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CLASS X · SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) · HISTORY · CBSE BOARD EXAMINATION 2027

1764
1854
1914

HISTORY · CHAPTER 4

The Age of Industrialisation

Chapter Practice Booklet · Questions only

17 note blocks + timeline | 24 keyword cards + link chain | School-test chapter | 85 practice questions | Model Answer Booklet

INSIDE THIS BOOKLET

1	**Chapter Notes** 17 note blocks, timeline, who's who, terms + exam snapshot	2
2	**Key Words & Links** 24 keyword cards, link chain, cross-chapter links, 16 drills	11
A	**Textbook Check** 18 questions	15
B	**Objective Practice** 20 MCQ and assertion–reason	16
C	**Board Pattern Practice** 16 questions, with frequency stars	18
D	**Source-Based Questions** 5 sources	19
E	**Board PYQ Index** Real board questions by topic	21
F	**My Mistakes** Your error log	22

STUDENT DETAILS

NAME _____

CLASS & SECTION _____

ROLL NO. _____

BOOKLET STARTED ON _____

CHAPTER TEST SCORE _____ / 20

1

READ THIS FIRST

Chapter Notes

The whole chapter in short-note form: Britain first, then India – merchants, machines, workers, weavers, mills and advertisements, with the pictures described in words. Revise from here – you should not need the textbook again.

1 How the chapter opens: two pictures of progress

- **'Dawn of the Century' (described):** the cover of a music book published in New York in 1900. In the centre a goddess-like **angel of progress** carries the flag of the new century, perched on a **wheel with wings** (time). She flies into the future; behind her float the signs of progress – **railway, camera, machines, printing press and factory**. Message: machines and technology = progress.
- **'Two magicians' (described):** a trade-magazine cover shows **Aladdin** from the Orient, who built a palace by rubbing his magic lamp, and a **modern mechanic** who, with his tools, builds bridges, ships, towers and tall buildings. Aladdin stands for the **East and the past**; the mechanic for the **West and modernity**.
- Such images glorify industrialisation. The chapter asks: was the history of industry really only a story of machines and factories?

> **Orient:** countries east of the Mediterranean, usually Asia – a western term that saw the region as pre-modern, traditional and mysterious.

2 Before the Industrial Revolution: proto-industrialisation

> **Proto-industrialisation** ('proto' = first or early form): large-scale production for an **international market** in England and Europe **even before factories** – done not in factories but by **peasants and artisans in the countryside**, financed and controlled by **merchants**.

Why merchants turned to the countryside (17th–18th c.):

- World trade and colonies raised the demand for goods.
- Merchants could not expand production in towns because powerful **urban crafts and trade guilds** controlled production. Guilds trained craftsmen, regulated competition and prices, and **restricted entry** of new people; rulers gave guilds **monopoly rights** over specific products.

Why peasants and artisans agreed:

- **Open fields** were disappearing and **commons were being enclosed**; cottagers and poor peasants who had lived off common land needed new income.
- Tiny plots could not employ the whole family. Merchants' **advances** let them stay in the village, keep cultivating, add to a shrinking farm income and use family labour fully.

3 How the proto-industrial system worked

- A close link grew between **town and countryside**: merchants lived in towns, but the work was done in villages.
- **Example – an English merchant clothier:** bought wool from a **wool stapler** → carried it to **spinners** → yarn to **weavers** → cloth to **fullers** → then **dyers** → finishing in **London** before export. London became a **finishing centre**.
- The system was part of a network of commercial exchanges **controlled by merchants**; each merchant clothier controlled hundreds of workers, and goods were produced by many households, not in one factory.

Stapler	a person who 'staples' or sorts wool according to its fibre
Fuller	a person who 'fulls' – gathers – cloth by pleating
Carding	preparing fibres such as cotton or wool before spinning

4 The coming up of the factory

- The earliest factories in England came up by the **1730s**, but their number multiplied only in the **late 18th century**.

- **Cotton** was the first symbol of the new era. Britain imported **2.5 million pounds** of raw cotton in **1760**; by **1787** it imported **22 million pounds**.
- A series of 18th-century **inventions** increased the efficiency of each step – **carding, twisting, spinning and rolling**; output per worker rose and stronger threads and yarn were produced.
- **Richard Arkwright** created the **cotton mill**. Costly new machines were bought, set up and maintained in the mill.
- **Why the mill mattered:** all processes came under **one roof and one management** → careful **supervision** of production, a watch on **quality** and **regulation of labour** – impossible when production was spread over villages.
- By the early 19th century factories had become an intimate part of the English landscape – people were struck by the new mills and their smoking chimneys.

5 The pace of industrial change – it was slow

- **Cotton and metals** were the most dynamic industries. Cotton led until the **1840s**; then **iron and steel** led, as railways spread in England (1840s) and the colonies (1860s). By **1873** Britain exported iron and steel worth about **£77 million** – double the value of its cotton exports.
- **New industries did not displace traditional ones:** even at the end of the 19th century, **less than 20%** of the workforce was in technologically advanced sectors. Much textile output came from domestic units, not factories.
- Growth in **non-mechanised** sectors – food processing, building, pottery, glass, tanning, furniture, implements – came from **ordinary small innovations**, not steam power.
- **Technology spread slowly:** machines were **expensive**, often **broke down**, repairs were costly, and they were not as effective as inventors claimed.

> **The steam engine: James Watt** improved the engine made by **Newcomen** and patented it in **1781**; his industrialist friend **Matthew Boulton** manufactured it. Yet at the start of the 19th century there were only **321 steam engines** in all England – **80** in cotton, **9** in wool, the rest in mining, canal works and iron works. Historians conclude that the typical mid-19th-century worker was a **traditional craftsperson or labourer**, not a machine operator.

6 Hand labour and steam power: why industrialists preferred hand labour

- **Plenty of cheap labour:** in Victorian Britain poor peasants and vagrants crowded into cities looking for work, so wages were low. Industrialists had no labour shortage and did not want machines that needed **large capital**.
- **Seasonal demand:** gas works and breweries were busy in the cold months; bookbinders and printers needed extra hands before **Christmas**; ships were repaired in winter. Industrialists preferred hiring hand labour **for the season**.
- **Variety needed skill:** machines made uniform, standardised goods for a mass market, but the market wanted intricate designs and specific shapes – mid-19th-century Britain made **500 kinds of hammers** and **45 kinds of axes**.
- **Upper-class taste:** aristocrats and the bourgeoisie preferred **hand-made** things – a sign of **refinement and class**, better finished, individually produced and carefully designed. **Machine-made goods were for export to the colonies.**
- Where labour was **scarce**, e.g. 19th-century **America**, industrialists were keen on mechanical power.

7 Life of the workers in Britain

- The abundance of labour was **bad for workers**. News of jobs drew hundreds from the countryside; getting a job depended on **networks of friends and kin**. Others waited for weeks, sleeping under bridges, in **Night Refuges** (run by private individuals) or in the **Casual Wards** kept by Poor Law authorities.

- **Seasonal work** meant long spells without work; after the busy season the poor were on the streets again. Some went home; most looked for odd jobs.
- **Wages** rose a little in the early 19th century, but prices rose sharply during the long **Napoleonic Wars**, so **real wages fell**.
- Even in good times about **10%** of the urban population was extremely poor; in slumps like the **1830s** unemployment rose to between **35 and 75%**.
- **Fear of unemployment** made workers hostile to new technology. When the **Spinning Jenny** came into the woollen industry, **women hand spinners attacked the machines**.
- **After the 1840s** city building work opened more jobs: roads widened, railway stations and lines, tunnels, drains and sewers, river embankments. Workers in transport **doubled in the 1840s** and doubled again in the next 30 years.

> **Spinning Jenny:** devised by **James Hargreaves in 1764**; one worker could turn several spindles and spin many threads at once, speeding up spinning and reducing the demand for labour.

8 Industrialisation in the colonies: the age of Indian textiles

- Before machine industries, **Indian silk and cotton** dominated the international textile market. Coarse cotton was made in many countries, but the **finer varieties came from India**.
- **Overland: Armenian and Persian** merchants took goods from **Punjab** to Afghanistan, eastern Persia and Central Asia, on camel back through the north-west frontier, mountain passes and deserts.
- **By sea (pre-colonial ports): Surat** (Gujarat coast) linked India to the Gulf and Red Sea ports; **Masulipatam** (Coromandel coast) and **Hoogly** (Bengal) traded with Southeast Asian ports.
- **Network: supply merchants** linked ports to inland areas – gave advances to weavers, collected cloth and carried it to the ports. At the port, **big shippers and export merchants** had **brokers** who fixed prices and bought from the supply merchants.

9 The old network breaks down (1750s onwards)

- By the **1750s** the network controlled by Indian merchants was breaking down. **European companies** gained power – first through concessions from local courts, then **monopoly rights** to trade.
- **Old ports declined:** exports from **Surat and Hoogly** fell sharply; credit dried up; local bankers slowly went bankrupt. Surat's trade fell from **Rs 16 million** (late 17th century) to **Rs 3 million** (1740s).
- **New ports grew: Bombay and Calcutta**. The shift marked the growth of **colonial power**: trade through the new ports was controlled by European companies and carried in **European ships**.
- Many old trading houses collapsed; survivors had to work within networks shaped by the European companies.

10 What happened to weavers: the Company's control

- Before winning political power in **Bengal and the Carnatic (1760s–1770s)**, the East India Company struggled to get regular supplies – French, Dutch, Portuguese and local traders competed, and weavers could sell to the best buyer.
- With political power, the Company set up a system to **eliminate competition, control costs and ensure regular supplies**:

1. Gomastha	it removed the old traders and brokers and appointed a paid servant, the **gomastha**, to supervise weavers, collect supplies and examine cloth quality
2. Advances	weavers got **loans** to buy raw material once an order was placed; those who took loans had to hand over cloth to the gomastha only – they could not sell to any other trader

- Eager for loans, many weavers **leased out their land** and wove full time; the whole family – women and children – joined in.

11 Weavers versus gomasthas

- The old supply merchants had lived in the weaving villages and cared for weavers' needs. The **gomasthas were outsiders** with no social link to the village.

- They acted **arrogantly**, marched into villages with **sepoys and peons**, and punished weavers for delays – often **beating and flogging** them.
- Weavers **lost the right to bargain** and to sell to different buyers; the Company paid **miserably low prices**, and the loans tied them to it.

How weavers responded:

- In many places in the **Carnatic and Bengal** they **deserted their villages** and set up looms where they had relatives.
- Elsewhere they **revolted** with village traders against the Company and its officials.
- Over time many **refused loans**, closed their workshops and became **agricultural labourers**.

12 Manchester comes to India

- In **1772 Henry Patullo**, a Company official, said demand for Indian textiles could never fall, as no other nation made goods of the same quality. Yet by the early 19th century a **long decline** began.
- **Exports:** cotton piece-goods were **33%** of India's exports in 1811–12 but **no more than 3%** by 1850–51.
- **Why:** English cotton industrialists pressed the government to put **import duties** on Indian cloth so that Manchester goods faced no competition in Britain, and persuaded the Company to sell **British manufactures in India**.
- **Imports:** almost no cotton piece-goods came into India at the end of the 18th century; by **1850** they were over **31%** of India's imports and by the **1870s over 50%**.

Problems of Indian weavers:

- **Export market collapsed**, and the **local market shrank**, flooded with cheap machine-made Manchester cloth. By the 1850s most weaving regions reported decline and desolation.
- **1860s – raw cotton shortage:** the **American Civil War** cut US cotton supplies, so Britain bought Indian raw cotton; prices shot up and weavers were starved of good cotton.
- **End of the 19th century: Indian factories** began flooding the market with machine goods.

13 Factories come up in India; the early entrepreneurs

Year	Factory
1854	First cotton mill in **Bombay** (production two years later); by 1862 four mills, 94,000 spindles, 2,150 looms
1855	First **jute mill in Bengal**; another in 1862
1860s	**Elgin Mill, Kanpur**; a year later the first cotton mill of **Ahmedabad**
1874	First spinning and weaving mill of **Madras**

- **China trade capital: Dwarkanath Tagore** (Bengal) made his fortune in the China trade and set up **six joint-stock companies** in the 1830s–40s; they sank in the business crises of the 1840s. In Bombay, the Parsis **Dinshaw Petit** and **Jamsetjee Nusserwanjee Tata** built industrial empires with wealth from **exports to China** and **raw cotton to England**. **Seth Hukumchand**, a Marwari, set up the **first Indian jute mill in Calcutta in 1917**; he, and G.D. Birla's father and grandfather, traded with China.
- **Other networks:** Madras merchants traded with **Burma**, the **Middle East and East Africa**; other groups carried goods, banked and transferred money within India.
- **Limits:** Indian merchants were barred from trading with Europe in manufactured goods – they exported raw cotton, opium, wheat and indigo – and were edged out of **shipping**.
- **European Managing Agencies** controlled a large sector of Indian industry till the First World War – the biggest were **Bird Heiglers & Co., Andrew Yule and Jardine Skinner & Co.** They raised capital and managed joint-stock companies; Indians often gave the capital but Europeans took all decisions. Indians could not join the European **chambers of commerce**.

14 Where did the workers come from?

- Factory workers rose from **584,000 in 1901** to over **2,436,000 in 1946**.
- Most came from **neighbouring districts**: in 1911 over **50%** of Bombay's cotton mill workers came from **Ratnagiri**; Kanpur's mills drew from villages within **Kanpur district**.

- Workers moved between village and city, going home for **harvests and festivals**. Later they came from farther – from the **United Provinces** to Bombay's textile mills and Calcutta's jute mills.
- Jobs were always fewer than job-seekers, so industrialists used a **jobber** to recruit.

> **Jobber:** usually an old, trusted worker who brought people from his village, ensured them jobs, helped them settle in the city and lent money in a crisis. Over time he gained **power**: he began demanding **money and gifts** for his favours and **controlled workers' lives**.

15 Peculiarities of industrial growth; the First World War

- **European agencies** invested in **tea and coffee plantations** (land cheap from the government), **mining, indigo and jute** – mainly for **export**, not for sale in India.
- **Indian businessmen avoided competing with Manchester:** early Indian mills made **coarse cotton yarn** (thread), not cloth, because yarn was not a big British import. The yarn went to Indian **handloom weavers** or was **exported to China**.
- **Changes after 1900:** the **swadeshi movement** urged a boycott of foreign cloth; industrial groups pressed for **tariff protection**. From **1906** yarn exports to China fell as Chinese and Japanese mills flooded that market, so Indian mills moved from yarn to **cloth**; cotton piece-goods output **doubled between 1900 and 1912**.
- **First World War (1914–18):** British mills were busy with war production, so **Manchester imports fell** and Indian mills got a vast **home market**. Indian factories also supplied **war needs** – jute bags, army uniform cloth, tents, leather boots, horse and mule saddles. New factories came up, old ones ran multiple shifts, and production boomed.
- **After the war**, Manchester never regained its place in India; Britain could not modernise and compete with the US, Germany and Japan. Indian industrialists **substituted foreign goods** and captured the home market.

16 Small-scale industries predominate; the handloom survives

- Large industries were a small part of the economy: about **67%** of them (1911) were in **Bengal and Bombay**. Only **5% (1911)** and **10% (1931)** of industrial workers were in registered factories; the rest worked in small workshops and homes in lanes and by-lanes.
- Machine-made thread wiped out hand **spinning** in the 19th century, but **handloom cloth production almost trebled between 1900 and 1940**.

Why handloom weavers survived:

- **Technology:** the **fly shuttle** raised output per worker and cut labour needs. By **1941** over **35%** of handlooms had it – **70–80%** in Travancore, Madras, Mysore, Cochin and Bengal.
- **Fine varieties:** demand for **coarse cloth** (bought by the poor) swung violently with harvests and famines, but demand for **fine cloth** bought by the well-to-do was stable – famines did not affect the sale of **Banarasi or Baluchari saris**.
- **Mills could not copy specialised weaves** – saris with woven borders, Madras lungis and handkerchiefs.
- Survival was not prosperity: long hours, the whole household at work. They were **not remnants of the past** but part of industrialisation.

> **Fly shuttle:** a device moved by ropes and pulleys that places the horizontal threads (**weft**) into the vertical threads (**warp**), letting weavers work large looms and weave wide cloth.

17 Market for goods: labels, calendars and advertisements

- New products needed **new consumers**. **Advertisements** make products appear desirable and necessary, shape people's minds and create **new needs**.
- **Labels:** Manchester cloth bundles carried labels showing the **place of manufacture and company name** – a mark of quality ('MADE IN MANCHESTER' in bold). Labels carried **images of Indian gods and goddesses** such as **Krishna or Saraswati** – as if the gods approved the product, and to make a foreign product look **familiar**.

- **Calendars** (late 19th century): used even by people who **could not read**; hung in tea shops and poor homes as well as offices – people saw the advertisement **every day of the year**. Gods were used here too (e.g. baby Krishna to sell baby products).

- **Royal figures:** emperors and nawabs on labels and calendars – if you respect the royal figure, respect the product; a product used by kings could not be of poor quality.
- **Indian manufacturers** carried a clear **nationalist message**: if you care for the nation, buy what Indians produce – advertisements became a vehicle of **swadeshi**.

Key terms

1- and 2-mark answers

Proto-industrialisation – early phase of large-scale production for world markets in rural homes, before factories

Guild – association of craftsmen or merchants that controlled production, prices and entry

Enclosure – fencing of common land into private property

Merchant clothier – merchant who controlled the stages of cloth production

Stapler / Fuller – one who sorts wool by fibre / one who gathers cloth by pleating

Carding – preparing cotton or wool fibres before spinning

Spinning Jenny – Hargreaves' machine (1764) spinning many threads at once

Bourgeoisie – the wealthy middle class

Vagrant – a homeless person without regular work

Orient – lands east of the Mediterranean, seen by the West as traditional and mysterious

Gomastha – paid agent of the Company who supervised weavers and cloth quality

Sepoy – an Indian soldier in British service

Advance – loan given before work, to be repaid in goods

Joint-stock company – company whose capital is raised by selling shares

Managing agency – European firm that raised capital and ran Indian companies

Jobber – recruiter of factory workers, usually an old trusted worker

Fly shuttle – device that sends the weft through the warp, speeding weaving

Swadeshi – using goods made in one's own country

Timeline to memorise

Chronology MCQs come from here

Year	Event
17th–18th c.	Proto-industrialisation in Europe
1730s	Earliest English factories
1740s	Surat's trade falls to Rs 3 million
1750s	Indian merchants' network breaks down
1760	Britain imports 2.5 million lb of cotton
1760s–70s	Company power in Bengal and Carnatic
1764	Hargreaves' Spinning Jenny
1772	Patullo: demand for Indian cloth will last
1781	Watt patents the steam engine
1787	Cotton imports reach 22 million lb
1811–12	Piece-goods = 33% of India's exports
1830s	British unemployment 35–75%
1840s	Iron and steel lead; city building boom

Year	Event
1850	Cotton goods = 31% of India's imports
1850–51	Piece-goods only 3% of exports
1854	First cotton mill in Bombay
1855	First jute mill in Bengal
1860s	American Civil War; Elgin Mill, Kanpur
1873	British iron and steel exports £77 million
1874	First spinning and weaving mill, Madras
1901	584,000 factory workers in India
1906	Yarn exports to China decline
1900–1912	Indian piece-goods output doubles
1914–1918	First World War: Indian industry booms
1917	Hukumchand's jute mill, Calcutta
1941	35% of handlooms use the fly shuttle

Who's who

Match-the-following MCQs come from here

Person	Remember for
Richard Arkwright	Created the cotton mill
James Hargreaves	Spinning Jenny, 1764
Newcomen; James Watt	Steam engine; Watt patented, 1781
Matthew Boulton	Manufactured Watt's engine
E.T. Paull	'Dawn of the Century' cover, 1900
Henry Patullo	Company official, 1772
Armenian, Persian traders	Overland trade, Punjab–Central Asia

Person	Remember for
Gomastha	Company's agent over weavers
Dwarkanath Tagore	China trade; 6 joint-stock companies
Dinshaw Petit, J.N. Tata	Parsi industrialists, Bombay
Seth Hukumchand	First Indian jute mill, 1917
G.D. Birla's family	Father and grandfather traded with China
Andrew Yule; Bird Heiglers	Biggest managing agencies, with Jardine Skinner
Jobber	Recruited and controlled workers

Exam snapshot

What the board asks, and how to prepare

SYLLABUS 2026–27

- Before the Industrial Revolution; the coming up of the factory; the pace of industrial change
- Hand labour and steam power; life of the workers
- Industrialisation in the colonies; factories come up; peculiarities of industrial growth; market for goods

BOARD WEIGHTAGE

20 / 80

In recent CBSE curricula this chapter has been for **periodic (school) assessment only**, and no question from it appeared in the board papers we read (2025–2026). Learn it fully for the **school chapter test**; its facts also support answers in Nationalism in India and Global World.

MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE SCHOOL TEST (NCERT EXERCISES AND CORE SECTIONS)

How often	Topic / question type	Marks	Papers
★★★	Proto-industrialisation: meaning, why merchants went to villages	3–5	NCERT exercise
★★★	Why Victorian industrialists preferred hand labour	3–5	NCERT exercise
★★★	Company control of weavers: gomasthas, advances, conflict	3–5	NCERT exercise
★★★	Decline of Indian textiles; Manchester imports	3–5	NCERT exercise
★★☆	First World War and Indian industry	3	NCERT exercise
★★☆	Handloom survival; fly shuttle	3	core section
★★☆	Advertisements, labels and calendars	3	NCERT exercise
★☆☆	Spinning Jenny, jobbers, early entrepreneurs	1–2	core facts

ANSWER-WRITING RULES FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE (CBSE 2026–27)

2 marks
Very short answer · up to 40 words · 2 clear points

3 marks
Short answer · up to 60 words · 3 points

4 marks
Case / source based · up to 100 words in all · answer from the source

5 marks
Long answer · up to 120 words · 5 points, with an intro line

Write in points, underline key words, and give one example or date wherever you can. Read every "OR" choice before you start, and attempt only one.

MISTAKES THAT COST MARKS

- Defining proto-industrialisation as 'early factories' – it was production **before factories**, in rural homes, controlled by merchants.
- Saying machines spread quickly – the chapter's point is that change was **slow** (only 321 steam engines in England at the start of the 19th c.).
- Writing that Indian weavers simply 'disappeared' – handloom output **trebled** between 1900 and 1940.
- Mixing up the gomastha (Company's **agent**) and the jobber (**recruiter** of mill workers).
- Giving 1854 as the first **jute** mill – 1854 = Bombay **cotton** mill; 1855 = Bengal jute mill; 1917 = first **Indian-owned** jute mill.
- Forgetting that early Indian mills made **yarn**, not cloth, to avoid competing with Manchester.
- Listing facts without links – use **because, as a result, this led to** (Part 2).

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

1. **Day 1:** Read the Chapter Notes twice; learn the key terms and the timeline.
2. **Day 2:** Part 2 Key Words & Links – learn the cards, read the link chain aloud, do the drills.
3. **Next day:** Parts A and B. **Then:** Parts C and D – MUST DO questions first.
4. Check every answer against the **Model Answer Booklet**: same points, same keywords, within the word limit.
5. Write every mistake on the My Mistakes page and redo it after 3 days.

2

READ THIS SECOND · THE THREAD THAT JOINS THE CHAPTER

Key Words & Links

Good students lose History marks because they know the words but not how one topic leads to the next. Learn each word's meaning, its example and its link – then use the link words in every answer.

24 keyword cards

Means · Example · Link →

Proto-industrialisation — 17TH–18TH C.
MEANS rural production for world markets before factories
EXAMPLE merchant clothier's spinners and weavers
LINK → the FIRST PHASE of industrialisation

Guild — EUROPEAN TOWNS
MEANS association controlling production and entry
EXAMPLE monopoly rights from rulers
LINK → pushed merchants to the COUNTRYSIDE

Enclosure — ENGLAND
MEANS fencing commons into private land
EXAMPLE cottagers lost grazing
LINK → forced peasants to WORK FOR MERCHANTS

Cotton mill — LATE 18TH C.
MEANS all processes under one roof
EXAMPLE Arkwright
LINK → SUPERVISION and control of labour

Steam engine — 1781
MEANS Watt's improved engine
EXAMPLE only 321 in England c. 1800
LINK → technology spread SLOWLY

Iron and steel — AFTER 1840S
MEANS leading industry after cotton
EXAMPLE £77 million exports, 1873
LINK → driven by RAILWAYS

Seasonal labour — VICTORIAN BRITAIN
MEANS work only in busy months
EXAMPLE gas works, breweries, printers
LINK → made hand labour CHEAPER than machines

Hand-made goods — BRITAIN
MEANS goods made with skill, not machines
EXAMPLE 500 kinds of hammers
LINK → symbol of CLASS; machine goods for colonies

Spinning Jenny — 1764
MEANS machine spinning many threads at once
EXAMPLE women spinners attacked it
LINK → fear of UNEMPLOYMENT

Real wages — EARLY 19TH C.
MEANS wages measured by what they buy
EXAMPLE prices rose in Napoleonic Wars
LINK → workers grew POORER

Surat — GUJARAT
MEANS pre-colonial port to the Gulf and Red Sea
EXAMPLE Rs 16 million → Rs 3 million
LINK → decline = rise of COLONIAL POWER

Supply merchant — PRE-COLONIAL INDIA
MEANS trader linking weavers to ports
EXAMPLE advances to weavers
LINK → replaced by the GOMASTHA

Gomastha — 1760S ONWARDS
MEANS Company's paid agent over weavers
EXAMPLE flogged weavers for delays
LINK → led to DESERTION AND REVOLT

Advance (loan) — BENGAL, CARNATIC
MEANS money given before cloth was woven
EXAMPLE weavers leased out land
LINK → TIED weavers to the Company

Manchester — 19TH C.
MEANS centre of British cotton manufacture
EXAMPLE over 50% of India's imports by 1870s
LINK → RUINED Indian weavers

American Civil War — 1860S
MEANS war that cut US cotton supplies
EXAMPLE Indian raw cotton sent to Britain
LINK → weavers STARVED of raw cotton

Joint-stock company — 1830S–40S
MEANS company funded by shares
EXAMPLE Dwarkanath Tagore's six firms
LINK → Indian CAPITAL enters industry

Managing agency — TILL 1914
MEANS European firm running Indian companies
EXAMPLE Andrew Yule
LINK → Indians gave money, Europeans DECIDED

Jobber — BOMBAY, KANPUR
MEANS recruiter of mill workers
EXAMPLE demanded money and gifts
LINK → control over WORKERS' LIVES

First World War — 1914–18
MEANS war that cut Manchester imports
EXAMPLE uniforms, tents, jute bags
LINK → BOOM for Indian industry

Label — MANCHESTER CLOTH
MEANS mark of origin and quality
EXAMPLE gods on labels
LINK → made foreign goods FAMILIAR

Yarn — 1850S–1906
MEANS thread made by early Indian mills
EXAMPLE exported to China
LINK → avoided MANCHESTER competition

Fly shuttle — BY 1941
MEANS device to pass weft through warp
EXAMPLE 70–80% of looms in Travancore
LINK → helped HANDLOOMS survive

Calendar — LATE 19TH C.
MEANS advertisement used all year
EXAMPLE tea shops, poor homes
LINK → reached people who COULD NOT READ

The link chain – the whole chapter as one story

Read top to bottom; the orange line is the link

Britain: from merchants to machines	India: from exporter to industrial nation
17th–18th c. **Guilds** block towns; **enclosures** push peasants	**to 1750** Indian textiles **dominate** world trade
▼ *merchants go to villages*	▼ *European companies gain power*
18th c. **Proto-industrialisation**: merchant clothiers	**1760s–1800** **Gomasthas and advances**; weavers desert or revolt
▼ *demand keeps rising*	▼ *British industry grows*
1730s–1780s **Factories**; Spinning Jenny (1764), steam engine (1781)	**1800–1870s** **Manchester** cloth floods India; exports fall to 3%
▼ *but machines are costly*	▼ *Indian capital turns to industry*
1800–1850 **Slow change**: hand labour cheap, seasonal, skilled	**1854–1874** **Mills** in Bombay, Bengal, Kanpur, Ahmedabad, Madras
▼ *workers suffer*	▼ *make yarn, not cloth*
1830s **Unemployment** 35–75%; attacks on machines	**1906–1912** **Swadeshi**; shift from yarn to cloth
▼ *railways and city building*	▼ *a war cuts imports*
1840s–1870s **Iron and steel** lead; transport jobs double	**1914–1918** **War boom**; Manchester never recovers

Cross-chapter links

Words that come back in other chapters

Board answers score higher when you connect chapters. Learn these 12 bridges.

Key word	In this chapter	Comes back in	A link sentence for your answer
Swadeshi	Indian advertisements carried a swadeshi message	**Nationalism in India**: boycott of foreign cloth, 1921	*"Boycott and swadeshi helped Indian mills grow."*
War profits	First World War boom for industry	**Nationalism in India**: business groups funded the Congress	*"War profits made industrialists strong enough to back the Congress."*
Workers	jobbers controlled mill workers	**Nationalism in India**: workers and Civil Disobedience	*"Industrial workers stayed aloof from Civil Disobedience."*
Indian cloth exports	fall from 33% to 3%	**Making of a Global World**: Britain's tariffs and trade surplus	*"Britain's gain was India's loss in cotton."*
Mass production	machines made uniform goods	**Making of a Global World**: Ford's assembly line	*"From the mill to the assembly line, machines spread slowly."*
Print and ads	calendars and labels	**Print Culture**: cheap printed images	*"Print carried advertisements into every home."*
Cotton textiles	Bombay and Ahmedabad mills	**Manufacturing Industries**: cotton textile industry today	*"Bombay's first mill (1854) began India's biggest industry."*
Jute	Bengal jute mills, 1855	**Manufacturing Industries**: jute industry on the Hooghly	*"Jute mills still cluster near Kolkata."*
Small-scale sector	workshops and homes	**Sectors of the Indian Economy**: unorganised sector	*"Most Indian workers still work outside big factories."*
Iron and steel	railway demand	**Manufacturing Industries**: iron and steel as basic industry	*"Steel is the base of all other industries."*
Colonial ports	Bombay and Calcutta rise	**Lifelines of National Economy**: major ports	*"Colonial ports became India's great modern ports."*
Nationalism in Europe	Britain's industrial power	**Nationalism in Europe**: industrialisation and the middle class	*"Industry created the middle class that led liberal nationalism."*

Drill 1 · Explain how X led to Y

2 marks each · 40 words

Use a chain: **cause → what changed → result**. Join the steps with link words:

as a result · this led to · because · therefore · in turn · this made it possible to · on the other hand · however

L1. Explain how **enclosures** led to **proto-industrialisation**. [2]

L2. Explain how **cheap labour** led to **slow mechanisation** in Britain. [2]

L3. Explain how the **Spinning Jenny** led to **attacks on machines**. [2]

L4. Explain how **Company political power** led to **control of weavers**. [2]

L5. Explain how **Manchester imports** led to the **decline of weavers**. [2]

L6. Explain how the **American Civil War** hurt **Indian weavers**. [2]

L7. Explain how the **First World War** led to **growth of Indian industry**. [2]

L8. Explain how the **fly shuttle** helped **handloom weavers**. [2]

Drill 2 · Use all three words in one answer

3 marks each · 60 words

Underline the three words in your answer. Each must be used with its correct meaning.

L9. Write a 60-word answer using: **guild · merchant · countryside**. [3]

L10. Write a 60-word answer using: **gomastha · advance · weaver**. [3]

L11. Write a 60-word answer using: **Ratnagiri · jobber · Bombay**. [3]

L12. Write a 60-word answer using: **label · Krishna · Manchester**. [3]

Drill 3 · Fill the missing link

1 mark each

L13. Write the missing step: [1]

Company wins political power in Bengal → ? → Weavers bound to sell only to the Company

L14. Write the missing step: [1]

Yarn exports to China fall (1906) → ? → Cotton piece-goods output doubles by 1912

L15. Write the missing step: [1]

Price rises during the Napoleonic Wars → ? → Workers become poorer

Drill 4 · Odd one out

1 mark each

L16. Find the odd one out and give the link that joins the other three: **Surat · Hoogly · Masulipatam · Bombay** [1]

PART A · NCERT PRACTICE

A Textbook Check

Every section of the chapter and every NCERT exercise idea, asked in new words. Model answers for all of these are in the Model Answer Booklet.

Before factories

A1. What is meant by proto-industrialisation? MUST DO [2]

A2. Why did merchants in 17th–18th century Europe move to the countryside? MUST DO [3]

A3. Why did poor peasants and artisans agree to work for merchants? MUST DO [3]

A4. Explain the stages through which a merchant clothier got cloth produced. [3]

Factories and the pace of change

A5. What advantages did the cotton mill bring? MUST DO [3]

A6. Why was the spread of new technology slow in 19th-century Britain? MUST DO [3]

A7. Give three reasons why Victorian industrialists preferred hand labour. MUST DO [3]

A8. Why did women workers in Britain attack the Spinning Jenny? MUST DO [2]

A9. Describe the difficulties of job-seekers in early 19th-century British cities. [3]

India: textiles, weavers and mills

A10. How were Indian textiles traded before the 1750s? MUST DO [3]

A11. Why did Surat and Hoogly decline while Bombay and Calcutta grew? [2]

A12. How did the East India Company ensure a regular supply of cloth? MUST DO [3]

A13. Why did weavers clash with gomasthas? MUST DO [3]

A14. Explain two problems Indian cotton weavers faced in the 19th century. MUST DO [2]

A15. Name three sources of capital of early Indian industrialists. [3]

A16. Who was a jobber? How did his role change? MUST DO [2]

A17. Why did early Indian cotton mills produce yarn rather than cloth? [2]

A18. Why did manufacturers print calendars to advertise their products? MUST DO [2]

B

PART B · SECTION A STYLE

Objective Practice

The MCQ types used in the board paper: statements, matching, chronology, picture-based, combinations and assertion–reason.

ASSERTION–REASON: HOW TO ANSWER

(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.

Multiple choice

1 mark each

B1. Proto-industrialisation was based on: [1]

(a) large factories in towns
(b) production in rural homes controlled by merchants
(c) steam-powered mills
(d) guild workshops in cities

B2. Merchants could not expand production within towns in the 17th century because: [1]

(a) towns had no workers
(b) rulers banned trade
(c) powerful guilds controlled production
(d) raw material was scarce

B3. Arrange in chronological order: [1]
I. First cotton mill in Bombay II. Spinning Jenny III. Watt patents his steam engine IV. Hukumchand's jute mill

(a) II, III, I, IV **(b)** III, II, I, IV **(c)** II, I, III, IV **(d)** I, II, III, IV

B4. Who among the following created the cotton mill? [1]

(a) James Watt
(b) James Hargreaves
(c) Matthew Boulton
(d) Richard Arkwright

B5. At the beginning of the 19th century there were how many steam engines in all England? [1]

(a) 321 (b) 1,200 (c) 80 (d) 3,000

B6. Read the statements: [1]
I. Upper classes in Victorian Britain preferred machine-made goods.
II. In mid-19th-century Britain, 500 kinds of hammers were produced.
Choose the correct option.

(a) Only I is correct (b) Only II is correct
(c) Both I and II are correct (d) Neither I nor II is correct

B7. *Picture described:* a book cover shows Aladdin rubbing a lamp on one side and a mechanic with tools building bridges and ships on the other. What does the mechanic stand for? [1]

(a) The East and the past (b) The West and modernity
(c) Indian craftsmen (d) Merchant guilds

B8. Which pre-colonial port linked India with the Gulf and Red Sea ports? [1]

(a) Masulipatam (b) Hoogly (c) Surat (d) Calcutta

B9. A gomastha was: [1]

(a) a weaver's guild leader
(b) a jobber in Bombay mills
(c) a Persian merchant
(d) a paid servant of the Company who supervised weavers

B10. Match the columns: [1]
(a) Dwarkanath Tagore (b) Seth Hukumchand (c) Dinshaw Petit (d) Andrew Yule
(i) Parsi industrialist, Bombay (ii) Managing agency (iii) Six joint-stock companies (iv) First Indian jute mill, 1917

(a) a-iii, b-iv, c-i, d-ii (b) a-iv, b-iii, c-i, d-ii
(c) a-iii, b-iv, c-ii, d-i (d) a-i, b-iv, c-iii, d-ii

B11. In 1811–12 cotton piece-goods formed 33% of India's exports. By 1850–51 their share was: [1]

(a) about 31% (b) about 15% (c) no more than 3% (d) over 50%

B12. Indian weavers faced a shortage of raw cotton in the 1860s because: [1]

(a) Indian farmers stopped growing cotton
(b) the American Civil War made Britain buy Indian cotton
(c) the Company banned cotton
(d) mills in Bombay bought it all

B13. Which of these helped handloom weavers survive in the 20th century? [1]
a. Fly shuttle b. Stable demand for fine cloth c. Special weaves mills could not copy d. Tariffs on Indian handloom cloth

(a) Only a and b (b) Only b and d (c) Only a, b and c (d) All of these

B14. Over 50% of Bombay's cotton mill workers in 1911 came from: [1]

(a) Kanpur (b) United Provinces (c) Madras (d) Ratnagiri

B15. During the First World War, Indian factories supplied all of these EXCEPT: [1]

(a) jute bags (b) army uniform cloth
(c) tents and leather boots (d) steam locomotives for Britain

B16. Images of Indian gods on Manchester cloth labels were meant to: [1]

(a) make foreign goods look familiar and divinely approved
(b) show the cloth was hand-made
(c) support swadeshi
(d) mark the price

Assertion–Reason

1 mark each

B17. ASSERTION–REASON [1]
Assertion (A): Industrialists in Victorian Britain were reluctant to install machines.
Reason (R): There was no shortage of cheap labour.

B18. ASSERTION–REASON [1]
Assertion (A): Weavers in Bengal and the Carnatic deserted their villages in the late 18th century.
Reason (R): Gomasthas punished them and the Company paid very low prices.

B19. ASSERTION–REASON [1]
Assertion (A): Manchester never regained its position in the Indian market after the First World War.
Reason (R): Indian mills began producing yarn in the 1850s.

B20. ASSERTION–REASON [1]
Assertion (A): The Spinning Jenny increased the demand for hand spinners.
Reason (R): One worker could spin several threads at once on it.

C

PART C · BOARD PATTERN

Board Pattern Practice

Written-answer questions grouped by topic. School-test chapter (not in the board papers read). ★★★ = NCERT exercise topic · ★★ = core section · ★ = supporting facts.

Before factories: proto-industrialisation

★★★ NCERT exercise · 3–5 marks

C1. Explain the proto-industrial system and why it developed in the countryside. MUST DO [5]

C2. "The earliest factories did not end proto-industrial production at once." Explain. [3]

Hand labour, steam power and workers

★★★ NCERT exercise · 3–5 marks

C3. "Technological changes occurred slowly in Britain." Explain with examples. MUST DO [5]

C4. Why did some industrialists in 19th-century Europe prefer hand labour over machines? [5]
MUST DO

C5. Describe the life of workers in Britain in the 19th century. MUST DO [5]

India: trade, weavers and Manchester

★★★ NCERT exercise · 3–5 marks

C6. How did the East India Company establish control over Indian weavers? Explain. MUST DO [5]

C7. How did weavers respond to the Company's system? MUST DO [3]

C8. Explain the decline of Indian cotton textiles in the 19th century. MUST DO [5]

C9. Why did the old ports of Surat and Hoogly decline? [3]

Factories and industrial growth in India

★★☆ NCERT exercise · 3–5 marks

C10. Explain the limits on Indian businessmen in colonial India. MUST DO [3]

C11. How did the First World War help Indian industries grow? MUST DO [5]

C12. "Small-scale industries continued to predominate in India." Explain. [3]

C13. How did handloom weavers survive competition from mills? MUST DO [3]

C14. Why did the jobber become powerful? [3]

Market for goods

★★★ NCERT exercise · 3 marks

C15. How did advertisements help create new consumers? Explain. MUST DO [5]

C16. How did Indian manufacturers use advertisements differently from British ones? [2]

D

PART D · SOURCE-BASED (Q8 STYLE)

Source-Based Questions

Each source carries 4 marks (1 + 1 + 2), as in Q8 of the board paper – useful for the school chapter test.

D1. Source-Based · Work at Home for the Merchant [4]

In an English village of the 1700s, a family that had lost access to common grazing land agreed to spin and weave for a merchant from the nearby town. He gave them money in advance and brought them wool; they kept farming their small plot. The cloth they wove passed through several hands before being finished in London and shipped abroad.

(i) Name the system described. [1]

(ii) Why had the family lost access to the land? [1]

(iii) Give two reasons why the family accepted the merchant's offer. [2]

D2. Source-Based · Five Hundred Hammers [4]

A London manufacturer in the 1850s kept a catalogue of hundreds of kinds of hammers and axes, each for a different trade. His workers were hired in large numbers before winter and let go in spring. A steam-powered machine was offered to him, but he refused to buy it.

(i) Which country and period does the source describe? [1]

(ii) Why were workers hired only for part of the year? [1]

(iii) Give two reasons why he refused the machine. [2]

D3. Source-Based · The Company's Man [4]

A paid agent of the Company rode into a Bengal weaving village with armed men. Weavers who had taken loans had to give him all their cloth at the price he fixed. Those who were late were beaten. Within months, several families locked their houses and moved away.

(i) What was this agent called? [1]

(ii) Why could the weavers not sell to other buyers? [1]

(iii) Give two ways weavers responded to such treatment. [2]

D4. Source-Based · A Mill in the Making [4]

An Indian merchant who had earned a fortune selling goods to China and raw cotton to England decided, in the 1850s, to put his money into a spinning mill in Bombay. He chose to make thread, not cloth. Sixty years later, when a war in Europe began, his sons found orders pouring in.

(i) Name one industrialist of Bombay who built wealth in this way. [1]

(ii) Why did early mills make thread rather than cloth? [1]

(iii) Why did orders pour in during the war? Give two reasons. [2]

D5. Source-Based · Gods on the Wall [4]

In a small tea shop, a printed calendar hung on the wall all year. Above the dates was a bright image of a god; below it, the name of a soap made in England. Nobody in the shop could read English, but everyone knew the brand.

(i) Why were calendars an effective advertisement? [1]

(ii) Why were gods shown on such calendars? [1]

(iii) How did Indian manufacturers advertise differently? Give two points. [2]

PART E · REAL BOARD QUESTIONS

E Board PYQ Index

Real questions from recent Social Science board papers, by topic. Open the official paper and attempt the listed questions.

Frequency	Topic	Marks	Where asked (year: paper code, question number)	Practise here
★★★	**Proto-industrialisation**	3–5	Not in the board papers read – school/periodic test topic; NCERT exercise.	A1–A4, B1–B2, C1–C2, D1, L1, L9
★★★	**Hand labour vs machines; workers' life**	3–5	Not in the board papers read – NCERT exercise.	A6–A9, B5–B6, B17, B20, C3–C5, D2, L2–L3
★★★	**Company and weavers; gomasthas**	3–5	Not in the board papers read – NCERT exercise.	A10–A13, B8–B9, B18, C6–C7, C9, D3, L4, L10
★★★	**Manchester and decline of Indian textiles**	3–5	Not in the board papers read – NCERT exercise.	A14, B11–B12, C8, L5–L6
★★☆	**Factories, entrepreneurs, jobbers, First World War**	3–5	Not in the board papers read – NCERT exercise.	A15–A17, B10, B14–B15, C10–C14, D4, L7, L11
★★☆	**Advertisements, labels, calendars**	3	Not in the board papers read – NCERT exercise.	A18, B16, C15–C16, D5, L12

Papers read in full (3): 2026 – 32/1/1, 32/5/1 · 2025 – 32/1/1. None asked this chapter, as recent curricula keep it for periodic assessment. Check the 2026–27 syllabus. Download official papers from cbse.gov.in → Previous Year Question Papers.

PART F · YOUR RECORD

F My Mistakes

Write down each mistake from this chapter, including the Sunday Chapter Test.

Every wrong answer is a free lesson. Write it here, find the point you missed, and redo the question after three days.

Date	Part & Q No.	What went wrong	Correct point or fact	Redone ✓