

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

QUESTION PAPER
AI-generated question paper

Code: CBO62Q

Questions: 31

Maximum Marks: 70

Generated: 2026-06-26 10:29

SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	4 The Age of Industrialisation
Level of understanding	Initial understanding
Question selection	Curated chapter coverage (~3 questions per section)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 14 straightforward · 17 medium | Types: 22 Short · 6 Very short · 3 MCQ

Q1. straightforward initial-understanding § Introduction [1]

What does the term 'proto-industrialisation' refer to?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q2. medium initial-understanding § Introduction [3]

Why did merchants in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe move their production work to the countryside instead of expanding it within towns?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q3. straightforward initial-understanding § 1 Before the Industrial Revolution [3]

What is proto-industrialisation? Mention one reason why merchants preferred to organise production in the countryside rather than in towns.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q4. straightforward initial-understanding § 1 Before the Industrial Revolution [1]

Which of the following best describes why Richard Arkwright's cotton mill was significant?

- (A) It was the first place to use the Spinning Jenny to produce thread.
- (B) It brought all stages of cloth production under one roof and one management.
- (C) It replaced the use of raw cotton with wool as the main textile material.
- (D) It allowed merchants to expand production within town guilds.

- A It was the first place to use the Spinning Jenny to produce thread.
- B It brought all stages of cloth production under one roof and one management.
- C It replaced the use of raw cotton with wool as the main textile material.
- D It allowed merchants to expand production within town guilds.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q5. medium initial-understanding § 1.1 The Coming Up of the Factory [3]

What was the 'putting-out' system of cloth production, and why did factory owners begin to prefer centralised cotton mills over it?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q6. straightforward initial-understanding § 1.1 The Coming Up of the Factory [1]

Which of the following best describes the role Richard Arkwright played in the development of the cotton industry?

- A He invented the spinning jenny, which allowed one worker to spin multiple threads simultaneously.
- B He created the cotton mill, centralising all production processes under one roof with costly new machines.
- C He improved the steam engine and patented a new model that powered cotton factories.
- D He set up the first proto-industrial network linking town merchants with rural weavers.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q7. medium initial-understanding § 1.2 The Pace of Industrial Change [3]

Which two industries were the most dynamic and fastest-growing in Britain during the first phase of industrialisation up to the 1840s?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q8. medium initial-understanding § 2 Hand Labour and Steam Power [3]

Why did many British industrialists in the nineteenth century prefer hand labour over steam-powered machines, despite the availability of new technology?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q9. straightforward initial-understanding § 2 Hand Labour and Steam Power [1]

Why did workers in the woollen industry attack the Spinning Jenny when it was introduced?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q10. straightforward initial-understanding § 2 Hand Labour and Steam Power [1]

Which of the following best explains why industrialists in Victorian Britain often hired workers only for certain months of the year?

- (A) Machines could not operate during winter months
- (B) Seasonal demand for goods meant extra hands were needed only at peak times
- (C) The government restricted year-round employment in factories
- (D) Workers preferred seasonal contracts over permanent jobs

- A Workers refused to work for more than a few months at a time.
- B Many industries had peak demand only in particular seasons, making year-round employment unnecessary.
- C Steam-powered machines replaced workers for the rest of the year.
- D The government restricted the number of months a worker could be employed.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q11. straightforward initial-understanding § 2.1 Life of the Workers [2]

Why did workers migrating to British cities in the nineteenth century often spend weeks without work, despite the rapid growth of industries during that period?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q12. medium initial-understanding § 2.1 Life of the Workers [3]

Why did the introduction of the Spinning Jenny face violent resistance from workers in the woollen industry of Britain?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

- Q13.** straightforward initial-understanding § 2.1 Life of the Workers [2]
How did the growth of construction and railway expansion in British cities from the 1840s onwards change the employment situation for poor workers?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q14.** straightforward initial-understanding § 3.1 The Age of Indian Textiles [3]
Before European companies gained control over Indian trade, which two major ports connected India to the Gulf, Red Sea, and Southeast Asian ports? What happened to these ports as European colonial power grew?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q15.** medium initial-understanding § 3.1 The Age of Indian Textiles [3]
Why were Indian merchants unable to maintain their dominant position in international textile markets by the mid-eighteenth century?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q16.** medium initial-understanding § 3.2 What Happened to Weavers? [3]
What was the 'system of advances' and how did it restrict the freedom of Indian weavers?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q17.** straightforward initial-understanding § 3.2 What Happened to Weavers? [1]
Why did clashes break out between weavers and gomasthas in many weaving villages?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q18.** medium initial-understanding § 3.2 What Happened to Weavers? [3]
Indian cotton weavers faced a crisis from two directions during the colonial period. Identify the two problems and explain how each harmed the weaving trade.
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q19.** medium initial-understanding § 3.3 Manchester Comes to India [3]
Why did the share of Indian cotton piece-goods in India's total exports decline so drastically in the first half of the nineteenth century?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q20.** medium initial-understanding § 3.3 Manchester Comes to India [3]
Indian cotton weavers in the 1860s faced a crisis in obtaining raw cotton. What caused this sudden shortage, and how did it affect their ability to continue weaving?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q21.** medium initial-understanding § 4 Factories Come Up [3]
Who was a 'jobber' in the context of Indian textile mills during the colonial period, and what functions did he perform for factory owners as well as for workers seeking employment?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation
- Q22.** straightforward initial-understanding § 4.1 The Early Entrepreneurs [1]
[very_short_answer] What was the common source of capital that many early Indian industrialists used to set up their industries?
◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q23. medium initial-understanding § 4.1 The Early Entrepreneurs [2]

Why were Indian merchants and businessmen increasingly unable to expand freely into new areas of trade and industry under colonial rule?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q24. medium initial-understanding § 4.2 Where Did the Workers Come From? [3]

Where did most workers in Indian factories in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries come from? Name any two regions from which they migrated.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q25. straightforward initial-understanding § 4.2 Where Did the Workers Come From? [2]

What was the main role of a jobber in Indian factories, and why did workers often have to depend on him to get employment?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q26. medium initial-understanding § 5 The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth [3]

Handloom weavers in India continued to find buyers for their cloth even after mill-produced cloth became widely available. Give one reason why consumers preferred handloom cloth over mill-made cloth.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q27. straightforward initial-understanding § 5 The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth [1]

How did the First World War change the pace of industrial growth in India?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q28. medium initial-understanding § 5.1 Small-scale Industries Predominate [3]

Even as machine-made thread severely damaged India's spinning industry in the nineteenth century, handloom cloth production managed to survive and even expand in the twentieth century. Explain TWO reasons why handloom weavers were able to compete with mill-made cloth.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q29. medium initial-understanding § 5.1 Small-scale Industries Predominate [2]

Why were Indian weavers who produced fine and specialised varieties of cloth better able to withstand competition from cheap mill-made cloth compared to those who produced coarser cloth?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q30. medium initial-understanding § 6 Market for Goods [3]

Why did British manufacturers print images of Indian gods, goddesses, and historical figures on the labels of cloth bundles sold in India?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

Q31. straightforward initial-understanding § 6 Market for Goods [1]

What kind of message did Indian manufacturers include in their product advertisements to build trust and connect with Indian consumers?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

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Q1. straightforward initial-understanding § Introduction

[1]

What does the term 'proto-industrialisation' refer to?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Proto-industrialisation refers to the phase of large-scale industrial production for an international market that existed **before** factories were established, where merchants employed rural peasants and artisans to produce goods.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 1 – Before the Industrial Revolution

Explanation

The examiner expects you to mention two key points: (1) it is pre-factory industrial production, and (2) it was large-scale and meant for an international market. Avoid writing about factories — the whole point is that this system existed *before* them. One crisp line is enough for 1 mark.

Q2. medium initial-understanding § Introduction

[3]

Why did merchants in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe move their production work to the countryside instead of expanding it within towns?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Merchants in seventeenth and eighteenth century Europe moved production to the countryside because they **could not expand within towns** due to the power of **urban craft guilds**. These guilds controlled production, regulated prices, restricted entry of new producers, and held monopoly rights granted by rulers. It was therefore impossible for new merchants to set up or expand businesses in towns. In the countryside, poor peasants and artisans — who had lost access to common lands — eagerly worked for merchants to supplement their income from cultivation.

Source: Chapter 4, Proto-Industrialisation section

Explanation

What examiners look for (3 marks):

- **Point 1 (1 mark):** Guild power in towns — control over production, prices, and monopoly rights.
- **Point 2 (1 mark):** This blocked new merchants from expanding in towns.
- **Point 3 (1 mark):** Countryside peasants/artisans were available and willing due to loss of common lands.

Don't just say "guilds were powerful" — briefly state *what* they did (regulated prices, restricted entry, held monopolies). The answer about peasants' motivation (loss of commons, need for extra income) completes the picture for full marks.

Q3. straightforward initial-understanding § 1 Before the Industrial Revolution

[3]

What is proto-industrialisation? Mention one reason why merchants preferred to organise production in the countryside rather than in towns.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Proto-industrialisation refers to the phase of large-scale industrial production for international markets that existed *before* the factory system developed. It was not based on factories; goods were produced by peasants and artisans working in their homes in the countryside, under the control of town-based merchants.

One reason merchants preferred the countryside: In towns, powerful craft and trade guilds controlled production, regulated prices, and restricted entry of new merchants. Rulers granted guilds monopoly rights over specific trades, making it very difficult for new merchants to set up business. So they moved to the countryside to organise production freely.

Source: Chapter 4 – The Age of Industrialisation, Section 1 (Before the Industrial Revolution)

Explanation

- This is a 3-mark question: ~1 mark for defining proto-industrialisation, ~2 marks for the reason with explanation.
- Examiners expect the key term **guilds** and their role (monopoly, restricted entry) in the reason — just naming "guilds" without explaining is insufficient for full marks.
- Keep the answer crisp; the definition needs only 1–2 lines.

Q4. straightforward initial-understanding § 1 Before the Industrial Revolution

[1]

Which of the following best describes why Richard Arkwright's cotton mill was significant?

- (A) It was the first place to use the Spinning Jenny to produce thread.
 - (B) It brought all stages of cloth production under one roof and one management.
 - (C) It replaced the use of raw cotton with wool as the main textile material.
 - (D) It allowed merchants to expand production within town guilds.
- A It was the first place to use the Spinning Jenny to produce thread.
B It brought all stages of cloth production under one roof and one management.
C It replaced the use of raw cotton with wool as the main textile material.
D It allowed merchants to expand production within town guilds.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

(B) It brought all stages of cloth production under one roof and one management.

Explanation

The passage directly states: "Within the mill all the processes were brought together under one roof and management." This allowed supervision of quality and regulation of labour. The Spinning Jenny was a separate invention; Arkwright's significance was the factory system, not any single machine. Options C and D are factually incorrect as per the text.

Source: *The Coming Up of the Factory*, Chapter 4

Q5. medium initial-understanding § 1.1 The Coming Up of the Factory

[3]

What was the 'putting-out' system of cloth production, and why did factory owners begin to prefer centralised cotton mills over it?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Putting-out System: Under this system, merchants supplied raw materials (like wool or cotton) to rural households, and the finished cloth was collected and sold by the same merchants. Production was spread across the countryside in village homes.

Why factory owners preferred centralised mills: Richard Arkwright's cotton mill brought all processes under one roof. This allowed:

- Better supervision of the production process
- Stricter quality control
- Easier regulation of labour

All of these had been difficult when production was scattered across the countryside.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 1.1 – The Coming Up of the Factory

Explanation

- The question has two parts — define the putting-out system AND explain why mills replaced it. Award yourself marks only if you cover both.
- The answer must come from the passage about Arkwright's cotton mill. Key phrase to use: "under one roof and management."
- Do not write about India here — the source passage is specifically about England's early industrialisation.
- Three marks = roughly 3 clear points: definition + 2 reasons for preferring mills (supervision, quality, labour regulation — pick any two clearly stated).

Q6. straightforward initial-understanding § 1.1 The Coming Up of the Factory

[1]

Which of the following best describes the role Richard Arkwright played in the development of the cotton industry?

- A He invented the spinning jenny, which allowed one worker to spin multiple threads simultaneously.
- B He created the cotton mill, centralising all production processes under one roof with costly new machines.
- C He improved the steam engine and patented a new model that powered cotton factories.
- D He set up the first proto-industrial network linking town merchants with rural weavers.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Answer: B

Richard Arkwright **created the cotton mill**, centralising all production processes under one roof, where costly new machines could be purchased, set up, and maintained together.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 1.1 – The Coming Up of the Factory

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: "*Richard Arkwright created the cotton mill... the costly new machines could be purchased, set up and maintained in the mill... all the processes were brought together under one roof and management.*"

- **Option A** is wrong – the spinning jenny was a separate invention (not attributed to Arkwright here).
- **Option C** is wrong – James Watt improved the steam engine, not Arkwright.
- **Option D** describes proto-industrialisation (town merchants + rural workers), which predates Arkwright's contribution.

Always link Arkwright specifically to the **cotton mill** and **centralisation of production**.

Q7. medium initial-understanding § 1.2 The Pace of Industrial Change

[3]

Which two industries were the most dynamic and fastest-growing in Britain during the first phase of industrialisation up to the 1840s?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

The two most dynamic and fastest-growing industries in Britain during the first phase of industrialisation up to the 1840s were **cotton** and **metals**.

Cotton was the leading sector in this phase. Its production boomed rapidly — raw cotton imports rose from 2.5 million pounds in 1760 to 22 million pounds by 1787. After the 1840s, the iron and steel industry took the lead, especially with the rapid expansion of railways, which greatly increased demand for these metals.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 1.2 – The Pace of Industrial Change

Explanation

- The question is direct and factual — name both industries and briefly support each with evidence from the passage.
- Examiners expect: **cotton** named as the leading sector in Phase 1, and **metals/iron & steel** as the other dynamic industry.
- One supporting detail per industry (e.g., import figures for cotton; railway expansion for iron & steel) strengthens the answer for 3 marks.
- Do not confuse the phases: cotton dominated **up to the 1840s**; iron and steel led **after** that.

Q8. medium initial-understanding § 2 Hand Labour and Steam Power

[3]

Why did many British industrialists in the nineteenth century prefer hand labour over steam-powered machines, despite the availability of new technology?

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Model Answer

British industrialists in the nineteenth century preferred hand labour over machines for the following reasons:

1. **Abundance of cheap labour:** Poor peasants and vagrants migrated to cities in large numbers, keeping wages low. Industrialists had no shortage of labour or high wage costs, so machines were unnecessary.
1. **Seasonal demand:** Industries like gas works, breweries, and bookbinders needed extra workers only during peak seasons. Hiring seasonal workers was cheaper than investing in expensive machines.
1. **Intricate designs:** Many products — like the 500 varieties of hammers or 45 kinds of axes — required human skill. Machines could only produce uniform, standardised goods.
1. **Upper-class preference:** Aristocrats and the bourgeoisie preferred handmade goods as symbols of refinement and class. Machines were seen as suitable only for mass-market export goods.

Source: Chapter 4, Section — Hand Labour and Steam Power

Explanation

Examiners expect **4 distinct reasons** for a 3-mark question like this (one mark for the central idea + supporting points). List format is ideal here — it shows clarity and covers all angles from the passage. Avoid writing a vague one-paragraph response; separate reasons score better. Key terms to use: *seasonal demand*, *cheap labour*, *intricate designs*, *handmade as symbol of class*.

Q9. straightforward initial-understanding § 2 Hand Labour and Steam Power

[1]

Why did workers in the woollen industry attack the Spinning Jenny when it was introduced?

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Model Answer

Women workers in the woollen industry attacked the Spinning Jenny because it reduced demand for manual (hand) spinning labour, threatening to take away their livelihood.

Explanation

The question asks specifically about **workers in the woollen industry** — the answer must link the attack to fear of job loss due to reduced demand for hand spinning. The source passage clearly states "women who survived on hand spinning began attacking the new machines." One mark, so one crisp line is enough.

Q10. straightforward initial-understanding § 2 Hand Labour and Steam Power

[1]

Which of the following best explains why industrialists in Victorian Britain often hired workers only for certain months of the year?

- (A) Machines could not operate during winter months
- (B) Seasonal demand for goods meant extra hands were needed only at peak times
- (C) The government restricted year-round employment in factories
- (D) Workers preferred seasonal contracts over permanent jobs

A Workers refused to work for more than a few months at a time.

B Many industries had peak demand only in particular seasons, making year-round employment unnecessary.

C Steam-powered machines replaced workers for the rest of the year.

D The government restricted the number of months a worker could be employed.

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Model Answer

Option B — Many industries had peak demand only in particular seasons, making year-round employment unnecessary.

Industries like gas works, breweries, and bookbinders needed extra workers only during busy seasons (e.g., winter or before Christmas), so industrialists hired labour seasonally rather than permanently.

Source: The Age of Industrialisation, Section 2 – Hand Labour and Steam Power

Explanation

The passage directly states: "*In many industries the demand for labour was seasonal... industrialists usually preferred hand labour, employing workers for the season.*" The examiner expects you to link seasonal demand to the practice of hiring workers only for certain months. Options A, C, and D are not supported by the text — machines, government restrictions, or worker preference are not cited as reasons. Always base MCQ justifications on the source text.

Q11. straightforward initial-understanding § 2.1 Life of the Workers

[2]

Why did workers migrating to British cities in the nineteenth century often spend weeks without work, despite the rapid growth of industries during that period?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Despite rapid industrial growth, many migrating workers spent weeks without work because:

1. **Abundance of labour** kept wages low and industrialists preferred cheap hand labour over machines, so new jobs were not always created quickly.
2. **Seasonality of work** — industries like gas works, breweries, and bookbinding hired workers only during peak seasons; after the busy season, workers were back on the streets.
3. **Lack of social connections** — getting a job depended heavily on existing networks of friends or relatives in factories. Those without such contacts had to wait, sleeping under bridges or in night shelters.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation*, Section 2 and 2.1

Explanation

Examiners expect **two to three clear reasons** for a 2-mark answer. Pick any two well-explained points — seasonal nature of work and dependence on social networks are the most direct answers from the passage. Mention of labour abundance adds context. Avoid writing long paragraphs; crisp points score better here.

Q12. medium initial-understanding § 2.1 Life of the Workers

[3]

Why did the introduction of the Spinning Jenny face violent resistance from workers in the woollen industry of Britain?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

The Spinning Jenny, invented by James Hargreaves in 1764, allowed one worker to operate several spindles at once, drastically reducing the need for manual labour. In the woollen industry, women who depended on hand-spinning for their livelihood feared that the widespread use of this machine would eliminate their jobs. This fear of unemployment made workers hostile to the new technology. As reported by a magistrate in 1790, workers — especially women — attacked manufacturers' properties and tried to destroy the machines, believing they would "lessen the demand for manual labour."

Source: *Chapter 4, Section 2.1 – Life of the Workers*

Explanation

- The examiner expects **three clear points**: (1) what the jenny did, (2) who was threatened and why, (3) the resulting violent reaction — each earning roughly 1 mark.
- Quote or paraphrase Source B briefly; it shows the examiner you can use primary evidence.
- Don't write beyond ~90 words — padding loses time without gaining marks.
- Key phrase to include: "**fear of unemployment**" — the textbook uses this exact term.

Q13. straightforward initial-understanding § 2.1 Life of the Workers

[2]

How did the growth of construction and railway expansion in British cities from the 1840s onwards change the employment situation for poor workers?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

From the 1840s onwards, railway expansion and construction activity in British cities created a huge demand for labour. This increased employment opportunities for poor workers, especially in building homes, settlements, and railways. Workers like Will Thorne walked long distances to cities seeking such seasonal or casual work, improving their chances of finding employment.

Explanation

The question links two ideas from the passage: railway/construction expansion (from the section on industrial change) and the movement of poor workers to cities for jobs. The examiner expects students to connect expansion of railways and building activity to increased labour demand, and mention the movement of poor workers. Avoid writing about wages staying low — focus on *employment opportunity* change.

Q14. straightforward initial-understanding § 3.1 The Age of Indian Textiles

[3]

Before European companies gained control over Indian trade, which two major ports connected India to the Gulf, Red Sea, and Southeast Asian ports? What happened to these ports as European colonial power grew?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Two Major Pre-Colonial Ports:

- **Surat** (Gujarat coast) — connected India to the Gulf and Red Sea ports.
- **Masulipatam** (Coromandel coast) and **Hoogly** (Bengal) — linked India to Southeast Asian ports.

What Happened as European Power Grew:

As European companies gained power and secured monopoly rights to trade, the old ports of Surat and Hoogly declined sharply. Exports fell dramatically — Surat's trade value dropped from ₹16 million to ₹3 million by the 1740s. Credit dried up and local bankers went bankrupt. Meanwhile, **Bombay and Calcutta** grew as new colonial ports, with trade now controlled by European companies and carried in European ships.

Source: *The Age of Indian Textiles, Chapter 4, Section 3.1*

Explanation

- The question has two parts: name the ports AND explain their fate — answer both clearly.
- Examiners expect the specific trade value figures (₹16 million → ₹3 million) as they demonstrate textual knowledge and earn marks.
- Note: Masulipatam is mentioned in the passage as a Southeast Asian link alongside Hoogly, but the question specifically asks about Gulf/Red Sea (Surat) and Southeast Asia (Masulipatam/Hoogly). Keep it precise.
- The contrast between decaying old ports (Surat, Hoogly) and rising new ports (Bombay, Calcutta) is a key examiner expectation — always include it.

Q15. medium initial-understanding § 3.1 The Age of Indian Textiles

[3]

Why were Indian merchants unable to maintain their dominant position in international textile markets by the mid-eighteenth century?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

By the mid-eighteenth century, Indian merchants lost their dominant position in international textile markets due to the following reasons:

1. **EIC Monopoly:** After establishing political power in Bengal and Carnatic in the 1760s–70s, the East India Company asserted a monopoly over trade, eliminating competition from French, Dutch, Portuguese, and local traders.
1. **Tariff Barriers:** Britain imposed import duties on Indian cotton textiles, reducing the inflow of fine Indian cloth into Europe. India's share of cotton textile exports fell from ~30% around 1800 to below 3% by the 1870s.
1. **Competition from British manufactures:** British cotton industries expanded rapidly, and cheap machine-made Manchester goods flooded both international and Indian markets, making it impossible for Indian merchants to compete on price.

Source: Chapter 3, Section 2.6; Chapter 4, Sections 3.2 and 3.3

Explanation

- The question asks specifically about merchants in **international** markets, so focus on tariff barriers, EIC monopoly, and British industrialisation — all three are needed for 3 marks.
- Examiners expect one point per mark; three distinct, labelled points work best.
- Avoid writing about weavers' internal problems (gomasthas, loans) — the question is about the **merchants'** international position.
- Key stat to remember: cotton textile exports dropped from 30% (1800) → 15% (1815) → below 3% (1870s).

Q16. medium initial-understanding § 3.2 What Happened to Weavers?

[3]

What was the 'system of advances' and how did it restrict the freedom of Indian weavers?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

The **system of advances** was a method used by the East India Company to control Indian weavers. Once an order was placed, weavers were given loans to purchase raw materials for production. However, those who accepted these loans were **compelled to hand over the finished cloth only to the Company's gomastha** and could not sell it to any other buyer.

This severely restricted weavers' freedom because:

- They lost the right to bargain or sell to the best buyer.
- The price paid by the Company was miserably low.
- The loans tied them permanently to the Company.
- Many had to lease out their land and devote all their time to weaving for the Company.

Source: *What Happened to Weavers?*, Chapter 4

Explanation

Examiners look for: (1) a clear definition of the system of advances — loans given against future supply, (2) at least two ways it restricted freedom — no other buyers, low prices, debt bondage. Three marks = definition + two restrictions. Avoid writing long paragraphs; bullet points for restrictions save time and earn full credit.

Q17. straightforward initial-understanding § 3.2 What Happened to Weavers?

[1]

Why did clashes break out between weavers and gomasthas in many weaving villages?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Clashes broke out because gomasthas were outsiders who behaved arrogantly, marched in with sepoys, and beat weavers for delays, while weavers also lost the right to bargain or sell to other buyers.

Explanation

The key points examiners look for are: (1) gomasthas were outsiders with no social bond with weavers, (2) their harsh/arrogant behaviour (flogging, beating), and (3) weavers' loss of bargaining power. Even for 1 mark, mentioning two of these reasons briefly scores full marks.

Q18. medium initial-understanding § 3.2 What Happened to Weavers?

[3]

Indian cotton weavers faced a crisis from two directions during the colonial period. Identify the two problems and explain how each harmed the weaving trade.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Indian cotton weavers faced a crisis from two directions:

- 1. Collapse of export market:** As British cotton industries grew, Manchester goods flooded foreign markets. Indian textile exports fell sharply — from 33% of India's exports in 1811–12 to just 3% by 1850–51. Weavers lost their overseas buyers entirely.
- 2. Shrinking local market:** British machine-made cloth flooded India's domestic market. Produced at lower costs by machines, Manchester goods were cheaper than handwoven cloth, so Indian weavers could not compete. By the 1850s, most weaving regions reported decline and desolation.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 3.3 — Manchester Comes to India

Explanation

- The question asks for **two specific problems** — award yourself 1 mark each for correctly identifying (a) collapse of export market and (b) shrinking/flooded local market, plus 1 mark for explaining the harm caused by each.
- Key phrase from the textbook: *"their export market collapsed, and the local market shrank, being glutted with Manchester imports"* — use this framing.
- Don't confuse this with the earlier problems caused by the East India Company's gomastha system; those are pre-19th century issues. This question is about the Manchester-era crisis.

Q19. medium initial-understanding § 3.3 Manchester Comes to India

[3]

Why did the share of Indian cotton piece-goods in India's total exports decline so drastically in the first half of the nineteenth century?

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Model Answer

The share of Indian cotton piece-goods in exports declined from 33% in 1811–12 to just 3% by 1850–51 due to two main reasons:

1. **Collapse of export markets:** Britain imposed high tariff duties on Indian cotton imports to protect its own growing cotton industry. Indian textiles also faced stiff competition in other international markets from British manufacturers.
1. **Flooding of local markets:** The East India Company was pressurised by British industrialists to open Indian markets to British goods. Cheap, machine-made Manchester cloth flooded India, making it impossible for Indian handloom weavers to compete. Thus, both the export market collapsed and the domestic market shrank simultaneously.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 3.3 Manchester Comes to India; Chapter 3, Section 2.6

Explanation

Examiners expect **two clear, distinct causes** with relevant data (the % figures add value). The key terms are: tariff barriers, Manchester imports, machine-made goods, East India Company pressure. Avoid writing only one cause — both the export collapse AND the local market shrinkage must be mentioned for full marks. Keep it concise; do not narrate the entire story of Indian weaving.

Q20. medium initial-understanding § 3.3 Manchester Comes to India

[3]

Indian cotton weavers in the 1860s faced a crisis in obtaining raw cotton. What caused this sudden shortage, and how did it affect their ability to continue weaving?

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Model Answer

In the 1860s, the American Civil War disrupted cotton supplies from the USA to Britain. Britain then turned to India for raw cotton, causing raw cotton exports from India to rise sharply. As a result, the price of raw cotton shot up. Indian cotton weavers were starved of sufficient supplies and were forced to buy raw cotton at exorbitant prices. This made weaving uneconomical — the cost of the raw material was so high that weaving could not pay.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 3.3 — Manchester Comes to India

Explanation

The examiner expects three clear points for 3 marks:

1. **Cause** — American Civil War cut off US cotton supply to Britain.
2. **Effect on supply** — Britain sourced raw cotton from India, increasing exports and causing a shortage for Indian weavers.
3. **Effect on weavers** — prices of raw cotton became exorbitant, making weaving financially unviable.

Avoid vague statements. Use specific terms: "American Civil War," "exorbitant prices," "starved of supplies." Do not mix this crisis with the earlier Manchester imports problem — they are separate issues.

Q21. medium initial-understanding § 4 Factories Come Up

[3]

Who was a 'jobber' in the context of Indian textile mills during the colonial period, and what functions did he perform for factory owners as well as for workers seeking employment?

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Model Answer

A **jobber** was an old and trusted worker employed by industrialists to recruit new workers for the mills.

Functions for factory owners:

- Recruited workers, usually from his own village or region.
- Ensured a regular supply of labour for the mills.

Functions for workers:

- Helped new recruits settle in the city.
- Provided money in times of crisis.

Over time, the jobber gained considerable authority and began demanding money and gifts in exchange for jobs, and controlled workers' lives.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 4.2 — *Where Did the Workers Come From?*

Explanation

The examiner expects three clear points for 3 marks: (1) who the jobber was, (2) his role for the mill owner, (3) his role for workers. Notice how the jobber's role shifted into exploitation — mentioning this shows thorough reading. Keep functions listed separately for clarity; it reads better in board exams than long prose.

Q22. straightforward initial-understanding § 4.1 The Early Entrepreneurs

[1]

[very_short_answer] What was the common source of capital that many early Indian industrialists used to set up their industries?

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Model Answer

Many early Indian industrialists accumulated their initial capital through **trade with China** — exporting opium and importing tea — before investing in industrial enterprises.

Source: *The Early Entrepreneurs, Chapter 4*

Explanation

The passage explicitly states that Dwarkanath Tagore, Tata, Seth Hukumchand, and G.D. Birla's family all traded with China before turning to industry. This is the single most important common source the examiner expects.

One crisp line is sufficient for 1 mark.

Q23. medium initial-understanding § 4.1 The Early Entrepreneurs [2]

Why were Indian merchants and businessmen increasingly unable to expand freely into new areas of trade and industry under colonial rule?

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Model Answer

Under colonial rule, Indian merchants were barred from trading with Europe in manufactured goods and were restricted to exporting raw materials like raw cotton, opium, and wheat. They were also gradually edged out of the shipping business. European Managing Agencies controlled large sectors of Indian industries, and Indian businessmen were not allowed to join European chambers of commerce.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 4.1 – The Early Entrepreneurs

Explanation

The examiner expects two clear reasons – trade restrictions (barred from manufactured goods trade) and exclusion from business decision-making (European Agencies, chambers of commerce). Mentioning raw material exports shows understanding of colonial economic exploitation. Avoid going into weavers' issues – this question is specifically about merchants and businessmen.

Q24. medium initial-understanding § 4.2 Where Did the Workers Come From? [3]

Where did most workers in Indian factories in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries come from? Name any two regions from which they migrated.

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Model Answer

Most workers in Indian factories in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries came from the **rural districts surrounding the industrial centres**. Peasants and artisans who could not find work in villages migrated to cities in search of employment.

Two regions from which workers migrated:

1. **Ratnagiri** – Over 50% of workers in Bombay's cotton mills in 1911 came from this neighbouring district.
2. **United Provinces** – Workers from here travelled to textile mills in Bombay and jute mills in Calcutta.

Workers often maintained ties with their villages, returning home during harvests and festivals.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 4.2 – Where Did the Workers Come From?

Explanation

The examiner expects: (1) the general answer – workers came from nearby rural districts/villages (1 mark), and (2) two named regions with brief context (1 mark each). Ratnagiri and United Provinces are directly named in the textbook, so use these exact names. Kanpur's surrounding villages can also be cited as an alternative. Avoid vague answers like "villages" without naming specific regions, as that will lose marks. The detail about seasonal migration back to villages adds quality but is not mandatory for full marks.

Q25. straightforward initial-understanding § 4.2 Where Did the Workers Come From?

[2]

What was the main role of a jobber in Indian factories, and why did workers often have to depend on him to get employment?

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Model Answer

A **jobber** was usually an old, trusted worker employed by factory owners to recruit new workers. Workers depended on him because jobs were scarce and entry into mills was restricted. The jobber brought workers from his own village, helped them settle in the city, and supported them in times of financial crisis. Over time, he began demanding money and gifts for securing employment.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 4.2 – Where Did the Workers Come From?

Explanation

Examiners expect two clear points: (1) the jobber's **role** (recruiting workers on behalf of industrialists) and (2) why workers **depended** on him (scarcity of jobs, restricted entry, settlement help). Quoting the textbook detail about him demanding "money and gifts" shows depth. Avoid writing about indentured labour — that is a different topic entirely.

Q26. medium initial-understanding § 5 The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth

[3]

Handloom weavers in India continued to find buyers for their cloth even after mill-produced cloth became widely available. Give one reason why consumers preferred handloom cloth over mill-made cloth.

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Model Answer

Consumers preferred handloom cloth over mill-made cloth because mills could not easily imitate the intricate, specialised weaves produced by skilled weavers. Products like Banarasi or Baluchari saris, saris with woven borders, and the famous lungis and handkerchiefs of Madras required traditional craft skills that machines could not replicate. Well-to-do buyers who purchased these finer varieties continued to demand them regardless of cheaper mill alternatives, ensuring steady sales for handloom weavers even in times of economic distress.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 5.1 – Small-scale Industries Predominate

Explanation

The examiner is looking for a **specific, textbook-grounded reason** — not just "better quality" in vague terms. The key point from the passage is that **mills could not imitate specialised/intricate weaves** (Banarasi saris, Madras lungis, etc.), and that the **rich/well-to-do buyers** kept demand stable for these finer varieties. Mentioning concrete examples (Banarasi, Baluchari, Madras lungis) shows thorough reading and scores well. Avoid generic statements; anchor your answer in the specific evidence the passage provides.

Q27. straightforward initial-understanding § 5 The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth

[1]

How did the First World War change the pace of industrial growth in India?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

The First World War gave a boost to Indian industries — Manchester imports declined, Indian mills supplied war needs, and industrial production expanded rapidly, accelerating the pace of industrial growth.

Source: *Post-war Recovery*, chapter 3; *The Early Entrepreneurs*, chapter 4

Explanation

The question asks specifically about the effect of WWI on India's industrial growth. Key point: with Britain occupied in war, Indian industries (textiles, jute, etc.) filled the demand gap. The examiner expects you to mention the *decline of British imports* and the *boost/expansion of Indian industries* — both ideas compressed into one line for 1 mark.

Q28. medium initial-understanding § 5.1 Small-scale Industries Predominate

[3]

Even as machine-made thread severely damaged India's spinning industry in the nineteenth century, handloom cloth production managed to survive and even expand in the twentieth century. Explain TWO reasons why handloom weavers were able to compete with mill-made cloth.

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Handloom weavers survived and expanded against mill-made cloth for two main reasons:

- 1. Technological improvements:** Weavers adopted the fly shuttle loom, which increased productivity, speeded up production and reduced labour costs. By 1941, over 35% of handlooms used fly shuttles; in regions like Travancore and Bengal, the figure was 70–80%.
- 2. Specialised weaves that mills could not imitate:** Weavers producing finer varieties — such as Banarasi saris, Madras lungis and handkerchiefs, and saris with woven borders — faced stable demand from the well-to-do. Mills could not replicate these intricate, specialised designs, protecting handloom weavers from direct competition.

Source: *Chapter 4, Section 5.1 — Small-scale Industries Predominate*

Explanation

The question asks for **two** specific reasons — award yourself marks only if both are clearly stated. Examiners look for:

- Fly shuttle / technological adoption as Reason 1 (with supporting detail like the 35% / 70–80% figures — these impress).
- Specialised/fine weaves that mills couldn't copy as Reason 2 (name an example: Banarasi, Madras lungis).

Don't write about spinning (that industry *collapsed* — the question is about weavers surviving). Keep each point tight; one well-explained point per paragraph is ideal for a 3-mark answer.

Q29. medium initial-understanding § 5.1 Small-scale Industries Predominate

[2]

Why were Indian weavers who produced fine and specialised varieties of cloth better able to withstand competition from cheap mill-made cloth compared to those who produced coarser cloth?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Weavers producing fine and specialised varieties of cloth could withstand mill competition better for two reasons:

1. **Stable demand:** Fine cloth was bought by the wealthy, whose purchasing power remained stable even during famines and bad harvests. Coarse cloth was bought by the rural poor, whose demand fluctuated violently in hard times.
1. **Impossible to imitate:** Mills could not replicate specialised handwoven designs. Items like Banarasi saris, Baluchari saris, Madras lungis and handkerchiefs could not be displaced by mill production.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation*, Section 5.1 – Small-scale Industries Predominate

Explanation

This question directly targets one specific paragraph in the source. Examiners expect **both** reasons — stable demand from the rich AND the inability of mills to copy specialised weaves. Missing either point costs a mark. Keep the answer tight: name specific examples (Banarasi saris, Madras lungis) to show you've read the text — examiners reward this.

Q30. medium initial-understanding § 6 Market for Goods

[3]

Why did British manufacturers print images of Indian gods, goddesses, and historical figures on the labels of cloth bundles sold in India?

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Model Answer

British manufacturers printed images of Indian gods, goddesses (like Krishna, Saraswati, Lakshmi), and historical figures (like Maharaja Ranjit Singh) on cloth labels for the following reasons:

1. **Divine approval:** Association with gods gave a sense of divine endorsement to the goods, making buyers trust the product.
2. **Creating familiarity:** The image of familiar deities made the foreign-manufactured cloth appear less alien and more acceptable to Indian consumers.
3. **Respect for royalty:** Figures of emperors and nawabs conveyed the message that if the product was used by respected rulers, its quality was unquestionable.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation*, Section 6 – Market for Goods

Explanation

Examiners expect **three distinct reasons** for a 3-mark question — one point per mark. Avoid vague statements; use the exact logic from the textbook: *divine approval*, *familiarity*, and *association with royalty/respect*. Mention at least one example (e.g., Krishna, Saraswati, Ranjit Singh) to show textual grounding. Do not simply list names — briefly explain the **purpose** behind each image type.

Q31. straightforward initial-understanding § 6 Market for Goods

[1]

What kind of message did Indian manufacturers include in their product advertisements to build trust and connect with Indian consumers?

◆ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

Indian manufacturers included a **nationalist/swadeshi message** in their advertisements — urging consumers to buy Indian-made products to show their love and support for the nation.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation*, Chapter 4

Explanation

The key phrase from the passage is: "*If you care for the nation then buy products that Indians produce.*" Examiners expect the terms **nationalist** or **swadeshi** to appear in the answer. One line is sufficient for 1 mark.

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