

Social History Chapter 6

Work, Life and Leisure

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

Ans.

By 1750, the population of London was about 675,000. Its population, however, continued to expand. Between 1810 and 1880 it increased from 1 million to about 4 million. ”

The reasons for this increase were as given below:

1. **Migrant populations:** London was a powerful magnet for migrant populations. Even though it did not have large factories. Historian Gareth Stedman Jones says, “Nineteenth-century London was a city of clerks and shopkeepers, of small masters and skilled artisans, of a growing number of semi-skilled and sweated out workers, of soldiers and servants, of casual labourers, street sellers and beggars”.
2. **Dockyards and industries:** Apart from the London dockyards, there were five major industries – clothing and footwear, wood and furniture, metals and engineering, printing and stationery, and precision products such as surgical instruments, watches, and objects of precious metal. These industries attracted large number of people.
3. **World War I:** During the First World War (1914-18) London began manufacturing motor cars and electrical goods. The number of large factories increased and ultimately they accounted for nearly one-third of all jobs in the city.

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 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 fighting 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 in charge of law and order.

(c) A leader of a political party.

Ans.

(a) A private landlord: The existence of a large urban population enables a private landlord to earn more and more money. For example, after the Industrial Revolution, the increase in the migrant population in London led to housing problems. Factory owners did not house the migrant workers. Under such conditions, private landlords took advantage of the situation. They put up cheap and usually unsafe tenements for the new arrivals to earn money quickly. A tenement was run-down and often overcrowded apartment house, especially in a poor section of a large city.

(b) A Police Superintendent in charge of law and order: The existence of a large urban population creates law and order problems for a Police Superintendent. For example, the population of London increased from 675,000 in 1750 to four million in 1880. At that time i.e., in the 1870s, there were about 20,000 criminals in the city. It was a great problem and the police was worried about this. Crime had become an object of widespread concern. Philanthropists were anxious about public morality, and industrialists wanted a hardworking and orderly labour force. In such a situation the job of the Police Superintendent in charge of law and order was tough.

Thus in order to control the situation, the population of criminals was counted. Their activities were watched, and their ways of life were investigated. Not only criminals, children of poor families too became thieves because crime was more profitable than labouring in small underpaid or low paid factories. Poor adults also resorted to petty thieving. Thus, the existence of large urban population creates many problems for a Superintendent of Police in charge of law and order and he has to work hard to control the situation.

(c) A leader of a political party: A large population affects a leader of a political party, because he is representative of the people and is supposed to protect their interests. A large population means more problems and more and more involvement of leader in those problems. It is both a threat and an opportunity. It may lead to strikes and riots as had happened in London in 1886 and 1888. Political leaders in the government or outside the government support or oppose the mass agitations in their own interest or in the interest of the people. The leaders have to

see and save the interests of the people cautiously in order to remain popular among the population/voters of the constituency.

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 films about the lives of migrants?

(c) What led to the major expansion of Bombay's population in the mid-nineteenth century?

Ans.

(a) Well-off Londoners supported the need to build housing for the poor in the nineteenth century due to the following reasons :

1. **Threat to public health:** The poor were living in one-room houses which were over-crowded. These houses were badly ventilated and lacked sanitation. Thus, these houses were a threat to public health.
2. **Fire hazards:** There were worries about fire hazards created by poor housing. In case of a fire, it was difficult to control it due to overcrowding of the area.
3. **Social order:** There was fear of social disorder among the poor, especially after the Russian Revolution in 1917. Many of the criminals were in fact poor people who met their needs by stealing and other methods. As the areas of one-room houses of the poor were overcrowded, it was easy for the criminals or petty thieves to commit the crimes. Thus, under these circumstances, the need to build houses for the poor was supported by the well-off Londoners in the nineteenth century.

(b) A number of Bombay films were about the lives of migrants because most of the people in the film industry were themselves migrants who came from cities like Lahore, Calcutta and Madras. They 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 Hindi cinema. These migrants knew the problems of people coming to Bombay and tried to highlight the same in the films that dealt with their encounters with the real pressures of daily life as well as contradictory aspects of the city. For example, in the film CID (1956) the hero sings, 'Ai dil hai muskil jeena yahan; zara hatke zara bachke, ye hai Bombay meri jaan.' It means 'My heart, it is difficult to live here! Move over a little, take care of yourself! This is Bombay my love!'

The major expansion of Bombay's population in the mid-nineteenth century was due to the following reasons:

1. In the beginning, it was a major outlet for cotton textiles from Gujarat. In the nineteenth century, the city functioned as a port through which large quantities of raw materials such as cotton and opium would pass.
2. Bombay became capital of the Bombay Presidency in 1819, after the Maratha defeat in the Anglo-Maratha war. This led to its expansion.
3. As the trade of cotton and opium grew, large communities of traders and bankers, artisans and shopkeepers came to settle in Bombay. 4
4. The establishment of textile mills led to a fresh surge in migration. The first cotton textile mill in Bombay was established in 1854. By 1921, there were 85 cotton mills with about 146,000 workers.
5. Only about one-fourth of Bombay's inhabitants between 1881 and 1931 were born in Bombay. The rest came from outside. Large numbers flowed in from the nearby district of Ratnagiri to work in the Bombay mills.
6. Maritime trade also attracted a large number of people to the city.
7. Bombay was at the junction head of two major railways. The railways also encouraged higher migration into the city. For example, the famine in the dry regions of Kutch drove large numbers of people into Bombay in 1888-89. As a result of above factors the population of Bombay increased from 644,405 in 1872 to nearly 1,500,000 in 1941.

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.

[CBSE 2009 (O), Sept. 2010,2011] (b) Why was the development of the Underground Railway criticized?

[CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011]

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 the factory owners.

(v) The labourers had to live in cheap and unsafe tenements provided by the individual landowners.

(vi) 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 up to 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 the new Paris. At the instance of Napoleon III (a nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte). Haussmann built the new city of Paris for a 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.

The 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 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 new 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.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who developed the principles of a Garden City? [CBSE (CCE) 2011]

(a) Thomas Hardy

(b) Charles Dickens

- (c) Charles Booth
- (d) Ebenezer Howard

2. In which of the following year Bombay became the capital of Bombay presidency? **[CBSE (CCE) 2011]**

- (a) 1819
- (b) 1850
- (c) 1872
- (d) 1880

3. Name one factor that changed the form of urbanisation in the modern world. **[CBSE (CCE) 2011]**

- (a) Capitalism
- (b) Socialism
- (c) Industrialisation
- (d) Unemployment

4. Who wrote the book **"The Bitter Cry of Out Cast London"** in the 1880s? **[CBSE (CCE) 2011]**

- (a) Andrew Mearns
- (b) Rowlandson
- (c) T.E Turner
- (d) None of the above

5. What was not a reason for providing mass housing schemes for the workers ?

- (a) Concern for the poor
- (b) Fear of social disorder
- (c) Threat to public health
- (d) Overcrowding of elite localities

6. Which movie did Dadasaheb Phalke make ?

- (a) CID
- (b) Guest House
- (c) Raja Harishchandra
- (d) Tezab

7. Bombay at first was under control of

- (a) Portuguese
- (b) English
- (c) French
- (d) Dutch

8. Which of the following cities has developed in a planned manner ?

- (a) Delhi

- (b) Madras
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Lucknow

9. Which of the following is not a factor responsible for urbanisation ?

- (a) Increase of population
- (b) Rise of prices
- (c) Growth in factories
- (d) Rise of industrial capitalism

10. What was the observation of Social Survey on London, conducted by Charles Booth in 1887 ?

- (a) In London most of the people are living on criminal activities.
- (b) The factory owners were exploiting the workers.
- (c) London needed rebuilding of at least 4,00,000 rooms to house its poor citizens.
- (d) London has become a polluted city.

11. What was introduced in 1863 in London to enable the suburban people to commute to their place of work ?

- (a) Underground railway
- (b) A network of macadamised roads
- (c) Incentives in the form of higher wages for commuting
- (d) Fast bus service

12. Why was there heavier smog in Calcutta than in other cities in the northern India ?

- (a) The city had a large population who depends on dung or wood as fuel.
- (b) The city was built on a marshy land.
- (c) The city had more industrial units.
- (d) All the above

13. Which of the following most significantly changed the pattern of urbanisation ?

- (a) Housing projects
- (b) Industrialisation
- (c) Rural population
- (d) Brisk trade

14. Why was Baron Haussmann well-known ?

- (a) For beautifying the city of London
- (b) For making the garden city of New Earswick
- (c) For rebuilding the city of Paris
- (d) For making a planned city in Singapore

15. Which of the following statements best explain death due to asphyxiation ?

- (a) Death due to poisoning
- (b) Death due to fear
- (c) Death due to lack of oxygen
- (d) Death due to lack of food

16. What was the main demand of the chartist movement started in 19th century ?

- (a) Right to vote to all adult women
- (b) Voting right for all adult citizen
- (c) Voting right for all adult male
- (d) Voting right to rural people

17. Who among the following designed the city of New Earswick ?

- (a) Charles Booth
- (b) Barry Parker
- (c) Ebenezer Howard
- (d) Gareth Stedman

18. Suffrage means

- (a) the freedom of speech
- (b) freedom from suffering
- (c) the right to vote
- (d) the right to education

19. What was referred by '10 hour movement' ? A movement for

- (a) Fixing wage for 10 hours of work
- (b) Limiting work hours in factories
- (c) Fixing 10 hours of work in a week
- (d) Fixing 10 hours work for women in factories

20. Multi-functional city having major ports, museum, Harbour, library etc. was known as

- (a) metropolis
- (b) presidency city
- (c) capital city
- (d) premier city

21. The pollutant caused by the combination of smoke and fog is called

- (a) cloudy fog
- (b) smog
- (c) dense fog
- (d) smoking fog

22. Which of the following was not an effect of the development of railways?

- (a) Introduction of a well functioning transit system
- (b) Connectivity to various schools
- (c) Enabling the people to live in garden city outside London and travel to work everyday
- (d) Weekend social distinction

23. In 1886 riot, what was the main demand of the workers ?

- (a) Raise in the wages
- (b) Permanent job
- (c) Relief from terrible condition of poverty
- (d) Housing scheme for poor people

24. After which event did Bombay become the capital of Bombay Presidency ?

- (a) Defeat of the Marathas in the first Anglo Maratha war in 1782.
- (b) Defeat of the Marathas in the 2nd Anglo Maratha war in 1803
- (c) Defeat of the Marathas in the third Anglo Maratha war in 1819
- (d) Defeat of the Marathas in Anglo-Mysore war

25. What was the function of Bengal smoke Nuisance commission ?

- (a) Inspection of factories
- (b) Controlling domestic and industrial smoke
- (c) Penalising the factory owner if the chimneys were not cleaned on time
- (d) Inspection of houses in urban areas

26. The first Indian city to get Smoke Nuisance Legislation was

- (a) Bombay
- (b) Madras
- (c) Calcutta
- (d) Delhi

27. In 1864 what project was taken up by Back Bay Reclamation Co. ?

- (a) A project to build a dockyard
- (b) A project to build the Ballard estate
- (c) A project to level the hills to make Malabar Hills
- (d) A project to develop Marine Drive

28. Between 1914-1918 by which agency was the dry dock built in Bombay ?

- (a) Improvement Trust
- (b) Back Bay Reclamation Company
- (c) Bombay Port Trust
- (d) By a private company

29. Which of the following is the God of creation ?

- (a) Brahma
- (b) Vishnu
- (c) Shiva
- (d) Varuna

30. Author of “Debganer Martye Aagaman” is

- (a) Premchand
- (b) Saratchandra
- (c) Durgacharan Ray
- (d) Rabindranath Tagore

31. Which of the following city originally was a group of seven islands under Portuguese control ?

- (a) Daman
- (b) Goa
- (c) Bombay
- (d) Cochin

32. The Ruler who acquired Bombay as gift at the time of his marriage with a Portuguese princess was

- (a) Charles I
- (b) Charles II
- (c) James Stuart
- (d) George II

33. In which of his books did Charles Dickens wrote about the massive destruction in the construction of railways?

- (a) Hard times
- (b) Oliver Twist
- (c) Dombey and Son
- (d) Geminal

ANSWERS

Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (a) | 3. (c) | 4. (a) | 5. (a) | 6. (c) | 7. (a) | 8. (c) | 9. (b) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (a) | 12. (d) | 13. (b) | 14. (c) | 15. (c) | 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (b) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (b) | 23. (c) | 24. (c) | 25. (b) | 26. (c) | 27. (c) | 28. (c) | 29. (a) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (b) | 33. (c) | | | | | | | |