

Industrialisation in Britain

Chapter 4: The Age of Industrialisation · Topic 1

Key Concept

Key inventions like the spinning jenny, steam engine, and power loom mechanised textile production, dramatically increasing output and reducing reliance on manual labour.

Industrialisation led to rapid urbanisation, as people moved from rural areas to cities for factory jobs, though this often meant crowded, unsanitary living conditions.

The factory system introduced new working conditions, including long hours and the employment of women and children, leading eventually to labour reform movements.

Britain's industrialisation gave it significant economic and military advantages, contributing to its expansion as a global colonial power during the 19th century.

Quick Revision Notes

- Britain's industrialisation began in the mid-18th century.
- Key inventions included the spinning jenny and steam engine.
- These inventions increased production and reduced manual labour.
- Industrialisation caused rapid urbanisation.
- Urban living conditions were often crowded and unsanitary.
- Factories had long working hours.
- Women and children were often employed in factories.
- Industrialisation gave Britain economic and military advantages.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research a key invention of the Industrial Revolution.
- 2 Discuss how factory work differed from farm work.
- 3 Explain why cities grew rapidly during industrialisation.
- 4 Research working conditions in early factories.
- 5 Discuss why labour reform movements emerged.
- 6 Explain how industrialisation helped British colonial expansion.