

## Level 5

# The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain during the middle of the 18th century. This was a period of great change. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, goods were produced in small workshops or in people's homes. Most people in Britain lived outside of the cities and towns, working as farmers or craftspeople.

Industrialisation saw the introduction of more machinery into farms. Because of this, farms began to produce a greater amount of food and other crops. The increased use of machines on farms also meant that fewer people were needed for farming jobs.

Due to an increase in the amount of food and other resources, the population started to rise in the late 18th century. This resulted in an increase in the demand for goods such as textiles and clothing.

New machines in other industries were also invented, allowing more goods to be produced more quickly than ever before. Factories were needed in which to operate these large machines.

Workers who crafted by hand could not produce goods quickly enough. It was impossible for them to compete against the factories, which could produce goods much more quickly and much more cheaply. Many people were left without jobs. Consequently, many people left the countryside and moved to towns and cities in search of work in one of the many new factories that had been built.

The population of these cities grew extremely quickly.



Workers in a textile factory

While the Industrial Revolution was responsible for a number of positive changes for people, it also caused many problems for the people of Britain. Before the Industrial Revolution, most people lived in the countryside. The sudden and significant increase in the population of cities was one of these problems. Houses were small, and overcrowding was very common. Living in such close quarters caused sanitary problems. At the time, there was no sewage system. This meant that people would dispose of their waste on the streets and into rivers. Diseases spread easily. Smoke from factories, engines and fireplaces polluted the air around the cities. The waste from factories was also regularly discarded into rivers.

## Task A: Comprehension

1. Why were fewer workers needed on farms during the Industrial Revolution?

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2. What caused the increase in demand for clothing?

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3. Give 2 reasons diseases might have spread so easily.

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4. Which word from the text means 'dumped'?

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5. List 2 positive effects of the Industrial Revolution.

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6. List 2 negative effects of the Industrial Revolution.

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7. Summarise this text in 20 words or fewer.

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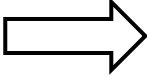
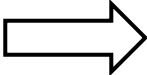
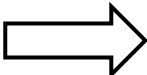
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# The Industrial Revolution Question Sheet 2

## Task B: Language and Grammar

1. This text mentions a number of **cause and effect** relationships. Show 3 of them below.

Cause		Effect
Cause		Effect
Cause		Effect

2. A **prepositional phrase** includes a preposition and an object. For example:

Many people moved **into cities**.

Find **3 prepositional phrases** from the text using these clues:

- a. For the people \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Waste was discarded \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Factories polluted the air \_\_\_\_\_

## Task C: Challenge

Research the different inventions of the industrial revolution. What do you think were the three most important inventions? Explain.