

Work , Life and Leisure

Q.1. Give three reasons why the population of London expanded from the middle of the eighteenth century.

- Ans.** (i) Industrialisation was the most important factor which attracted people to London.
- (ii) The textile industry of London attracted a large number of migrants, □t The city of London attracted people from all walks of life like clerks, shopkeepers, soldiers, servants, labourers, beggars, etc.

Q.2. What were the changes in the kind of work available to women in London between the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries ? Explain the factors which led to this change.

- Ans.** (i) Employment in Factories : In the 18th and the 19th centuries, a large number of women were employed in the factories because during that period, most of the production activities were carried with the help of the family.
- (ii) Technological Developments and loss of jobs : But with the technological advancement, women gradually lost their industrial jobs and were forced to do household work. They also tried to increase the family income by activities like tailoring, washing or matchbox making.
- (iii) Employment during War : However, in the 20th century, women again started getting employed in wartime industries and offices because most of the male citizens were gating at the front.

Q.3. How does the existence of a large urban population affect each of the following ? Illustrate with historical examples.

- (a) A private landlord.
- (b) A Police Superintendent incharge of law and order.
- (c) A leader of a political party.

- Ans. (a)** Effects of large urban population over a private landlord : As a result of industrialisation, a large number of people from the rural areas moved to London, thereby increasing the population of London manifold. Such a situation created many problems for most of the residents of London. However, some sections of the society, such as the private landlords stood to gain. They sold their land to the needy people at very high rates. They built cheap tenements on their land, rented them to the poor workers, and amassed quite large sums of money as rents,
- (b) Effects of large urban population on a police superintendent : A large urban population of London created many problems for the police Superintendent, who was in charge of law and order
- (i) The overcrowding of London led to the growth of crime in that city. According to one estimate, there were about 20,000 criminals living in London in the 1870s. The presence of such a large number of criminals in London created a serious law and order problem for the Police Superintendent.
- (ii) When a fire in the slums burnt down many small tenements and killed many people, the police had a hard time to control the situation.
- (iii) Many movements of the workers for better wages, better housing facilities and just voting rights meant a threat to the law and order of the city. The political parties could easily instigate such crowds to any agitation against the government. Most political movements of the 19th century, like the Chartist Movement for the right to vote for every adult and 10 hours movement, etc., were the direct results of the overcrowding of London.

Q.4. Give explanations for the following :

- (a) **Why did the well off Londoners support the need to build housing for the poor in the nineteenth century ?**
- (b) **Why were a number of Bombay slums about the lives of migrants ?**
- (c) **What led to the major expansion of Bombay's population in the mid-nineteenth century ?**

Ans. (a) :

- (i) Living in slums was very dangerous for the labourers. They lived up to an average age of 29 years as compared to the average life expectancy of 55 among the higher and the middle classes.
- (ii) Such slums were not only harmful for the slum dwellers, but they were also a threat to the public health, and could easily lead to any epidemic,
- (iii) Poor housing could prove a great fire hazard and could engulf other areas in the fire disaster.

- (iv) Especially, after the Russian Revolution of 1917. it was felt that poor housing could lead to any social disaster, and could lead to rebellions by the poor slum dwellers.
- (v) Lack of proper houses was also increasing the pollution level.
- (b): Most of the people in the film industry were themselves migrants who came from cities like Lahore, Calcutta, Madras and contributed to the national character of the industry. Those who came from Lahore, then in Punjab, were especially important for the development of the Hindi film industry. Many famous writers, like Ismat Chughtai and Saadat Hasan Manto, were associated with the Hindi cinema.
- (c):
 - (i) In 1819, Bombay became the capital of Bombay Presidency. So it attracted more and more people towards the city.
 - (ii) With the growth of trade in cotton and opium, a large number of traders and bankers along with artisans and shopkeepers came to settle in Bombay or Mumbai.
 - (iii) As a result of the establishment of many industries along with the expansion of the cotton industry, more and more people migrated to Bombay from the neighbouring areas, especially from the nearby district of Ratnagiri.
 - (iv) Bombay dominated the maritime trade of India with the European countries.
 - (v) The introduction of railways, also encouraged a higher scale of migrants to this city.
 - (vi) Famine in the dry regions of Kutch drove a large number of people into Bombay or Mumbai.
 - (vii) When Bombay became the hub of Indian films, many new people—artists, dramatists, play writers, poets, singers, story writers flocked to this city despite its massive overcrowding.

Q.5. What forms of entertainment came up in the nineteenth century England to provide leisure activities for the people ?

- Ans.**
- (i) London Season : For wealthy Britishers there had long been an annual 'London Season. Several cultural events, such as the opera, the theatre and the classical music performances were organised for an elite group of 300-400 families in the late eighteenth century.
 - (ii) Pleasure gardens : Pleasure gardens came in the 19th century to provide facilities for sports, entertainment and refreshments for the well-to-do.
 - (iii) Pubs for working class : Working classes met in pubs to have a drink: exchange news and sometimes, also to organise for political action.

- (iii) Libraries and museums : Libraries, art galleries and museums were established in the nineteenth century to provide people with a sense of history and pride in the achievements of the British.
- (iv) Music halls and cinemas : Music halls were popular among the lower classes and, by the early twentieth century, cinema became the great mass entertainment for the mixed audiences
- (vi) Beaches : British industrial workers were increasingly encouraged to spend their holidays by the sea. So as to derive the benefits of the sun and the bracing winds.

- Q.6. (a) Explain the social changes in London which led to the need for the Underground Railway.**
- (b) Why was the development of the Underground Railway criticised ?**

Ans. (a)

- (i) Industrialisation was the most important factor responsible for the urbanisation in the modern period.
 - (ii) London soon started emerging as a great industrial centre with a population of about 6,75,000. Over the 19th century, London continued to expand, and its population multiplied fourfold.
 - (iii) The city of London attracted people from all walks of life like clerks, shopkeepers, soldiers, servants, labourers, beggars, etc.
 - (iv) The living conditions in London changed dramatically when people started migrating from the countryside to the city in search of jobs. This was largely because accommodation was not provided to the labourers by
 - (v) Poverty was clearly visible in the city. In 1887, Charles Booth conducted a survey, and concluded that about one million landowners were very poor, and were expected to live only upto an average age of 29. These people were more likely to die in a workhouse, hospital or a lunatic asylum. Meanwhile, the city had extended beyond the range where people could walk to work. So the planners realised the need for a means of transport.
- (b)**
- (i) Many felt that the “iron monsters added to the mess and unhealthiness of the city.
 - (ii) To make approximately two miles of railway, about 900 houses had to be destroyed.
 - (iii) The London Tube Railway led to a massive displacement of the London poor.

- Q.7. Explain what is meant by the Haussmannization of Paris. To what extent would you support or oppose this form of development ? Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper, to either support or oppose this, giving reasons for your view.**

Ans. Haussmannization of Paris : It simply means that the new city of Paris was designed by the chief architect of new Paris. At the instance of Napoleon III (a nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte). Haussmann built the new city of Paris for continuous 17 years (between 1852 to 1869). He designed straight, broad avenues (or boulevards), and open spaces and transplanted full grown trees. By 1870, about one-fifth of the streets of Paris were the creation of Haussmann. In addition, night patrols were introduced, bus shelters were built, and tap water was introduced. Opposition of Haussmannization: Many opposed this form of development. About 350,000 people were evicted from the centre of Paris. Some said that the city of Paris had been monstrously transformed. Some lamented the passing of an earlier way of life, and the development of an upper class culture. Others believed that Haussmann had killed the street and its life to produce an empty boring city. Arguments in Support of Haussmannization : The new Paris city soon got converted into a civic pride as the new capital became the toast of all of Europe. Paris became the hub of many new architectures, social and intellectual developments that were very influential through the 20th century in many parts of the world. Letter to the Editor to Self Explanatory.

Q.8. To what extent do government regulations and new laws solve problems of pollution ? Discuss one example each of the success and failure of legislation to change the quality of :

(a) public life

(b) private life

Ans. The government regulations and new laws had a mixed history of the successes and failures – :

- (i) New legislations in London were not taken seriously by the factory owners. They were not ready to spend on technologies that would improve their machines.
- (ii) The Smoke Abatement Acts of 1847 and 1853 failed to clean the air.
- (iii) Calcutta (Kolkata) became the first Indian city to get the smoke nuisance legislation.
- (iv) In 1920, the rice mills of Tollygunge began to burn rice husk instead of coal, leading residents to complain that 'the air is filled up with black soot which falls like drilling rain from morning till night, and it has become impossible to live'. The inspectors of the Bengal Smoke Nuisance Commission finally managed to control the industrial smoke.