

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Many industrial changes had taken place before 1700, but history will always consider the second half of the eighteenth century as the date of birth of the industrial revolution.

Iron and textile industries played a major role in this revolution. Yet, the steam engine was one of the most important of man's inventions for without it the industrial revolution could never have taken place.

The industrial revolution required more skilled workers. That is to say, a standard of education was essential. Therefore, a great number of improvements were made on the eighteenth century inventions, and factories were commonplace in Great Britain.

Consequently, the industrial revolution is regarded as the most remarkable transformation of human life in the history of the world. Great Britain was not only the workshop of the world, but the cradle of industrialization as well. Beyond the acceleration of economic growth, this revolution was also an acceleration of a social transformation.

PART ONE

I - Answer the following questions from the text. Use your own words as much as possible.

1. When did the industrial revolution really begin?
2. What was the most important invention of the eighteenth century?
3. Why was a standard of education essential?
4. What is the industrial revolution like?

5. Was the industrial revolution only an acceleration of an economic growth?

II. Find words or groups of words in the text for which the following words could be substituted.

to occur	
to demand	
necessary	
qualified	
numerous	
level	
many	
besides	
part	
change	

PART TWO

I - Join the following pairs of sentences using «because» as in the example below.

X : The industrial revolution required heavy investments and expenditures.

Y : Some industrial production was on a large scale.

Z : The industrial revolution required heavy investments and expenditures *because* some industrial production was on a large scale.

1 X : The domestic system⁽¹⁾ had many advantages for the workers.

Y : There was no travelling to work and no factory discipline.

2 X : The domestic system was unsuited to many industries.

Y : Coal, lead and iron mining could not be done at home.

3 X : The steam engine was a breakthrough.

Y : The steam engine opened the way to industrialization.

(1) Most of the industries were not carried on in factories but in the workers' own homes; for this reason, we call it domestic system.

- 4 X Some machines could not be produced commercially
Y This required greater financial resources

- 5 X The British critics could not cope with some problems.
Y The British critics were not so ready
II - Look at the following examples

- X Great Britain was the workshop of the world
Y Great Britain was the cradle of industrialization
Z Great Britain was not only the workshop of the world but the cradle of industrialization as well

Do the same way with the following pairs of sentences.

- 1 X The industrial revolution required more skilled workers
Y The industrial revolution required some technical inventions.
- 2 X The industrial revolution was an acceleration of economic growth.
Y The industrial revolution was an acceleration of a social transformation.
- 3 X The steam engine was considered as the most important of man's invention.
Y The steam engine was a step to further inventions.
- 4 X The aim of an economic activity is to produce goods.
Y The aim of an economic activity is to provide services.
- 5 X The technical division of labour increases skill and speed of performance.
Y The technical division of labour reduces the amount of time lost.

PART THREE

1 - Look at the following example.

e.g. Woolen cloth industry provides the best example of the domestic system

The industrial revolution started in England.

Indus (noun) ————— Industrial (adjective).

Do the same way with the following sentences.

- 1 The industrial revolution changed the picture of the English society.
This revolution was also an acceleration of a ————— transformation.

2 A standard of *education* was essential.

The only _____ institutions which existed in England were the Public Schools.

3 A lot of *persons* adopted the domestic system.

Please, don't open my _____ mail.

4 The Physiocrats believed that *agriculture* was the only source of wealth.

The _____ sector employed very archaic farming methods.

5 Great Britain is regarded as one nation.

Unemployment created serious economic problems at the _____ level.

6 Some economic activities needed considerable *finance*.

Some newly independent countries have _____ difficulties to overcome some economic problems.

7 The rate of inflation was 10 % *per annum*.

The _____ rate of inflation was 10 %

8 Spacehips have provided scientists with new knowledge about the *universe*.

World War II caused a _____ misery.

9 The weather is governed by *nature*.

The _____ resources are part of a community's wealth.

10 Allow a *margin* of money for unexpected events.

The law of diminishing _____ utility is an economic concept.

II - Look at the following examples.

1. To require (Verb) _____ requirement (Noun)

2. Improvement (Noun) _____ to improve (verb).

Do the same way with the following words.

VERB	NOUN
to govern	
	development
to invest	
	achievement
to establish	
	management
to treat	
	employment
to pay	
	endowment
to agree	
	argument
to adjust	
	statement
to move	

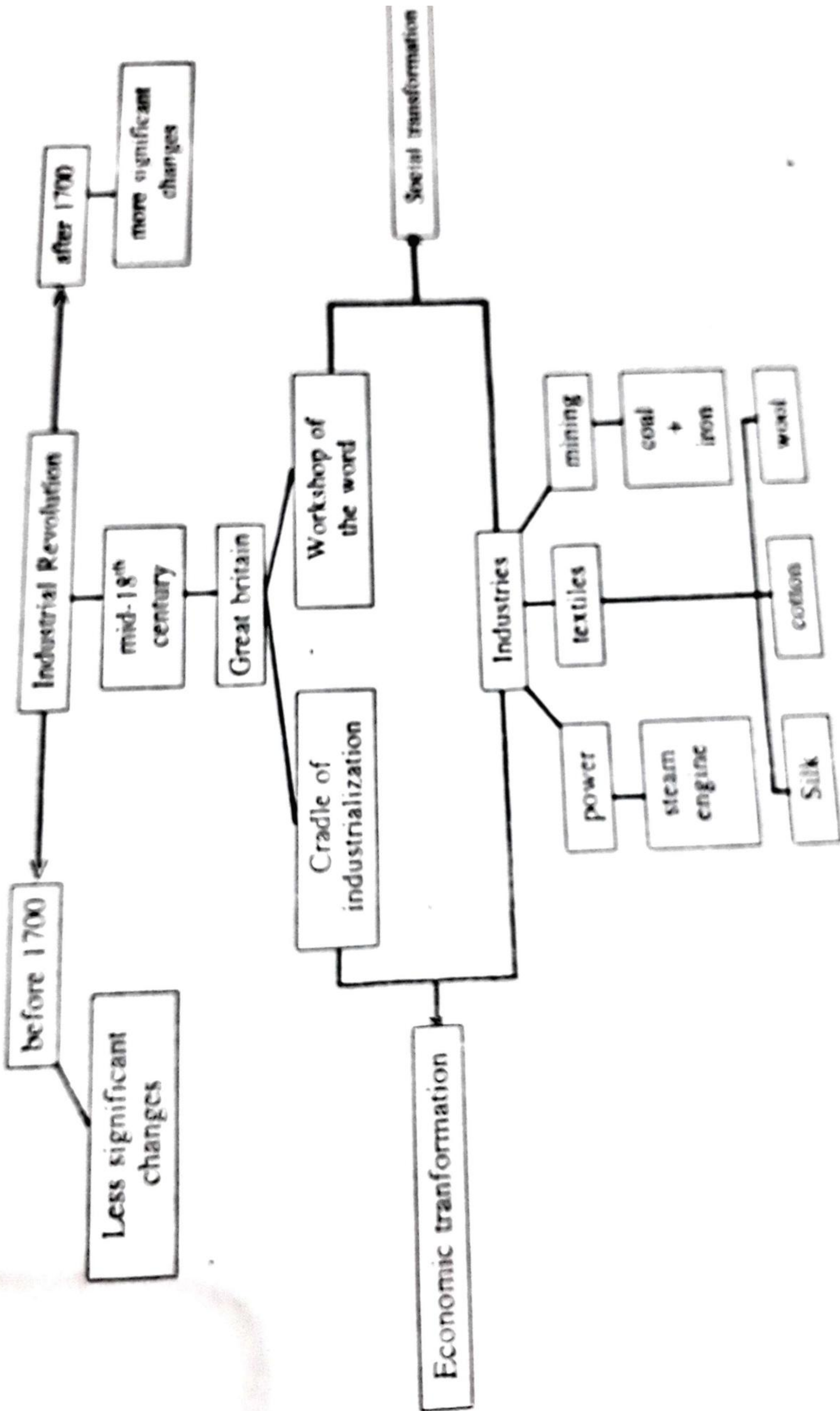
READING

I - Extracts from «*Industry and Empire*» by E.J. Hobsbawn.

The early industrial revolution was technically rather than primitive not because no better science and technology was available, or because men took no interest in it, or could not be persuaded to use it. It was simply because, by and large, the application of simple ideas and devices, often of ideas available for centuries, often by no means expensive, could produce striking results. (p. 60).

But economically the change was quite as striking. The capitalist manufacturers of the first phase of industrial revolution were.... a pioneering minority seeking to establish an economic system in an environment by no means entirely favourable to it.

The employing class itself was therefore incompletely familiar with the rules of the industrial game,... These rules decreed that economic transactions were essentially governed by the free play of forces in the market... which would automatically produce the best results all round. (p. 121).



Essay-writing : Write an essay on the industrial revolution (do not refer to the text). Use this diagram as a source of information