

Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England and also discuss the quality of life of the people there during industrialisation.

Structure -

Intro - A brief about Industrial Revolution.

Body -

Part 1 - Reasons why Industrial Revolution happened in England first.

Part 2 - Quality of life of people impacted by Industrialisation.

Conclusion - No need.

Answer -

Industrial Revolution(IR) was a revolution in the economic process of production of goods aided by technological advancements in the latter half of the 18th century that transformed largely rural, agrarian societies in Europe and America into industrialised, urban ones.

Fuelled by the game-changing creation of factories, introduction of new machines and techniques in textiles, use of steam power, the Industrial Revolution began firstly in Britain due to the following reasons -

- **Geographical Factor** - Being on a secluded island, could protect itself from enemies due to its strong Navy and establish trade with nations of the West and East. It had navigable rivers to carry goods cheaply. Further it was abundant in coal and iron ore.
- **Economic Factors** - Capitalism generated desire to make profit and invest in business. Higher standard of living generated demand for commodities and Presence of banks made taking loans and keep deposits easier.

- **Political Factors** - Democracy ensured that trade flourished. Octroi was waived off and policy of protectionism followed. With wealth generated from Drain of Wealth from colonies, Britain had mobilised sufficient capital.
- **Social Conditions** - Spread of Black Death epidemic pushed the villagers to look for jobs in cities. They provided cheap labour for factories. Practice of Puritanism generated the spirit of capitalism among British.

On one side, IR created the foundation of economic progress for rich capitalists of Britain - improved the standard of living for middle and Upper class but on the other hand, it created a vicious cycle for the poor people of Britain in which they got trapped and their quality of life worsened -

- **Poor Working conditions**: - Workers were forced to work long hours for pitifully low wages, Poor ventilation in workplaces such as cotton mills, coal mines, iron-works and brick factories is thought to have led to development of respiratory diseases among workers.
- **Housing** - Due to exponential migration, cities became overcrowded and unsanitary resulting into formation of slums and invariably creating a favourable environment for the spread of diseases such as typhoid, cholera and smallpox, further exacerbated by a lack of sick leave.
- **Real Income** - There was however a rise in real income and increase in availability of various consumer goods to the lower classes during this period. The real wage of the average worker doubled in just 32 years from 1819 to 1851 which brought many people out of poverty.