimist debate—Engels' Condition of the Working Class (1845) argues decline, while stats show post-1820 improvement; exams test both sides.

Living standards: Caloric intake increased 20% via cheaper goods, but nutrition varied—urban diets heavy on bread/potatoes. Mnemonic: **W-I-N** (Wages Increase Nominally, Inflation Neutralizes, Nutrition Varies).

Time-saver: Use tables for debates.

Viewpoint	Evidence	Counter
Optimist (e.g., Clapham)	Life expectancy up to 40 by 1850	Ignores child mortality
Pessimist (e.g., Hammonds)	Factory conditions horrific	Overlooks rural poverty pre-Revolution

Social Impacts: Class Structure Transformations

Socially, a new bourgeoisie middle class emerged—factory owners, merchants—challenging aristocratic dominance; by 1830, they influenced Parliament via Reform Act (1832). Working class proliferated, from 20% urban (1750) to 50% (1850), but proletarianized—deskilled by machines. Bold: Marx's 'alienation' concept roots here—workers as cogs, losing craft pride.

Family dynamics shifted: Women/children entered workforce, eroding patriarchal homes; 60% of cotton mill workers under 18 by 1800. Real-world: This 'industrial family' enabled survival but bred exploitation—link to later labor laws.

Labor Conditions and Exploitation

Factory life was grueling: 12-16 hour days, six days/week, in noisy, dusty environments; accidents common—e.g., unguarded machinery maimed thousands annually. Italic pitfall: Romanticize not—Sadler's Report (1832) details child beatings; MCQs cite primary sources.

Child labor: Orphans 'apprenticed' from age 7, often abused; Pauper Apprentices Act (1802) attempted regulation but failed. Mnemonic: **C-H-I-L-D** (Children Hazardous Industrial Labor Daily).

Reforms gradual: Factory Act (1833) limited child hours to 9/day, inspectors appointed. Exam trick: Sequence laws—1802 (Health), 1819 (Cotton Mills), 1833 (General).

Urbanization: Growth of Cities

Urbanization exploded: London's population from 1 million (1800) to 2.3 million (1850); Manchester from 75,000 to 300,000. Pull factors: Factory jobs; push: Rural enclosures. Bold key: Urban rate from 20% (1750) to 50% (1850)—'urban revolution.'

Infrastructure lagged: Overcrowded slums, no sanitation—cholera epidemics (1831 killed 32,000). Real-world: Edwin Chadwick's Report (1842) exposed filth, leading to Public Health Act (1848).

Benefits: Cultural hubs—museums, theaters flourished. Pitfall: Avoid 'all misery' narrative—some migrants improved economically.

Environmental and Health Consequences

Environmentally, pollution soared: Coal smoke blackened cities—'Black Country' in Midlands; rivers toxic from dyes. Exam hack: Link to modern sustainability MCQs—origins of industrial pollution.

Health: Life expectancy dipped initially to 30 in cities vs. 40 rural, due to diseases like tuberculosis. Vaccinations (Jenner, 1796) helped later. Mnemonic: **P-D-H** (Pollution, Disease, Health Reforms).

Social responses: Philanthropy—e.g., Rowntree's studies on poverty cycles.

Spread to Europe: Continental Variations

Spread began post-1815: Belgium industrialized first (textiles/coal), borrowing British tech—e.g., Cockerill's ironworks (1817). France slower, state-led—Napoleonic wars delayed; by 1850, railways key. Bold: Zollverein (1834) unified German markets, enabling Ruhr boom.

Differences: Continent had more government intervention—e.g., French subsidies vs. British private enterprise. Table for spread:

Country	Start Year	Key Industry	Barrier
Belgium	1800	Coal/Iron	None major
France	1830	Textiles	Wars
Germany	1850	Steel	Fragmentation

Spread to USA and Beyond

USA: Adopted rapidly post-1812 War; Lowell Mills (1814) emulated British factories, but abundant land favored agriculture initially. By 1860, industrial output rivaled Britain. Pitfall: Slater's 'smuggled' plans (1789)—MCQs on tech transfer.

Japan: Meiji Restoration (1868) forced industrialization—state-built factories sold to private. Exceptions: Russia lagged, serfdom until 1861.

Real-world: 'Latecomer advantage'—adopted latest tech, leapfrogging.

Imperialism and Global Economic Ties

Globally, fueled imperialism: Raw materials from colonies (e.g., Indian cotton), markets for goods. Italic: 'Unequal exchange'—peripheries deindustrialized; India's share of world manufacturing from 25% (1750) to 3% (1900).

Cultural and Ideological Shifts

Culturally, Romanticism reacted against mechanization—Wordsworth's poetry lamented lost nature. Utilitarianism (Bentham) justified reforms. Bold: Education expanded—monitorial system for masses.

Gender roles: Women gained economic independence but double burden—work + home.

Exam Optimization: MCQ Strategies

Pattern-spotting: Impacts questions often binary—positive/negative; balance both. Elimination: Discard extremes like 'no poverty pre-Revolution.'

Time-savers: Mnemonics for acts—**F-A-C-T** (Factory Acts Chronology Timeline).

For negatives: "Not an impact"—e.g., immediate democracy.

Real-World Nuances and Exceptions

Nuances: Not all workers suffered equally—skilled earned more. Exceptions: Agricultural south lagged industrial north in Britain.

Score Booster: High-Yield Questions

1. The Industrial Revolution's economic impact included:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Stagnant GNP | (b) Export tripled |
| (c) Decreased trade | (d) No capital accumulation. |

Ans: (b) – Growth metrics.

2. Real wages during the Revolution:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Rose immediately | (b) Stagnated till 1820 |
| (c) Fell permanently | (d) Unaffected. |

Ans: (b) – Debate recall.

3. Factory Act of 1833 limited child labor to:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| (a) 12 hours | (b) 9 hours |
| (c) No limit | (d) Banned. |

Ans: (b) – Sequence hack.

4. Urbanization rate in Britain by 1850 was:

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| (a) 20% | (b) 50% |
| (c) 80% | (d) 10%. |

Ans: (b) – Bold fact.

5. Zollverein aided industrialization in:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (a) France | (b) Germany |
| (c) USA | (d) Japan. |

Ans: (b) – Spread table.

6. Child labor was regulated first by:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (a) 1833 Act | (b) 1802 Act |
| (c) 1848 Act | (d) 1819 Act. |

Ans: (b) – Mnemonic.

Industrial Revolution - Criticisms, Reforms, And Transition To Economic Depression

Criticisms: Social and Economic Grievances

The Revolution's benefits were overshadowed by its costs: Workers endured brutal conditions—14-hour shifts, cramped factories, and wages barely above subsistence (e.g., 10s/week for laborers, 1800). **Key:** Engels' Condition of the Working Class in England (1845) documented urban misery—cholera, overcrowding, child labor. Critics like Thomas Carlyle coined 'dismal science' for economics, highlighting dehumanization.

Socially, traditional communities eroded; rural migrants faced alienation in cities—crime rates doubled in London (1800-1850). Economic critique: Wealth concentrated among industrialists—top 5% owned 70% of wealth by 1830. *Pitfall:* MCQs may overstate universal poverty—some artisans thrived; know exceptions.

Real-world angle: These critiques birthed ideologies like socialism, tested in exams via cause-effect questions.

Luddite Movement and Worker Resistance

Luddites (1811-1816) smashed machinery, fearing job losses—e.g., power looms displaced weavers, reducing wages by 30%. Not anti-technology but anti-exploitation, they targeted abusive employers. **Exam trick:** Eliminate options calling Luddites 'backward'—context was economic survival.

Government response: Frame-Breaking Act (1812) made machine destruction punishable by death; 70+ Luddites executed. Mnemonic: **L-A-M** (Luddites, Anger, Machinery).

Impact: Highlighted labor unrest, pushing early reforms. Pattern: MCQs on 'causes of riots'—link to deskilling.

Philosophical and Literary Critiques

Romantic poets like William Blake ('dark Satanic mills') decried industrialization's spiritual toll, contrasting pastoral ideals. Philosophers like Robert Owen criticized profit-driven systems, advocating cooperative models—his New Lanark mill (1800) improved worker welfare. **Bold:** Owen's ideas prefigured socialism, key for crossover MCQs.

Utilitarian critics (Bentham, Mill) pushed reform via 'greatest happiness' principle, influencing legislation. *Pitfall:* Don't confuse Romanticism's emotional critique with utilitarianism's pragmatic one—exams test distinctions.

Early Reforms: Factory and Labor Laws

Reforms addressed abuses incrementally:

1. **Health and Morals of Apprentices Act (1802):** Limited pauper apprentices' hours to 12/day, mandated education—weakly enforced.
2. **Cotton Mills Act (1819):** Banned under-9s, limited 9-16s to 12 hours—first child labor law.
3. **Factory Act (1833):** Under-9s banned, 9-13s to 9 hours, inspectors appointed. **Bold:** First effective enforcement.

By 1847, Ten Hours Act capped women/children's workdays. Real-world: Enforcement varied—rural mills dodged inspectors. Mnemonic: **H-C-F-T** (Health, Cotton, Factory, Ten).

Exam hack: Sequence matters—1802 (symbolic), 1833 (practical). Table for clarity:

Act	Year	Key Provision	Limitation
Health	1802	12-hour limit	Poor enforcement
Cotton	1819	No under-9s	Cotton only
Factory	1833	Inspectors	Gradual rollout

Public Health and Urban Reforms

Urban squalor—e.g., Manchester’s 1 toilet per 200 people—spurred action. Edwin Chadwick’s Sanitary Report (1842) exposed disease-poverty links, leading to Public Health Act (1848)—sewers, water boards. *Italic pitfall*: Don’t overstate impact—cholera persisted till 1860s.

Housing: Back-to-back slums housed 70% of urban poor; later model dwellings (e.g., Peabody Trust, 1862) emerged. Exam pattern: Questions on ‘health reforms’—link to urbanization impacts.

Trade Unions and Worker Agency

Workers organized: Early unions illegal under Combination Acts (1799-1800), repealed 1824. By 1830s, Grand National Consolidated Trades Union formed, though fragmented. **Bold**: Strikes, like Plug Plot Riots (1842), showed collective power but limited gains.

Real-world: Unions laid groundwork for Labour Party (1900). Exam trick: For MCQs on ‘union impact,’ eliminate ‘immediate wage hikes’—gains were long-term.

Transition to Economic Depression: Seeds of Instability

The Revolution’s overproduction set the stage for economic crises. Post-Napoleonic slump (1815-1820) saw unemployment spike—cotton exports fell 20%. **Bold key**: Cyclical instability emerged—boom-bust cycles every 7-10 years.

Mechanization increased supply but outpaced demand, crashing prices—e.g., cotton cloth prices halved (1800-1830). Colonial markets absorbed surplus, but reliance on them (India took 40% of textiles) created vulnerabilities when global trade faltered.

Real-world: These cycles prefigured the Great Depression (1929); exam questions link overproduction to later crises. Mnemonic: **O-D-C** (Overproduction, Demand lag, Cyclic slumps).

Exam Optimization: MCQ Strategies

Pattern-spotting: Questions contrast ‘before vs. after’ impacts—e.g., ‘What worsened post-Revolution?’ (Inequality, not technology). Elimination: Discard options ignoring reforms—e.g., ‘no laws passed.’

Time-savers: Memorize act years (1802, 1819, 1833) for 1-mark zingers. For negatives: ‘Not a critique’—e.g., ‘agricultural decline’ (it rose).

Numbered reform steps:

1. Identify abuse (child labor, sanitation).
2. Document via reports (Sadler, Chadwick).
3. Legislate with limits (hours, conditions).
4. Enforce via inspectors.

Real-World Nuances and Exceptions

Nuances: Reforms uneven—north industrialized faster, south lagged. Exceptions: Some employers (Owen) voluntarily improved conditions—rare.

Link to India: British reforms contrasted with colonial neglect—e.g., no factory laws in India till 1881.

Exam crossover: Questions on ‘global disparities.’

Criticisms’ Long-Term Legacy

Critiques fueled ideologies: Marx’s Communist Manifesto (1848) built on Engels’ observations, predicting revolution. Reforms set welfare state precedents—key for MCQs on ‘long-term impacts.’

Cultural shift: Humanitarianism grew, but slow—slavery abolished 1833, yet worker exploitation persisted.

Score Booster: High-Yield Questions

1. Luddites primarily opposed:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Technology itself | (b) Job displacement |
| (c) Factory laws | (d) Urbanization. |

Ans: (b) – Context over myth.

2. The Factory Act of 1833 introduced:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| (a) 12-hour limit | (b) Inspectors |
| (c) No child labor | (d) Union rights. |

Ans: (b) – Sequence recall.

3. Chadwick’s 1842 report led to:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Factory Act | (b) Public Health Act |
| (c) Ten Hours Act | (d) No change. |

Ans: (b) – Health link.

4. Overproduction contributed to:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Stable economy | (b) Boom-bust cycles |
| (c) No exports | (d) Rural growth. |

Ans: (b) – Depression teaser.

5. Early trade unions faced:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Full legalization | (b) Combination Acts |
| (c) Government support | (d) No resistance. |

Ans: (b) – Repeal 1824.

6. Romantic poets criticized:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Mechanization’s toll | (b) Wage increases |
| (c) Urban growth | (d) Reforms. |

Ans: (a) – Literary angle.

Economic Depression –Causes, Phases Of The Great Depression (1929-1939)

Defining the Great Depression

The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic downturn, starting with the Wall Street Crash (October 1929) and lasting until World War II's onset (1939). It slashed global GDP by 15%, with unemployment peaking at 25% in the USA and 30% in Germany. **Bold key:** Not just a market crash but a systemic failure—overproduction, speculative bubbles, and weak banking systems.

In exams, questions focus on causality and timelines—e.g., “What triggered the 1929 crash?” or “Which phase saw recovery?” Mnemonic: **C-R-I-S-I-S** (Crash, Recovery, Instability, Speculation, Inequality, Systems failure). *Italic pitfall:* Don't limit to USA—global scope is key for Indian exams.

Root Causes: Overproduction and Industrial Legacy

The Industrial Revolution's overproduction set the stage: By 1920s, factories churned out goods (e.g., cars, radios) faster than consumer demand—US industrial output rose 50% (1919-1929), but wages grew only 10%. **Bold:** Supply-demand mismatch led to unsold inventories, crashing prices. *Real-world:* Farmers faced surplus—wheat prices fell 40% by 1929.

Speculative Bubbles and Stock Market Crash

Speculative mania fueled the 1920s boom: Stock prices soared—Dow Jones rose from 191 (1925) to 381 (1929)—driven by margin buying (loans for stocks). *Italic pitfall:* MCQs may overemphasize crash as sole cause—bubble was symptom, not root. October 1929's crash wiped out \$30 billion in market value, eroding confidence.

Banks, heavily invested in stocks, collapsed—4,000 US banks failed by 1933. Mnemonic: **S-L-C** (Speculation, Loans, Crash). *Pattern:* Questions test sequence—bubble preceded crash.

Banking System Weaknesses

Unregulated banks overextended credit: US banks lent \$9 for every \$1 in deposits, with no federal insurance. Post-crash, bank runs drained savings—\$1.3 billion withdrawn in 1930. **Bold:** No central bank coordination globally worsened liquidity.

Real-world: Britain's gold standard adherence (until 1931) restricted money supply, deepening deflation. *Exam trick:* Eliminate 'strong banking' options—focus on systemic flaws.

Unequal Wealth Distribution

Wealth concentration exacerbated demand issues: Top 1% in USA held 36% of wealth (1929), limiting mass purchasing power. Consumer spending dropped 20% post-crash. *Italic:* MCQs may trap with 'prosperity for all'—inequality was stark.

Link to India: Colonial economies faced indirect shocks—jute exports fell 50%. Mnemonic: **R-I-C-H** (Restricted Income, Consumer Halt).

International Trade Collapse

Global trade plummeted: US Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act (1930) raised duties 40%, triggering retaliatory tariffs. World trade fell from \$36 billion (1929) to \$12 billion (1933). **Bold:** Protectionism choked recovery, a frequent exam focus.

Real-world: Colonies like India suffered—raw material exports crashed, linking to later peasant issues. *Exam hack:* For negatives, discard 'free trade rise'—opposite occurred.

Agricultural Crisis

Farmers, already **struggling**, faced ruin: US wheat prices dropped from \$1.04/bushel (1929) to \$0.38 (1932). Overproduction and drought (Dust Bowl, 1930s) displaced 1 million farmers. *Italic pitfall*: Don't confuse with Industrial Revolution's agricultural boom—context shifted.

Mnemonic: **F-A-L-L** (Farmers, Agriculture, Low prices, Losses). Pattern: MCQs on 'rural impact'—link to global demand drop.

Phases of the Great Depression: Timeline Breakdown

The Depression unfolded in distinct phases, critical for exam timelines:

1. **Crash and Initial Shock (1929-1930)**: Wall Street Crash (Oct 1929) triggered panic; industrial production fell 15%, unemployment hit 9%. Banks failed, confidence eroded.
2. **Deepening Crisis (1931-1933)**: Global spread—Germany, UK hit hard; US unemployment reached 25%. Deflation peaked—prices down 10% annually. **Bold**: Banking crisis peak—9,000 banks collapsed.
3. **Early Recovery Attempts (1933-1935)**: Roosevelt's New Deal (1933) introduced relief, recovery, reform—e.g., AAA stabilized farm prices. Europe lagged—UK abandoned gold standard (1931).
4. **Secondary Recession (1937-1938)**: Premature tightening of US fiscal policy cut growth; unemployment rose to 19%. Recovery fragile.
5. **Pre-War Recovery (1939)**: War preparations boosted demand—US industrial output up 20%. Full recovery post-1940.

Mnemonic: **C-D-E-S-P** (Crash, Deepening, Early recovery, Secondary slump, Pre-war). Exam trick: Sequence questions—e.g., 'What followed 1933?' (New Deal).

Phase	Years	Key Event	Impact
Crash	1929-30	Wall Street Crash	15% production drop
Deepening	1931-33	Bank failures	25% unemployment
Early Recovery	1933-35	New Deal	Farm price stabilization
Secondary	1937-38	Policy tightening	Growth stalled
Pre-War	1939	War demand	Output up 20%

Political and Social Fallout

Politically, governments fell—e.g., US Republicans lost 1932 election; Germany's Weimar weakened, aiding Hitler's rise. Socially, shantytowns ('Hoovervilles') housed millions; US homeless rose to 2 million by 1933. **Bold**: Desperation fueled radical ideologies—fascism, socialism.

Real-world: India's colonial policies ignored rural distress, linking to Chat 7. Exam pattern: Questions on 'political impact'—spot extremism links.

Exam Optimization: MCQ Strategies

Pattern-spotting: Causes questions test multiple factors—e.g., 'Primary cause?' (Pick overproduction over crash). Elimination: Discard single-cause options like 'only tariffs.' Time-savers: Memorize years—1929 (Crash), 1933 (New Deal).

For negatives: 'Not a cause' — e.g., 'post-1930 innovations.' Numbered causes for recall:

1. Overproduction from industrial surplus.
2. Speculative stock market bubble.
3. Weak banking systems.
4. Unequal wealth limiting demand.
5. Protectionist trade policies.

Real-World Nuances and Exceptions

Nuances: Not all nations hit equally—Australia, Canada less severe due to raw material reliance.

Exceptions: USSR, insulated by central planning, avoided crash—exam crossover to socialism.

Link to India: Indirect effects via trade collapse—jute, cotton exports halved.

Score Booster: High-Yield Questions

1. The Great Depression began with:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) New Deal | (b) Wall Street Crash |
| (c) Smoot-Hawley Act | (d) Dust Bowl. |

Ans: (b) – Timeline recall.

2. Overproduction led to:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Price rises | (b) Inventory surplus |
| (c) Wage growth | (d) Trade expansion. |

Ans: (b) – Root cause.

3. Smoot-Hawley Act (1930) caused:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Free trade | (b) Trade collapse |
| (c) Bank stability | (d) Farm recovery. |

Ans: (b) – Protectionism link.

4. Peak unemployment in USA was:

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| (a) 10% | (b) 25% |
| (c) 50% | (d) 5%. |

Ans: (b) – Bold stat.

5. The New Deal started in:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| (a) 1929 | (b) 1933 |
| (c) 1937 | (d) 1939. |

Ans: (b) – Phase sequence.

6. A key banking issue was:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Over-regulation | (b) Overextended credit |
| (c) Gold surplus | (d) Strong reserves. |

Ans: (b) – Systemic flaw.