

CBSE CLASS X

Social Science (087)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

Code: T8B9MP

Questions: 7

Maximum Marks: 23

Generated: 2026-06-15 13:05

SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	Social Science
Lessons	The Age of Industrialisation
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	7

Composition — Types: 4 source_based · 2 MCQ · 1 Long

Q1. § 1.2 The Pace of Industrial Change

[1]

△ The Age of Industrialisation — Periodic Assessment only — not in the Board exam (per CBSE 2026-27 curriculum) Assessed as part of Periodic Assessment only; not in the Board exam. [\[source: Course Structure — History, Chapter IV\]](#)

Which of the following industries increased with the expansion of railways in England from 1840s to 1860s ?

- (A) Iron and Steel
- (B) Jute and Cotton
- (C) Aluminium and Bauxite
- (D) Copper and Steel

Previously asked in: 2023 32/6/1 Q3

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Expansion of Railways and Growth of Allied Industries in England (1840s–1860s)

Q2. § 1.2 The Pace of Industrial Change § 2 Hand Labour and Steam Power

[1]

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Who among the following improved the steam engine ?

- (a) James Watt
- (b) Thomas Edison
- (c) Benjamin Franklin
- (d) Alexander Fleming

Previously asked in: 2023 32/4/1 Q4

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Improvement of the Steam Engine by James Watt

Q3. § 3.2 What Happened to Weavers?**[5]**

△ The Age of Industrialisation — Periodic Assessment only — not in the Board exam (per CBSE 2026-27 curriculum) Assessed as part of Periodic Assessment only; not in the Board exam. [source: Course Structure — History, Chapter IV]

Analyse how the introduction of railways, print culture, and the establishment of the Western-style administrative system made the colonial administrative system rational and efficient.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/1/1 Q30(a)

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Print Culture and Colonial Administration

Role of Railways in Colonial Administration

Western-style Administrative System under Colonialism

Q4. § 4 Factories Come Up**[4]**

△ The Age of Industrialisation — Periodic Assessment only — not in the Board exam (per CBSE 2026-27 curriculum) Assessed as part of Periodic Assessment only; not in the Board exam. [source: Course Structure — History, Chapter IV]

The first cotton mill in Bombay came up in 1854 and it went into production two years later. By 1862, four mills were at work with 94,000 spindles and 2,150 looms. Around the same time, jute mills came up in Bengal, the first being set up in 1855 and another one seven years later, in 1862. In north India, the Elgin Mill was started in Kanpur in the 1860s, and a year later the first cotton mill of Ahmedabad was set up. By 1874, the first spinning and weaving mill of Madras began production.

Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow :

(34.1) When was the first cotton mill set up in India ? [1]

(34.2) Name any two early industrialists of India. [1]

(34.3) How did many Indian entrepreneurs survive despite tight economic controls imposed by the British Government ? Explain. [2]

Previously asked in: 2023 32/5/1 Q34

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Early Indian industrialists and entrepreneurs

Early growth of cotton and jute mills in India

Indian entrepreneurs under British economic controls

Q5. § 1.2 The Pace of Industrial Change § 3.3 Manchester Comes to India**[4]**

△ The Age of Industrialisation — Periodic Assessment only — not in the Board exam (per CBSE 2026-27 curriculum) Assessed as part of Periodic Assessment only; not in the Board exam. [source: Course Structure — History, Chapter IV]

Yet, till the First World War, industrial growth was slow. The war created a dramatically new situation. With British mills busy with war production to meet the needs of the army, Manchester imports into India declined. Suddenly, Indian mills had a vast home market to supply. As the war prolonged, Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs: jute bags, cloth for army uniforms, tents and leather boots, horse and mule saddles and a host of other items. New factories were set up and old ones ran multiple shifts. Many new workers were employed and everyone was made to work longer hours. Over the war years industrial production boomed. 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 after the war. Cotton production collapsed and exports of cotton cloth from Britain fell dramatically. Within the colonies, local industrialists gradually consolidated their position, substituting foreign manufacturers and capturing the home market.

Read the given source and answer the questions that follow :

(34.1) Why did Manchester imports decline in India ? [1]

(34.2) Why could Manchester never recapture its old position in the Indian market after the First World War ? [1]

(34.3) Analyse any two benefits of the First World War to India. [2]

Previously asked in: 2023 32/2/1 Q34

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Decline of Manchester imports and the Indian textile market

Impact of the First World War on Indian industrialisation

Q6. § 5 The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth

[4]

△ The Age of Industrialisation — Periodic Assessment only — not in the Board exam (per CBSE 2026-27 curriculum) Assessed as part of Periodic Assessment only; not in the Board exam. [source: Course Structure — History, Chapter IV]

By the first decade of the twentieth century a series of changes affected the pattern of industrialization in India. As the swadeshi movement gathered momentum, nationalists mobilised people to boycott foreign cloth. Industrial groups organised themselves to protect their collective interests, pressurising the government to increase tariff protection and grant other concessions. From 1906, moreover, the export of Indian yarn to China declined since produce from Chinese and Japanese mills flooded the Chinese market. So industrialists in India began shifting from yarn to cloth production. Cotton piece goods production in India doubled between 1900 and 1912.

Yet, till the First World War, industrial growth was slow. The war created a dramatically new situation. With British mills busy with war production to meet the needs of the army, Manchester imports into India declined. Suddenly, Indian mills had a vast home market to supply. As the war prolonged, Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs : jute bags, cloth for army uniforms, tents and leather boots, horse and mule saddles and a host of other items. New factories were set up and old ones ran multiple shifts. Many new workers were employed and everyone was made to work longer hours. Over the war years industrial production boomed.

Read the given source and answer the questions that follow :

(34.1) What was the Swadeshi Movement ? [1]

(34.2) Why did the Cotton piece goods production in India double between 1900 to 1912 ? [1]

(34.3) Explain any two events that helped India to regain its market. [2]

Previously asked in: 2023 32/6/1 Q34

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Events that helped India regain its market during industrialisation

Growth of Cotton textile production in India (1900–1912)

Swadeshi Movement and its impact on Indian industrialisation

Q7. § 6 Market for Goods

[4]

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Market for Goods

One way in which new consumers are created is through advertisements. As you know, advertisements make products appear desirable and necessary. They try to shape the minds of people and create new needs. Today we live in a world where advertisements surround us. They appear in newspapers, magazines, hoardings, street walls, television screens. But if we look back into history, we find that from the very beginning of the industrial age, advertisements have played a part in expanding the markets for products, and in shaping a new consumer culture. When Manchester industrialists began selling cloth in India, they put labels on the cloth bundles. The label was needed to make the place of manufacture and the name of the company familiar to the buyer. The label was also to be a mark of quality. When buyers saw 'MADE IN MANCHESTER' written in bold on the label, they were expected to feel confident about buying the cloth.

Read the given case and answer the questions that follow :

- (34.1) How was the marketing of goods done in India by the British ? [1]
- (34.2) How were the new consumers created through advertisement during colonial India ? [1]
- (34.3) Identify the messages conveyed through advertisements during industrialization. [2]

Previously asked in: 2023 32/1/1 Q34

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Marketing of goods in India by the British

Messages conveyed through advertisements during industrialisation

Role of advertisements in creating new consumers during colonial India

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ANSWER KEY

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Which of the following industries increased with the expansion of railways in England from 1840s to 1860s ?

- (A) Iron and Steel
- (B) Jute and Cotton
- (C) Aluminium and Bauxite
- (D) Copper and Steel

Previously asked in: 2023 32/6/1 Q3

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Expansion of Railways and Growth of Allied Industries in England (1840s–1860s)

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Model Answer

(A) Iron and Steel

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.

Explanation

The passage from Chapter 4, Section 1.2 directly states that after the 1840s, the iron and steel industry led the way, and railway expansion drove up its demand. Cotton was dominant *before* the 1840s, making (B) incorrect. Aluminium/Bauxite and Copper are not mentioned in this context.

Q2. § 1.2 The Pace of Industrial Change § 2 Hand Labour and Steam Power

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Who among the following improved the steam engine ?

- (a) James Watt
- (b) Thomas Edison
- (c) Benjamin Franklin
- (d) Alexander Fleming

Previously asked in: 2023 32/4/1 Q4

♦ The Age of Industrialisation Improvement of the Steam Engine by James Watt

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Model Answer

(a) James Watt

James Watt improved the steam engine produced by Newcomen and patented the new engine in 1781.

Explanation

The source passage explicitly states: "*James Watt improved the steam engine produced by Newcomen and patented the new engine in 1781.*" Thomas Edison, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Fleming are associated with other inventions (bulb/electricity, lightning rod, and penicillin respectively). Always recall exact names and context from the chapter.

Q3. § 3.2 What Happened to Weavers?

[5]

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Analyse how the introduction of railways, print culture, and the establishment of the Western-style administrative system made the colonial administrative system rational and efficient.

Previously asked in: 2025 32/1/1 Q30(a)

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Print Culture and Colonial Administration

Role of Railways in Colonial Administration

Western-style Administrative System under Colonialism

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Model Answer

The colonial administrative system was made more rational and efficient through three key developments:

1. **Railways:** The introduction of railways enabled faster movement of goods, troops, and officials across vast territories. It helped the British consolidate political control and ensured efficient supply chains for trade and governance.
1. **Print Culture:** Print allowed standardisation of laws, official records, and regulations. Printed documents, notices, and reports made communication between administrative units uniform and systematic, reducing dependence on oral traditions.
1. **Western-style Administration:** The British established a formal bureaucracy with paid officials (like gomasthas), clear hierarchies, and written rules. This eliminated informal local arrangements, enforced uniform control, and reduced competition — as seen when the East India Company used systematic management to control weavers and monopolise trade.

Together, these changes replaced fragmented, personalised local systems with a centralised, standardised colonial administration.

Source: Chapter 4 (*The Making of a Global World / Age of Industrialisation*), Section 3.2

Explanation

- The question asks you to **analyse**, so don't just describe — show how each factor contributed to rationality/efficiency.
- CBSE expects roughly **3 distinct points** for a 5-mark answer of this type.
- The source passages directly support the gomasthas/company control point; extrapolate railways and print logically from the given texts.
- Avoid vague phrases like "it was very helpful." Use precise terms: *centralised control, standardised, uniform, monopoly*.
- End with a brief concluding line tying all three together — examiners reward this for full marks.

Q4. § 4 Factories Come Up

[4]

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The first cotton mill in Bombay came up in 1854 and it went into production two years later. By 1862, four mills were at work with 94,000 spindles and 2,150 looms. Around the same time, jute mills came up in Bengal, the first being set up in 1855 and another one seven years later, in 1862. In north India, the Elgin Mill was started in Kanpur in the 1860s, and a year later the first cotton mill of Ahmedabad was set up. By 1874, the first spinning and weaving mill of Madras began production.

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Previously asked in: 2023 32/5/1 Q34

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

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Model Answer

(34.1) The first cotton mill in India was set up in **Bombay in 1854** (it went into production in 1856).

(34.2) Two early industrialists of India: **Dwarkanath Tagore** (Bengal) and **Dinshaw Petit** (Bombay).

(34.3) Many Indian entrepreneurs survived British economic controls through the following ways:

- They **avoided direct competition** with British goods by producing items not manufactured by British mills.
- They focused on **internal trade and money-lending**, which gave them capital to invest in industries.
- Some industrialists built **close networks with local suppliers and markets**, reducing dependence on British firms.
- They reinvested profits carefully and relied on **family and community-based financing** to sustain their businesses.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation, Chapter 4 (Class 10 History)*

Explanation

- **(34.1)** is directly from the passage — 1854, Bombay. Don't confuse with 1856 (when production started).
- **(34.2)** The passage does NOT name industrialists, so draw from textbook knowledge. Dwarkanath Tagore, Dinshaw Petit, Jamsetji Tata, and G.D. Birla are standard CBSE examples — name any two.
- **(34.3)** This is a 2-mark inference/knowledge question. The passage provides context; the answer requires textbook knowledge about survival strategies. Examiners expect 2–3 clear points. Avoid vague statements — be specific (e.g., avoided competition, community financing, internal trade).

Q5. § 1.2 The Pace of Industrial Change § 3.3 Manchester Comes to India

[4]

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Yet, till the First World War, industrial growth was slow. The war created a dramatically new situation. With British mills busy with war production to meet the needs of the army, Manchester imports into India declined. Suddenly, Indian mills had a vast home market to supply. As the war prolonged, Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs: jute bags, cloth for army uniforms, tents and leather boots, horse and mule saddles and a host of other items. New factories were set up and old ones ran multiple shifts. Many new workers were employed and everyone was made to work longer hours. Over the war years industrial production boomed. 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 after the war. Cotton production collapsed and exports of cotton cloth from Britain fell dramatically. Within the colonies, local industrialists gradually consolidated their position, substituting foreign manufacturers and capturing the home market.

Read the given source and answer the questions that follow :

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(34.3) Analyse any two benefits of the First World War to India. [2]

Previously asked in: 2023 32/2/1 Q34

◆ **The Age of Industrialisation** Decline of Manchester imports and the Indian textile market
Impact of the First World War on Indian industrialisation

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Model Answer

(34.1) Manchester imports declined in India because British mills were busy with war production to meet the needs of the army, leaving little capacity for export to India.

(34.2) After the war, Britain was unable to modernise and compete with the US, Germany and Japan. Its economy crumbled, cotton production collapsed, and exports of cotton cloth fell dramatically, so Manchester could never recapture its old position.

(34.3) Two benefits of the First World War to India:

- **Expansion of Indian industry:** Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs — jute bags, army uniforms, tents, boots, saddles — leading to new factories, multiple shifts, and an industrial boom.
- **Growth of home market:** With Manchester imports declining, Indian mills gained a vast home market; local industrialists consolidated their position and substituted foreign manufacturers.

Source: Chapter – The Age of Industrialisation, The Making of a Global World / India and the Contemporary World – II

Explanation

- **(34.1)** is 1 mark — one direct cause from the passage is enough.
- **(34.2)** is 1 mark — focus on Britain's inability to modernise and competition from US/Germany/Japan; don't over-explain.

- **(34.3)** is 2 marks — name **two distinct** benefits with a brief explanation each. Both points must come from the passage. Examiners expect specific examples (jute bags, uniforms, etc.) to show close reading. Avoid writing outside the passage for source-based questions.

Q6. § 5 The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth

[4]

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By the first decade of the twentieth century a series of changes affected the pattern of industrialization in India. As the swadeshi movement gathered momentum, nationalists mobilised people to boycott foreign cloth. Industrial groups organised themselves to protect their collective interests, pressurising the government to increase tariff protection and grant other concessions. From 1906, moreover, the export of Indian yarn to China declined since produce from Chinese and Japanese mills flooded the Chinese market. So industrialists in India began shifting from yarn to cloth production. Cotton piece goods production in India doubled between 1900 and 1912.

Yet, till the First World War, industrial growth was slow. The war created a dramatically new situation. With British mills busy with war production to meet the needs of the army, Manchester imports into India declined. Suddenly, Indian mills had a vast home market to supply. As the war prolonged, Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs : jute bags, cloth for army uniforms, tents and leather boots, horse and mule saddles and a host of other items. New factories were set up and old ones ran multiple shifts. Many new workers were employed and everyone was made to work longer hours. Over the war years industrial production boomed.

Read the given source and answer the questions that follow :

(34.1) What was the Swadeshi Movement ? [1]

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♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Events that helped India regain its market during industrialisation

Growth of Cotton textile production in India (1900–1912)

Swadeshi Movement and its impact on Indian industrialisation

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Model Answer

(34.1) The Swadeshi Movement was a nationalist movement in which people were mobilised to boycott foreign cloth and promote Indian-made goods.

(34.2) Cotton piece goods production doubled between 1900 and 1912 because Indian industrialists shifted from yarn to cloth production. This happened as Indian yarn exports to China declined, since Chinese and Japanese mills had flooded the Chinese market.

(34.3) Two events that helped India regain its market:

- **World War I:** British mills became busy with war production, so Manchester imports into India declined. Indian mills got a vast home market to supply.
- **War demand:** Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs — jute bags, army uniforms, tents, leather boots, etc. — boosting industrial production enormously.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation, Industrialisation in the Colonies*

Explanation

- (34.1) is 1 mark — one line defining Swadeshi is enough.
- (34.2) is 1 mark — mention both the cause (yarn exports to China fell) and the effect (shift to cloth production).

- **(34.3)** is 2 marks — two distinct points needed. Both points must come from the passage: WWI reducing imports and war-time demand for Indian goods. Examiners look for use of passage evidence; do not bring in outside information for source-based questions.

Q7. § 6 Market for Goods

[4]

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Market for Goods

One way in which new consumers are created is through advertisements. As you know, advertisements make products appear desirable and necessary. They try to shape the minds of people and create new needs. Today we live in a world where advertisements surround us. They appear in newspapers, magazines, hoardings, street walls, television screens. But if we look back into history, we find that from the very beginning of the industrial age, advertisements have played a part in expanding the markets for products, and in shaping a new consumer culture. When Manchester industrialists began selling cloth in India, they put labels on the cloth bundles. The label was needed to make the place of manufacture and the name of the company familiar to the buyer. The label was also to be a mark of quality. When buyers saw 'MADE IN MANCHESTER' written in bold on the label, they were expected to feel confident about buying the cloth.

Read the given case and answer the questions that follow :

- (34.1) How was the marketing of goods done in India by the British ? [1]
- (34.2) How were the new consumers created through advertisement during colonial India ? [1]
- (34.3) Identify the messages conveyed through advertisements during industrialization. [2]

Previously asked in: 2023 32/1/1 Q34

♦ The Age of Industrialisation

Marketing of goods in India by the British

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Role of advertisements in creating new consumers during colonial India

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Model Answer

(34.1) British Manchester industrialists marketed goods in India by putting labels on cloth bundles, mentioning the place of manufacture and the company name to make them familiar to Indian buyers.

(34.2) New consumers were created by making products appear desirable and necessary through advertisements. Advertisements shaped the minds of people and created new needs, thus expanding the market.

(34.3) Advertisements during industrialization conveyed two key messages:

- **Quality assurance** — Labels like 'MADE IN MANCHESTER' were meant to be a mark of quality, making buyers feel confident.
- **Brand identity** — The label made the place of manufacture and the company name familiar to the buyer, building trust in the product.

Source: *The Age of Industrialisation, Market for Goods*

Explanation

- (34.1) is straightforward — focus on the label on cloth bundles with place of manufacture and company name.
- (34.2) Pick the direct line from the passage: advertisements make products "desirable and necessary" and "create new needs."
- (34.3) For 2 marks, give **two distinct messages** — quality (confidence in buying) and brand/identity (familiarity). Both are explicitly stated in the passage. Avoid going outside the passage for a source-based question.

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