

CBSE CLASS X
Social Science (087)

ANSWER KEY

AI-generated question paper

Code: LY5TS5

Questions: 39

Maximum Marks: 80

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SELECTIONS USED

Subject	Social Science
Lessons	4 The Age of Industrialisation
Level of understanding	Exam-ready
Question selection	CBSE board paper, whole lesson (~80 marks across Sections A-E)
Model	claude-sonnet-4-6

Composition — Difficulty: 15 straightforward · 18 medium · 6 deep | Types: 15 MCQ · 7 Short · 6 Very short · 5 Assertion–reason · 3 Long · 3 Case-based | Sections: A 20Q/20m · B 6Q/12m · C 7Q/21m · D 3Q/15m · E 3Q/12m

Q1. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following was considered the first symbol of the new industrial era in Britain?

- (A) Iron
(B) Cotton
(C) Jute
(D) Wool

- A Iron
B Cotton
C Jute
D Wool

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Model Answer**(B) Cotton**

Cotton was the first symbol of the new industrial era in Britain. Its production boomed in the late eighteenth century, and it was the leading sector in the first phase of industrialisation up to the 1840s.

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

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: *"The first symbol of the new era was cotton."* This is a direct fact from the textbook. Iron and steel became dominant only **after** the 1840s, so (A) is wrong. Jute and Wool are never described as the "first symbol." For MCQs like this, the exact textbook phrase is the safest anchor — memorise it directly.

Q2. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Who invented the Spinning Jenny in 1764?

- (A) Richard Arkwright
- (B) Mathew Boulton
- (C) James Hargreaves
- (D) James Watt

- A Richard Arkwright
- B Mathew Boulton
- C James Hargreaves
- D James Watt

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Model Answer

(C) James Hargreaves invented the Spinning Jenny in 1764.

Explanation

The source passages do not explicitly mention James Hargreaves or the Spinning Jenny's inventor, but this is a standard CBSE Class 10 fact (Chapter 4 – The Age of Industrialisation). The Spinning Jenny was invented by **James Hargreaves in 1764**, allowing multiple spindles to be spun at once. Richard Arkwright is associated with the cotton mill, and James Watt with the steam engine — common distractors in this MCQ.

Q3. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

What term do historians use to describe the phase of large-scale industrial production for an international market that existed before the setting up of factories?

- (A) Mercantilism
- (B) Proto-industrialisation
- (C) Feudalism
- (D) Capitalism

- A Mercantilism
- B Proto-industrialisation
- C Feudalism
- D Capitalism

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Model Answer

(B) Proto-industrialisation

Historians use the term **proto-industrialisation** to describe the phase of large-scale industrial production for an international market that existed before factories were set up.

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: "Many historians now refer to this phase of industrialisation as proto-industrialisation." This was production based not on factories but on merchants employing peasants and artisans in the countryside. For a 1-mark MCQ, simply selecting (B) with a one-line justification is sufficient.

Q4. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which of the following sea trade routes was Surat most prominently connected to before the era of colonial domination?

- (A) Southeast Asian ports
- (B) Gulf and Red Sea ports
- (C) East African ports
- (D) Chinese ports

- A Southeast Asian ports
- B Gulf and Red Sea ports
- C East African ports
- D Chinese ports

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Model Answer**(B) Gulf and Red Sea ports**

Surat on the Gujarat coast connected India to the Gulf and Red Sea ports before the era of colonial domination.

Source: The Age of Indian Textiles, Chapter 4

Explanation

The passage directly states: "*Surat on the Gujarat coast connected India to the Gulf and Red Sea Ports.*"

Students must not confuse Surat with Masulipatam or Hoogly, which were connected to Southeast Asian ports.

For MCQs, always look for the exact phrase in the source text.

Q5. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

By 1850–51, what percentage of India's exports was accounted for by cotton piece-goods?

- (A) 33 per cent
 - (B) 15 per cent
 - (C) 3 per cent
 - (D) 50 per cent
- A 33 per cent
B 15 per cent
C 3 per cent
D 50 per cent

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Model Answer

(C) 3 per cent

By 1850–51, cotton piece-goods accounted for no more than **3 per cent** of India's exports, down from 33 per cent in 1811–12.

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

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: "In 1811–12 piece-goods accounted for 33 per cent of India's exports; by 1850–51 it was no more than 3 per cent." Option (A) 33% is the 1811–12 figure — a common trap. Option (B) 15% appears in Chapter 3 (referring to around 1815, not 1850–51). Always note the specific year mentioned in the question.

Q6. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which Indian industrialist established the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur?

- (A) Dwarkanath Tagore
 - (B) Seth Hukumchand
 - (C) G.D. Birla
 - (D) J.N. Tata
- A Dwarkanath Tagore
B Seth Hukumchand
C G.D. Birla
D J.N. Tata

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Model Answer

(D) J.N. Tata

J.N. Tata set up the first iron and steel works in India at Jamshedpur in 1912.

Explanation

The caption of Fig. 18 in the source passage clearly states: "In 1912, J.N. Tata set up the first iron and steel works in India at Jamshedpur." The other options — Dwarkanath Tagore (joint-stock companies), Seth Hukumchand (jute mill), and G.D. Birla (traded with China) — are mentioned for different achievements.

Q7. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

What proportion of the total industrial labour force worked in registered factories in India in 1911?

- (A) 10 per cent
- (B) 5 per cent
- (C) 20 per cent
- (D) 25 per cent

A 10 per cent

B 5 per cent

C 20 per cent

D 25 per cent

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Model Answer**(B) 5 per cent**

Only 5 per cent of the total industrial labour force in India worked in registered factories in 1911; the rest worked in small workshops and household units.

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

Explanation

The passage directly states: "Only a small proportion of the total industrial labour force worked in registered factories: **5 per cent in 1911** and 10 per cent in 1931." Students must not confuse the two figures — 5% is for 1911, 10% is for 1931. This is a straightforward fact-based MCQ; citing the correct year is key.

Q8. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which mechanical device, when adopted by handloom weavers in the twentieth century, increased their productivity and allowed them to weave wider cloth?

- (A) Power loom
 - (B) Spinning Jenny
 - (C) Fly shuttle
 - (D) Steam-powered spindle
- A Power loom
 - B Spinning Jenny
 - C Fly shuttle
 - D Steam-powered spindle

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Model Answer**(C) Fly shuttle**

The fly shuttle was the mechanical device adopted by handloom weavers in the twentieth century. It increased productivity per worker, sped up production, and allowed weavers to operate large looms and weave wider pieces of cloth.

Explanation

The passage explicitly states that "by the second decade of the twentieth century we find weavers using looms with a fly shuttle," which "increased productivity per worker, speeded up production." The 'New words' box further clarifies it "made it possible for weavers to operate large looms and weave wide pieces of cloth." Power loom and Steam-powered spindle are factory-based; Spinning Jenny relates to spinning, not weaving. Always connect the device to its specific function described in the text.

Q9. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

The earliest factories in England came up by the:

- (A) 1690s
- (B) 1730s
- (C) 1780s
- (D) 1810s

- A 1690s
- B 1730s
- C 1780s
- D 1810s

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Model Answer**(B) 1730s**

The earliest factories in England came up by the 1730s, though the number of factories multiplied only in the late eighteenth century.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation*, Section 1.1 — The Coming Up of the Factory

Explanation

The textbook states this directly: "The earliest factories in England came up by the 1730s." Students often confuse this with the 1780s (when factories multiplied rapidly) or the 1810s (early 19th century growth). The key distinction is *earliest factories* (1730s) vs. *rapid multiplication* (late 18th century). Quote the textbook line if unsure — it earns the mark.

Q10. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

Which of the following events directly caused a shortage of raw cotton for Indian weavers in the 1860s?

- (A) The Swadeshi Movement
 - (B) The American Civil War
 - (C) The First World War
 - (D) The expansion of Manchester mills
- A The Swadeshi Movement
B The American Civil War
C The First World War
D The expansion of Manchester mills

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Model Answer**(B) The American Civil War**

When the American Civil War broke out, cotton supplies from the US were cut off. Britain turned to India for raw cotton, causing its price to shoot up, leaving Indian weavers starved of supplies.

Explanation

The passage explicitly states: "When the American Civil War broke out and cotton supplies from the US were cut off, Britain turned to India. As raw cotton exports from India increased, the price of raw cotton shot up. Weavers in India were starved of supplies." This is the direct cause — not Manchester mills or any other movement. Students often confuse this with other events; remember the *1860s* context points specifically to the Civil War.

Q11. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

The first cotton mill in Bombay came up in:

- (A) 1836
 - (B) 1854
 - (C) 1862
 - (D) 1874
- A 1836
B 1854
C 1862
D 1874

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Model Answer**(B) 1854**

The first cotton mill in Bombay came up in 1854 and went into production two years later.

Source: Factories Come Up, Chapter 4

Explanation

The passage clearly states "The first cotton mill in Bombay came up in 1854." Students often confuse 1854 with 1862 (when four mills were already at work) or 1874 (when the first mill of Madras began production). Always associate 1854 specifically with Bombay's first cotton mill.

Q12. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

In Victorian Britain, handmade goods were preferred by the upper classes because:

- (A) They were cheaper than machine-made goods
 - (B) They were better finished, individually produced and carefully designed
 - (C) Machines could not yet produce any cloth
 - (D) The government banned machine-made cloth for domestic use
- A They were cheaper than machine-made goods
B They were better finished, individually produced and carefully designed
C Machines could not yet produce any cloth
D The government banned machine-made cloth for domestic use

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Model Answer

(B) They were better finished, individually produced and carefully designed.

In Victorian Britain, handmade products symbolised refinement and class among the upper classes, as they were better finished, individually produced, and carefully designed.

Explanation

The answer is directly stated in the source passage (Section 2 – *Hand Labour and Steam Power*): "In Victorian Britain, the upper classes...preferred things produced by hand...They were better finished, individually produced, and carefully designed." Options A, C, and D are factually incorrect according to the text. For MCQs, always look for the exact phrase from the textbook.

Q13. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Which paid servant did the East India Company appoint to supervise weavers, collect supplies, and examine the quality of cloth?

- (A) Sepoy
- (B) Jobber
- (C) Gomastha
- (D) Stapler

- A Sepoy
- B Jobber
- C Gomastha
- D Stapler

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Model Answer**(C) Gomastha**

The East India Company appointed a paid servant called the **gomastha** to supervise weavers, collect supplies, and examine the quality of cloth.

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

Explanation

The term "gomastha" is directly defined in the source passage. Examiners expect you to recall this specific term. "Sepoy" refers to Indian soldiers, "Jobber" relates to mill recruitment, and "Stapler" is unrelated — so elimination also helps confirm (C).

Q14. straightforward exam-ready

[1]

Seth Hukumchand, who set up the first Indian jute mill in Calcutta in 1917, had earlier traded with:

- (A) Southeast Asia
- (B) East Africa
- (C) China
- (D) the Middle East

- A Southeast Asia
- B East Africa
- C China
- D the Middle East

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Model Answer**(C) China**

Seth Hukumchand, the Marwari businessman who set up the first Indian jute mill in Calcutta in 1917, had earlier traded with China.

Explanation

The passage in section 4.1 explicitly states: "Seth Hukumchand, a Marwari businessman who set up the first Indian jute mill in Calcutta in 1917, **also traded with China.**" The "also" links him to the earlier examples of Tagore and the Bombay Parsis who all accumulated wealth through the China trade. Don't confuse this with the Madras merchants who traded with Burma, the Middle East, and East Africa — those are different groups mentioned separately.

Q15. straightforward exam-ready**[1]**

By 1873, Britain was exporting iron and steel worth approximately:

- (A) £ 40 million
- (B) £ 55 million
- (C) £ 77 million
- (D) £ 100 million

A £ 40 million

B £ 55 million

C £ 77 million

D £ 100 million

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Model Answer

(C) £ 77 million

By 1873, Britain was exporting iron and steel worth about £77 million, which was double the value of its cotton exports.

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

Explanation

The passage directly states: "*By 1873 Britain was exporting iron and steel worth about £77 million, double the value of its cotton export.*" This is a straightforward fact-based MCQ – memorise the figure along with the context (double cotton exports) as examiners sometimes ask it as a one-liner or short answer too.

Q16. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): Indian cotton mills in the early phase focused on producing coarse cotton yarn rather than fabric.
Reason (R): Indian mills could not effectively compete with the finely woven cloth imported from Britain, so they concentrated on yarn, which was sold to handloom weavers in India and exported to China.

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

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Model Answer

Option A is correct. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. Indian mills produced coarse yarn (not fabric) because they avoided competing with finely woven Manchester cloth; this yarn was used by handloom weavers in India and exported to China.

Explanation

The passage from Chapter 4 ('The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth') directly states: *"Since yarn was not an important part of British imports into India, the early cotton mills in India produced coarse cotton yarn rather than fabric... The yarn produced in Indian spinning mills was used by handloom weavers in India or exported to China."* So both A and R are factually correct, and R logically explains why A happened — making A the right option.

Q17. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): In nineteenth-century Britain, industrialists often preferred to employ hand labour rather than invest in new machines.

Reason (R): There was an abundant supply of cheap labour migrating from the countryside to cities, making human workers more economical than expensive machines.

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

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Model Answer

Option A is correct.

Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. In Victorian Britain, poor peasants migrated to cities in large numbers, keeping wages low, so industrialists found hand labour cheaper than investing in costly machines.

Source: Chapter 4, *Hand Labour and Steam Power*

Explanation

The passage directly states: "When there is plenty of labour, wages are low. So industrialists had no problem of labour shortage or high wage costs. They did not want to introduce machines that got rid of human labour and required large capital investment." This confirms both the Assertion and that the Reason correctly explains it. Remember — the key link is **cheap migrant labour** → **low wages** → **no incentive for machine investment**.

Q18. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): The shift of trade from Surat and Hoogly to Bombay and Calcutta was a sign of growth of colonial power.
Reason (R): Trade through the new ports was controlled by European companies and carried in European ships, edging out Indian merchants.

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

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Model Answer**Option A** — Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

The textbook states: "This shift from the old ports to the new ones was an indicator of the growth of colonial power. Trade through the new ports came to be controlled by European companies, and was carried in European ships," directly making R the explanation for A.

Explanation

The source passage explicitly links both statements — the shift to Bombay and Calcutta *as a sign of colonial power* (A) is explained *because* European companies controlled trade and used European ships, edging out Indian merchants (R). When a reason directly explains the assertion using textbook language, Option A is correct. Always check if the reason is logically connected to the assertion, not just both being true independently.

Q19. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): The demand for iron and steel in Britain increased rapidly from the 1840s onwards.
Reason (R): The expansion of railways both within England and in the colonies created a huge new market for iron and steel.

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

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Model Answer**Option A: Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

The passage states: "With the expansion of railways, in England from the 1840s and in the colonies from the 1860s, the demand for iron and steel increased rapidly." R correctly and directly explains A.

Explanation

The source passage explicitly links railway expansion to rising demand for iron and steel from the 1840s, making R the direct cause of A. Examiners look for this direct causal link to award full credit for Option A.

Q20. medium exam-ready

[1]

Assertion (A): After the First World War, Manchester could never fully recapture its earlier dominant position in the Indian market.

Reason (R): The British cotton industry was unable to modernise and compete with the US, Germany and Japan, causing cotton exports from Britain to fall dramatically.

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

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Model Answer

Option A is correct. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. After WWI, Britain, unable to modernise and compete with the US, Germany and Japan, saw its cotton production collapse, so Manchester could never recapture its position in India.

Source: *The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth*, Chapter 4

Explanation

The textbook explicitly states: "After the war, Manchester could never recapture its old position in the Indian market. Unable to modernise and compete with the US, Germany and Japan, the economy of Britain crumbled... Cotton production collapsed and exports of cotton cloth from Britain fell dramatically." This means R directly and correctly explains A — making **Option A** the right choice. Students often pick B if they read carelessly; here R is not just true but is the precise cause of A.

Q21. medium exam-ready

[2]

What were trade guilds, and why did their presence in European towns push merchants to seek workers in the countryside during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries?

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Model Answer

Trade guilds were associations of producers in European towns that trained craftspeople, controlled production, regulated prices, restricted entry of new traders, and held monopoly rights granted by rulers.

Their dominance made it difficult for new merchants to set up or expand businesses in towns. So merchants turned to the countryside, where poor peasants and artisans were willing to work for them without guild restrictions.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation, Proto-industrialisation section*

Explanation

- **1 mark** for defining trade guilds (mention: associations, controlled production/prices, restricted entry, monopoly rights).
- **1 mark** for explaining why guilds pushed merchants to the countryside (guilds blocked expansion in towns → merchants sought unrestricted rural labour).
- Use the word "monopoly" and mention guild functions — examiners look for these terms.
- Don't over-explain the countryside side; the question focuses on *why* merchants were pushed out of towns.

Q22. medium exam-ready

[2]

Explain why the introduction of the Spinning Jenny led to conflicts with women workers who were engaged in hand spinning.

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Model Answer

The Spinning Jenny, invented by James Hargreaves, could do the work of many spinners at once, greatly speeding up the spinning process. Women who depended on hand spinning for their livelihood feared that the machine would take away their jobs and reduce their earnings. This threat to their employment caused them to attack and destroy the machines.

Explanation

The examiner expects you to link the *cause* (fear of unemployment/loss of livelihood) directly to the *effect* (women attacking the machines). Two marks = two clear points: (1) the Jenny replaced many hand spinners, (2) women feared losing their income and so attacked it. Keep it concise — no need to describe how the Jenny worked in detail.

Q23. medium exam-ready

[2]

Why did the system of advances offered by the East India Company through gomasthas create problems for Indian weavers rather than benefiting them?

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Model Answer

The advance system trapped weavers rather than helping them. Once weavers accepted loans to buy raw materials, they were **bound to supply cloth only to the Company** at miserably low prices fixed by it. They could not sell to other buyers. Additionally, gomasthas — outsiders with no village ties — acted arrogantly, beating weavers for delays, leaving them with no bargaining power whatsoever.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 3.2 — *What Happened to Weavers?*

Explanation

- Examiners expect **two clear points**: (1) loss of freedom to sell elsewhere due to loans, and (2) oppressive behaviour of gomasthas.
- Avoid vague statements like "it was bad for weavers" — be specific about *how* the system trapped them.
- The contrast with earlier supply merchants (who had social bonds with weavers) strengthens the answer but is optional at 2 marks.
- Key terms to use: *advances/loans, gomastha, monopoly, bargaining power*.

Q24. medium exam-ready

[2]

What role did the 'jobber' play in the recruitment of workers for Indian mills? Mention any one negative consequence of this system.

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Model Answer

Role of Jobber: Industrialists employed a jobber — usually an old, trusted worker — to recruit new workers. He brought people from his own village, helped them settle in the city, and provided money during crises.

Negative Consequence: The jobber misused his authority by demanding money and gifts from workers in return for jobs, thus exploiting them.

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

Explanation

- The question has **two parts** — role (1 mark) and negative consequence (1 mark). Address both clearly.
- Use textbook language: "old and trusted worker," "demanded money and gifts."
- Do not confuse jobber with gomastha (a different system related to weavers under the East India Company).
- Keep it concise — this is a 2-mark answer, so 2–3 sentences total is sufficient.

Q25. medium exam-ready

[2]

How did Indian manufacturers use advertisements and labels to promote a nationalist message in the early twentieth century? Give one example.

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Model Answer

Indian manufacturers used advertisements and labels to promote nationalism by urging consumers to buy Indian-made goods as an act of patriotism. Advertisements carried the **swadeshi** message: "If you care for the nation, buy products that Indians produce."

Example: Indian manufacturers printed labels and calendars featuring Indian gods, goddesses, and nationalist symbols, making their products appear culturally rooted and encouraging Indians to prefer homemade goods over British imports.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 6 – Market for Goods

Explanation

- The key phrase examiners look for is "**swadeshi**" and the idea that advertisements became a **vehicle of nationalist message**.
- One clear example is enough — labels/calendars with gods/nationalist imagery, or the explicit "buy Indian" appeal.
- Don't confuse Indian manufacturers' labels with British Manchester labels (which used Indian gods to make *foreign* goods seem familiar — that's the opposite point).

Q26. medium exam-ready

[2]

State two reasons why the pace of technological change during industrialisation in Britain was slower than is commonly believed.

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Model Answer

Two reasons why the pace of technological change during industrialisation in Britain was slower than commonly believed:

1. New technology was expensive, and merchants/industrialists were cautious about adopting it. Machines broke down frequently and repairs were costly. For example, even the steam engine had only 321 units across all of England at the start of the nineteenth century.
1. New industries could not easily displace traditional industries. Less than 20% of the workforce was employed in technologically advanced sectors even by the end of the nineteenth century; most workers remained craftsmen and labourers.

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

Explanation

Examiners expect **two distinct, clearly stated reasons** — one mark each. Avoid vague answers like "it was slow because machines were not used." Anchor each point with a specific detail from the text (e.g., the 321 steam engines figure, or the 20% workforce statistic) — this shows you've read the source and earns full marks. Keep each point to one or two sentences.

Q27. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain the network of commercial exchanges that characterised the proto-industrial system in Europe. How were merchants, producers, and markets connected in this system?

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Model Answer

In the proto-industrial system, merchants from European towns moved to the countryside and supplied money (advances) to peasants and artisans, persuading them to produce for international markets. A merchant clothier, for example, purchased wool from a wool stapler, gave it to spinners, then carried the yarn to weavers, fullers, and dyers. Finishing was done in cities like London before export. At each production stage, 20–25 workers were employed per merchant, meaning one clothier could control hundreds of workers spread across the countryside.

Source: Chapter 4, *Before the Industrial Revolution*

Explanation

- The examiner expects you to mention: (1) merchants supplying advances, (2) peasants/artisans working from home, (3) the step-by-step production chain (wool stapler → spinners → weavers → fullers → dyers → finishing centre), and (4) the scale (hundreds of workers per merchant).
- Avoid writing about factories — this system was explicitly *before* factory production.
- The phrase "network of commercial exchanges" in the question is directly from the textbook, so using it in your answer shows you know the source material.

Q28. medium exam-ready

[3]

How did Richard Arkwright's cotton mill mark a turning point in the organisation of industrial production in England? What advantages did the mill system offer over the earlier putting-out system?

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Model Answer

Richard Arkwright's cotton mill brought all stages of cloth production — carding, spinning, and weaving — **under one roof and one management**. This was a major shift from the putting-out system, where production was scattered across village households in the countryside.

Advantages of the mill system over the putting-out system:

- Costly new machines could be purchased, set up, and maintained centrally in the mill.
- Closer **supervision over the production process** became possible.
- **Quality control** could be maintained more effectively.
- **Regulation of labour** was easier, which had been very difficult when workers were dispersed.

Thus, the mill system made production more organised, efficient, and controlled.

Source: Chapter 4 — The Age of Industrialisation, Section 1.1 The Coming Up of the Factory

Explanation

What examiners look for:

- Mention of Arkwright's cotton mill as the first symbol of centralised production.
- Clear contrast with the putting-out/cottage system (production spread across countryside).
- At least **2–3 specific advantages**: centralised machinery, supervision, quality control, labour regulation — these exact phrases come from the textbook, so use them.
- Do **not** write about India or Manchester here; keep focus on England and the factory system.

The answer is tight but complete for 3 marks: one introductory line + 3–4 bullet points is the ideal board-exam format for this type of question.

Q29. medium exam-ready

[3]

Describe the two major problems that Indian cotton weavers faced between the 1850s and the 1860s that severely affected their survival.

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Model Answer

Indian cotton weavers between the 1850s and 1860s faced two severe problems:

- 1. Collapse of export market and flooding of local market:** Their export market collapsed as British cotton goods flooded Indian markets. Produced by machines at lower costs, Manchester imports were so cheap that weavers could not compete. The local market shrank, leaving weavers with almost no buyers for their cloth.
- 2. Shortage of raw cotton:** By the 1860s, when the American Civil War cut off cotton supplies to Britain, raw cotton exports from India increased sharply. This caused prices of raw cotton to shoot up. Weavers were starved of supplies and forced to buy raw cotton at exorbitant prices, making weaving unviable.

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

Explanation

- This is a 3-mark question, so two clear points with brief explanation each is ideal.
- Use the exact language from the textbook: "export market collapsed," "local market shrank," "glutted with Manchester imports," "raw cotton at exorbitant prices" — these phrases score well.
- Both problems must be mentioned; missing either will cost marks.
- The examiner looks for: (1) identification of each problem, (2) a cause-effect link for each.

Q30. medium exam-ready

[3]

Explain how the First World War transformed the pattern of industrial production in India. What new opportunities did it create for Indian industrialists?

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Model Answer

During the First World War, British mills were occupied with war production, so Manchester imports into India declined sharply. This gave Indian mills a vast home market to supply.

New opportunities created:

- Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs — jute bags, army uniforms, tents, leather boots, saddles, and other items.
- New factories were set up; old ones ran multiple shifts with longer working hours.
- Industrial production boomed, and after the war, Manchester could never recapture its old position in the Indian market.

Thus, Indian industrialists consolidated their position and began capturing the home market.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 5 – The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth

Explanation

- The examiner expects **two aspects**: (1) how the war changed the situation (Manchester imports fell), and (2) the new opportunities it created (war supplies, home market).
- Use specific examples from the text: jute bags, uniforms, tents, boots — these show the examiner you've read carefully.
- The post-war outcome (Manchester losing its position) is a good closing point showing long-term impact.
- Avoid padding — 3 marks = ~3 key points stated crisply.

Q31. medium exam-ready

[3]

How did pre-colonial Indian merchants organise the export trade in textiles? Name the key ports and regions involved and explain the role played by supply merchants.

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Model Answer

Before colonialism, Indian merchants organised export trade through a well-connected network of land and sea routes. Armenian and Persian merchants carried goods from Punjab via the north-west frontier to Central Asia and Persia. Sea trade operated through key ports: **Surat** (Gujarat) connected India to the Gulf and Red Sea; **Masulipatam** (Coromandel coast) and **Hoogly** (Bengal) linked India to Southeast Asia.

Role of supply merchants: They acted as the link between port towns and inland weaving regions. They gave advances to weavers, procured cloth from weaving villages, and delivered it to the ports. At ports, big export merchants used brokers to buy goods from these supply merchants.

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

Explanation

The examiner expects three clear components for 3 marks:

1. **Trade routes/network** (land + sea) — name the merchants and destinations.
2. **Key ports** — Surat, Masulipatam, Hoogly (at least two named for credit).
3. **Role of supply merchants** — advances to weavers → collected cloth → brought to ports. This is the most specific part and must not be vague.

Avoid writing extra detail about the Company's takeover — that is a separate question. Stick to the pre-colonial organisation only.

Q32. deep exam-ready

[3]

Why did some sections of the handloom weaving industry in India manage to survive and even expand in the twentieth century despite competition from mill-produced cloth? Give three specific reasons.

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Model Answer

Handloom weavers survived and expanded because of the following reasons:

1. **Technological adoption:** Weavers adopted the fly shuttle, which increased productivity and reduced labour demand. By 1941, over 35% of handlooms were fitted with fly shuttles.
1. **Specialised weaves:** Mills could not imitate intricate designs and specialised products like Banarasi saris, Madras lungis, and handkerchiefs, so demand for these continued.
1. **Stable demand for fine cloth:** Demand for finer varieties bought by the well-to-do remained stable even during famines and economic downturns, unlike coarse cloth.

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

Explanation

Examiners expect **three distinct, specific reasons** — one per mark. The key terms to include are: **fly shuttle, specialised/intricate weaves** (mills couldn't copy them), and **stable demand for finer cloth**. Avoid vague statements like "weavers worked hard." Each point should be crisp and factual, drawn directly from the passage.

Q33. deep exam-ready

[3]

Examine the seasonal nature of work in Victorian Britain. How did this seasonality shape the lives of workers, and what does it reveal about the limits of the idea that industrialisation immediately improved workers' living standards?

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Model Answer

In Victorian Britain, many industries — gas works, breweries, printing, and waterfront repair — experienced peak demand only in certain seasons. Industrialists hired workers for the season and dismissed them once demand fell. This meant workers like Will Thorne had to walk hundreds of miles seeking seasonal jobs, sleeping under haystacks or in abandoned buildings, with no guarantee of employment on arrival.

This seasonality reveals that industrialisation did **not** immediately improve workers' living standards. Wages alone do not indicate welfare — the **number of days employed** determined actual income. After the busy season ended, workers returned to the streets, seeking odd jobs. At best, 10% of urban population remained extremely poor; during slumps, unemployment rose to 35–75% in some regions.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 2 — Hand Labour and Steam Power; Section 2.1 — Life of the Workers

Explanation

- The examiner expects **two parts**: (1) how seasonality shaped workers' lives, and (2) what it reveals about the limits of industrialisation improving living standards.
- Use **specific evidence**: Will Thorne's account, gas works/breweries, the 10% and 35–75% unemployment statistics.
- Key concept: wages ≠ welfare — **days of employment** matter. State this explicitly.
- Avoid padding; keep it to 3 focused points within the word limit.

Q34. deep exam-ready

[5]

Analyse the role played by the China trade in the emergence of early Indian industrialists. With reference to at least three specific businessmen, explain how accumulated commercial wealth was channelled into industrial investment in India.

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Model Answer**Role of China Trade in Early Indian Industrialisation**

From the late 18th century, the British exported opium to China and imported tea to England. Many Indians participated as junior partners — financing, procuring, and shipping — thereby accumulating significant commercial wealth.

Key Industrialists:

1. **Dwarkanath Tagore (Bengal):** Made his fortune in the China trade, then channelled it into six joint-stock companies in the 1830s–40s, investing in shipping, mining, banking, and plantations.
1. **Dinshaw Petit & J.N. Tata (Bombay):** Parsi businessmen who accumulated initial wealth from China exports and raw cotton shipments to England, later building huge industrial empires.
1. **Seth Hukumchand (Marwari):** Traded with China and used that capital to set up the **first Indian jute mill in Calcutta (1917)**.
1. **G.D. Birla:** Both his father and grandfather traded with China; this accumulated wealth formed the foundation of the Birla industrial empire.

Thus, commercial profits from the China trade were systematically reinvested into Indian industries, making these traders pioneers of Indian industrialisation.

Source: Chapter 4, Section — The Early Entrepreneurs

Explanation

- Examiners expect **at least three named businessmen** with specific details (region, trade link, industrial investment).
- Mention that Indians were **junior players** in British-dominated China trade — this shows understanding of colonial context.
- The link between **commercial capital** → **industrial investment** is the core argument; state it explicitly.
- Seth Hukumchand and G.D. Birla's family are often overlooked — including them shows thorough reading.
- Keep each point crisp; don't over-explain one businessman at the cost of omitting others.

Q35. deep exam-ready

[5]

Critically examine the position of workers in nineteenth-century Britain. In your answer, discuss the abundance of labour, conditions of employment, the impact of wages and seasonality on welfare, and the workers' responses to technological changes such as the introduction of new machines.

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Model Answer**Position of Workers in Nineteenth-Century Britain:**

Abundance of Labour: Poor peasants and vagrants moved to cities in large numbers seeking work. This surplus kept wages low, and workers depended on kin/friendship networks to find jobs. Many slept under bridges or in night shelters while waiting for employment.

Conditions of Employment: Work was largely seasonal. Gas works, breweries, and print industries hired extra hands only during peak months. Once the busy season ended, workers returned to the streets, struggling to find odd jobs.

Impact of Wages and Seasonality: Although wages rose slightly, real income fell during the Napoleonic Wars as prices rose. Actual welfare depended on the number of days employed. During slumps like the 1830s, unemployment reached 35–75% in some regions.

Response to Technological Change: Fear of unemployment made workers hostile to new machines. When the Spinning Jenny was introduced, women spinners attacked the machines, fearing loss of livelihood. This conflict continued for a long time.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 2 – Hand Labour and Steam Power; Section 2.1 – Life of the Workers

Explanation

- The examiner expects **four clearly addressed points** matching the four parts of the question: labour abundance, employment conditions, wages/seasonality, and workers' responses to machines.
- Always link evidence to argument — e.g., "wages rose but real value fell during Napoleonic Wars" shows analytical thinking.
- Naming the **Spinning Jenny** and women workers attacking it is a key fact examiners specifically look for.
- Avoid writing a continuous essay; use brief paragraphs or bold sub-headings so the examiner can award marks point-by-point.
- Do not exceed ~120 words in the model answer — padding loses marks indirectly by burying key points.

Q36. deep exam-ready

[5]

Trace the journey of Indian textile weavers from a position of dominance in the international market to one of crisis and decline during the colonial period. In your answer, cover the pre-colonial flourishing of Indian textiles, the impact of East India Company policies, the flooding of Indian markets by Manchester goods, and the strategies some weavers used to survive.

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Model Answer

Pre-Colonial Dominance: Before machine industries, Indian silk and cotton textiles dominated international markets. Fine varieties from India were exported to Europe, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia through ports like Surat, Masulipatam, and Hoogly. Indian merchants, bankers, and supply merchants controlled this vast trade network.

Company Policies: After establishing political power in the 1760s, the East India Company eliminated competition by appointing *gomasthas* to supervise weavers and issuing loans (advances) that bound weavers exclusively to the Company. Weavers lost bargaining power, received miserably low prices, and faced harsh treatment. Many deserted villages, revolted, or abandoned weaving for agricultural labour.

Manchester's Impact: From the early 19th century, cheap machine-made Manchester goods flooded Indian markets. Textile exports fell from 33% of India's exports (1811–12) to just 3% by 1850–51. Weavers lost both export markets and local markets simultaneously.

Survival Strategies: Some weavers migrated to new villages; others shifted to producing coarse cloth that Manchester didn't supply. Indian spinning mills produced yarn used by surviving handloom weavers, helping some adapt.

Source: *The Age of Indian Textiles / What Happened to Weavers? / Manchester Comes to India, Chapter 4*

Explanation

- Examiners expect a **chronological flow**: pre-colonial → Company control → Manchester flooding → survival.
- Name specific mechanisms: *gomastha*, advance loans, import duties on British cloth, US Civil War cotton shortage.
- Use the data points (33% → 3% exports) — they demonstrate command of the text and earn marks.
- Four clear points map neatly onto the question's four demands; labelling them implicitly or explicitly helps the examiner award marks quickly.
- Avoid over-elaborating any single point at the expense of others — all four aspects carry equal weight here.

Q37. medium exam-ready

[4]

Read the following source and answer the questions that follow:

'It appears that twenty years ago, a brisk trade was carried on in the manufacture of cloth at Jahanabad, and Behar, which has in the former place entirely ceased, while in the latter the amount of manufacture is very limited, in consequence of the cheap and durable goods from Manchester with which the Native manufactures are unable to compete.'

— Commissioner of Patna

- (i) What does this account reveal about the impact of Manchester goods on local cloth manufacturers in India? (1 mark)
- (ii) Why were Manchester goods cheaper than Indian handloom products? (1 mark)
- (iii) Identify two regions in India where weavers reported stories of decline and desolation by the 1850s as a result of competition with imported goods. (1 mark)
- (iv) Despite the pressure of cheap mill cloth, some Indian weaving communities survived into the twentieth century. State one reason why. (1 mark)

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Model Answer

(i) The account reveals that Manchester goods completely destroyed local cloth manufacturing in Jahanabad and severely reduced it in Behar. The cheap and durable machine-made cloth from Manchester made it impossible for native manufacturers to compete.

(ii) Manchester goods were produced by machines at lower costs, so they could be sold far more cheaply than Indian handloom products, which were made by hand and thus cost more to produce.

(iii) Two regions where weavers reported stories of decline and desolation by the 1850s were **Jahanabad** (Behar/Bihar) and **Central Provinces** (areas of Koshti weavers).

(iv) Some Indian weavers survived because mills could not imitate specialised weaves such as saris with woven borders, Banarasi saris, or Madras lungis and handkerchiefs. Demand for these finer varieties remained stable among well-to-do buyers.

Source: Chapter 4, Section 3.3 (Manchester Comes to India) and Section 5.1 (Small-scale Industries Predominate)

Explanation

- **(i)** Stick to what the passage says — complete ruin in Jahanabad, near-ruin in Behar.
- **(ii)** The key phrase from the chapter is "Produced by machines at lower costs" — use it.
- **(iii)** The source passage names Jahanabad/Behar; the Census Report (Source D) names Central Provinces — these are the two region examples drawn directly from the sources.
- **(iv)** Examiners expect one clear reason. "Mills could not imitate specialised weaves" is the textbook answer (Section 5.1). Avoid vague answers like "better quality" — be specific about *which* products or *why* demand persisted.

Q38. medium exam-ready**[4]**

Read the following source and answer the questions that follow:

'I had always wanted to go to London ... I finally decided to go ... in November, 1881. With two friends I started out to walk the journey ... we had little money when we started ... Some days we walked as much as twenty miles ... Our money was gone at the end of the third day ... For two nights we slept out – once under a haystack, and once in an old farm shed ... On arrival in London we tried to find ... my friend ... The next day, Sunday, late in the afternoon, we got to the Old Kent Gas Works, and applied for work.'

– Will Thorne, a job-seeker in Victorian Britain

- (i) What does this account reveal about the difficulties faced by workers seeking employment in Victorian Britain? (1 mark)
- (ii) Why were gas works particularly in need of workers during the cold months? (1 mark)
- (iii) How did personal contacts and social networks influence a worker's chances of finding employment in factories or industrial establishments? (1 mark)
- (iv) In many industries, why did industrialists prefer hiring workers on a seasonal basis rather than using machines to replace them? (1 mark)

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Model Answer

- (i)** The account reveals that workers faced extreme hardship – walking up to twenty miles a day, sleeping under haystacks and in farm sheds, and running out of money – simply to reach cities in search of employment.
- (ii)** Gas works needed more workers during cold months because demand for gas (used for heating and lighting) rose sharply in winter, requiring extra hands to meet peak production during the busy season.
- (iii)** Personal contacts were crucial. Will Thorne's friend, already working at the Old Kent Gas Works, spoke to the foreman on his behalf, securing him a job immediately. Without such networks, workers waited weeks, sometimes sleeping under bridges.
- (iv)** Industrialists preferred seasonal hand labour because demand fluctuated and there was no shortage of cheap human labour. Machines required large capital investment, and employing workers only during peak seasons was cheaper and more practical.

Source: Chapter 4, sections 2 and 2.1 (Hand Labour and Steam Power; Life of the Workers)

Explanation

- Each sub-question is 1 mark, so one focused sentence or two short sentences per part is sufficient.
- For (i), draw directly from the passage details (walking, sleeping outdoors, no money).
- For (ii) and (iv), use the textbook passage about seasonal industries and preference for hand labour.
- For (iii), use the source passage and the textbook point about "networks of friendship and kin relations."
- Examiners look for textbook-based reasoning, not general knowledge. Keep each answer sharp and specific.

Q39. deep exam-ready

[4]

Read the following source and answer the questions that follow:

'When Manchester industrialists began selling cloth in India, they put labels on the cloth bundles that not only identified the place of manufacture but also carried colourful images of Indian gods, goddesses, and historical rulers. By the late nineteenth century, manufacturers began printing and distributing calendars featuring such figures alongside their products.'

- (i) Why did Manchester manufacturers include images of Indian gods, goddesses and historical figures on cloth labels and calendars? (1 mark)
- (ii) How did calendars serve as a more effective advertising medium than newspapers or magazines in reaching Indian consumers? (1 mark)
- (iii) How did Indian manufacturers adapt a similar advertising strategy in the early twentieth century to serve a nationalist purpose? Give one example. (1 mark)
- (iv) What does the use of such advertisements reveal about the importance of the Indian market to British manufacturers? (1 mark)

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Model Answer

- (i) Manchester manufacturers used images of Indian gods, goddesses, and historical rulers to make foreign cloth appear familiar and acceptable to Indian buyers. Association with gods gave the product a sense of divine approval, helping overcome the hesitation of Indian consumers towards foreign goods.
- (ii) Unlike newspapers and magazines, calendars were used even by people who could not read. They were hung in tea shops, poor homes, offices, and middle-class apartments, ensuring the advertisement was seen day after day, throughout the year, reaching a far wider audience.
- (iii) Indian manufacturers used similar advertising strategies to promote the **swadeshi** message — urging buyers to purchase Indian-made goods for the sake of the nation. For example, the 1928 Gripe Water calendar by M.V. Dhurandhar used the image of baby Krishna to popularise an Indian baby product.
- (iv) The elaborate effort to design culturally appealing labels and calendars shows that the Indian market was extremely important to British manufacturers. They invested significantly in understanding Indian sentiments and tailoring their advertisements accordingly to secure Indian consumer loyalty.

Source: Chapter 4 — The Age of Industrialisation, Section 3.3 / Market for Goods

Explanation

- (i) Key phrase from passage: "make the manufacture from a foreign land appear somewhat familiar" + "divine approval." Both points strengthen the answer.
- (ii) The passage explicitly contrasts calendars with newspapers/magazines on the basis of literacy — mention this contrast directly.
- (iii) "Swadeshi" is the key term examiners expect. The Gripe Water calendar (1928, baby Krishna) is a directly cited example from the source.
- (iv) This is an inference question — draw from the fact that manufacturers went to great cultural lengths, proving India was a critical, valued market. Don't just restate facts; make the logical link.

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