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CLASS-10TH

(BASED ON N C E R T PATTERN)

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HISTORY

The age of industrialisation

Question 1.

Describe the main features of the pace of industrial change in Britain in the nineteenth century.

Answer:

The main features of the pace of industrial change were as mentioned below :

1. The most dynamic industries in Britain were clearly cotton and metals.
2. Growing at a rapid pace, cotton was the leading sector in the first phase of industrialisation up to the 1840s.
3. After cotton, the iron and steel industry led the way because with the expansion of railways, the demand for iron and steel increased rapidly. By 1873 Britain was exporting iron and steel worth about 77 million double the value of its cotton export.
4. The new industries could not easily displace traditional industries.
(a) Ordinary and small innovations were the basis of growth in many non-mechanised sectors such as food processing, building, pottery glass work, tanning, furniture making and production of implements.
5. Technology changes occurred slowly as these were expensive and their repair was too costly

Question 2.

'Technological changes occurred slowly in Britain.' Give three reasons for this.

Answer:

Technological changes occurred slowly in Britain due to the following reasons :

1. New technology was expensive so the merchants and industrialists were cautious about using it.
2. The machines often went out of order and repair was costly.
3. The machines were not as effective as their inventors and manufacturers claimed. For example, take the case of the steam engine. James Watt improved the steam engine produced by Newcomen and patented the new engine in 1781. His industrialist friend Mathew Boulton manufactured the new model. But at the beginning of the 19th century, there were no more than 321 steam engines all over England. So even the powerful new technology that enhanced the productivity of labour manifold was slow to be accepted by the industrialists.

Question 3.

Why do historians agree that the typical worker in the mid-nineteenth century was not a machine operator but the traditional crafts person and labourer ?

Answer:

The historians recognise that the typical worker in the mid-nineteenth century was not a machine operator but the traditional crafts person and labourer due to the following reasons :

1. Role of traditional industries : Although cotton and metal were the most dynamic industries but the traditional industries could not be displaced because a large portion of work even in the textile industries was being done within domestic units. Even at the end of the nineteenth century, less than 20 per cent of the total workforce was employed in technologically advanced sector.
2. Changes in the 'traditional' industries : The pace of change in the traditional industries was not set by steam-powered cotton or metal industries. Only ordinary and small innovations became the basis of growth in many non-mechanised sectors such as food processing, building, pottery, glass work, furniture work and production of implements.

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