World Studies - Industrial Revolution Test Documents

Directions. The following documents will appear on your unit test. Study them to prepare for the test.

New Economic and Social Theories Document-Based Assessment

Various thinkers of the day attempted to understand and interpret the dramatic changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution. They responded with a wide range of explanations and solutions, as the documents below illustrate.

Document A

"As every individual, therefore, endeavours as much as he can both to employ his capital in the support of domestic industry, and so to direct that industry that its produce may be of the greatest value; every individual necessarily labours to render the annual revenue of the society as great as he can . . . . By preferring the support of domestic to that of foreign industry, he intends only his own security; and by directing that industry in such a manner as its produce may be of the greatest value, he intends only his own gain, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention. . . . every individual it is evident, can, in his local situation, judge much better than any statesman or lawgiver can do for him."

- From *The Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith, 1776.

Document B

"In those characters which now exhibit crime, the fault is obviously not in the individual, but the defects proceed from the system in which the individual was trained. Withdraw those circumstances which tend to create crime in the human character, and crime will not be created. Replace them with such as are calculated to form habits of order, regularity, temperance, industry; and these qualities will be formed. . . . Proceed systematically on principles of undeviating persevering kindness, yet retaining and using, with the least possible severity, the means of restraining crime from immediately injuring society, and by degrees even the crimes now existing in adults will also gradually disappear. . . ."

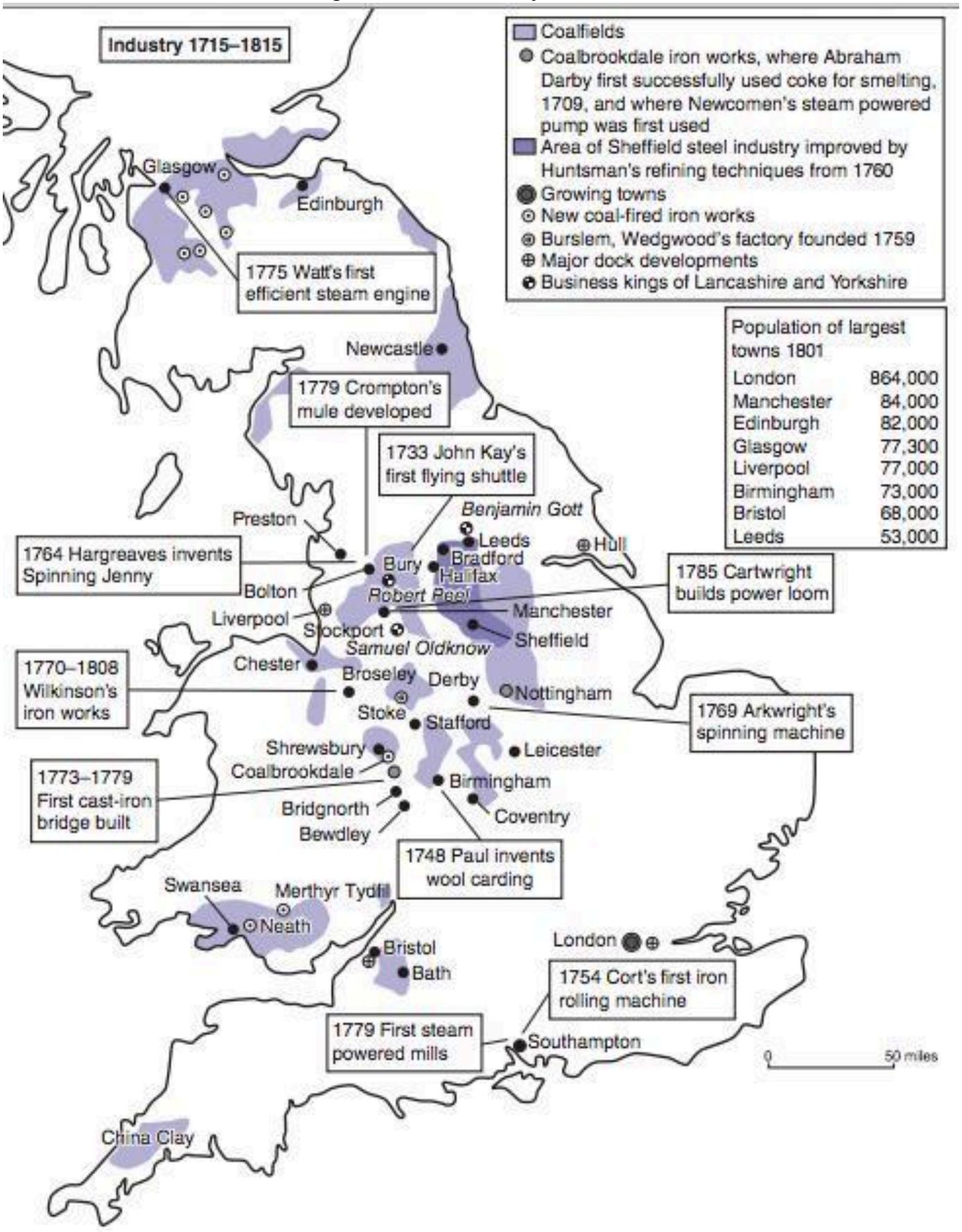
- From *A New View of Society* by Robert Owen, 1816.

Document C

"The first shock of a great earthquake had, just at that period, rent the whole neighborhood to its center. Traces of its course were visible on every side. Houses were knocked down; streets broken through and stopped; deep pits and trenches dug in the ground; enormous heaps of earth and clay thrown up; buildings that were undermined and shaking, propped by great beams of wood. . . . In short, the yet unfinished and unopened Railroad was in progress; and, from the very core of all this dire disorder, trailed smoothly away, upon its mighty course of civilization and improvement."

- From *Dombey and Son* by Charles Dickens

Map of British Industry 1715-1815



Source: "ThingLink Industrial Revolution." Thinglink. N.p., n.d. Web. Oct. 20, 2015.

“Victorian Medicine - From Fluke to Theory” Article

It may be harsh to say so, but to the modern eye medical practice in the early 1800s looks pretty medieval...Yet a century later medicine would be available in a form easily recognisable to anybody today: hospitals, stethoscopes, white coats and x-rays. What happened?

Two things. Together, cities and science forced real progress in both prevention and cure. The Industrial Revolution was in full flow, and the invention of the steam engine meant that factories could go anywhere, not just near natural power sources. They went to the towns and cities. At a time when Britain's population was increasing rapidly (from six million in 1750 to nine million 50 years later), cities were expanding even faster as now redundant farmworkers migrated to the nearest town to find work...

This growth had enormous consequences. Death rates were high, and far worse in cities than in the countryside. Smallpox, typhus and tuberculosis were endemic, and cholera alarmingly epidemic. Overcrowding combined with poor sanitation and often grinding poverty to leave many people vulnerable to the latest outbreak of anything nasty...

[A] breakthrough came with the cholera epidemic of 1854. John Snow had experienced previous outbreaks in 1832 and 1848, and was convinced that it was a water-born disease. This time he provided conclusive proof by mapping out the cases in Soho, central London, implicating a single, contaminated well. The epidemic subsided soon after the pump's handle was removed. Snow also analysed cholera's incidence in water that was bought from different suppliers, demonstrating that households buying from companies drawing water from the Thames downstream - after many sewers had flowed in - suffered a deathrate 14 times greater than those buying water from companies drawing upstream. Following on from this research, he recommended boiling water before use.

Progress in this area was being matched by scientific breakthroughs in both diagnosis and cure. The stethoscope - invented in 1817 - was being widely used in Britain by mid-century, and microscopes had improved sufficiently to allow examination of micro-organisms. The practice of surgery also modernised with the invention of anaesthesia in the late 1840s. Although ether was initially used, chloroform soon became the anaesthetic of choice.

Louis Pasteur's work from the late 1850s proved that the souring of milk was caused by living organisms and, by verifying the 'germ theory', changed pathology and surgery forever. Pasteur's work led ultimately to the introduction of antiseptic procedures into surgery via Joseph Lister. Infections and deaths fell sharply and, combined with anaesthesia, enabled surgeons to operate more slowly, carefully and confidently on patients, in turn reaping new discoveries.

However, it doesn't do to exaggerate. Death rates had decreased, but only marginally, from 20.8 per thousand in 1850 to 18.2 in 1900...Yet advances in public health, science and institutions had taken medicine into grounds of expertise and professionalism few would have expected 50 years earlier. You'd be a lot happier going to the doctor in 1900 than in 1800.

Source: "Victorian Medicine - From Fluke to Theory." BBC. 2006. 10 Oct. 2014.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/victorian_medicine_01.shtml>