



# STARTER

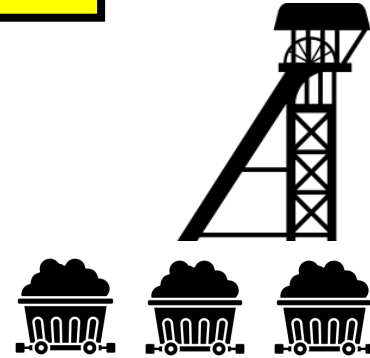


**Task** – What can you learn from Source A about coal mining in Industrial Britain?

**Source A:** Thomas Burt, an MP and trade unionist, who once worked as a pony putter at a coal mine in Cramlington.

“Everywhere below ground and above dangers stood thick. Never had I seen so many crutches, so many empty jacket sleeves, so many wooden legs.”

**Comment  
Evidence**

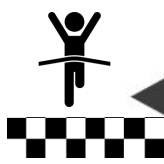


Source A suggests....

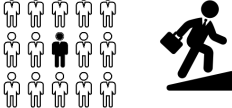
I know this because it says...

**S & C:** Does this piece of evidence support the views of Oliver & Barnes with regards to the physically impaired in this period? Explain your answer.

# YEAR 9 HISTORY - Attitudes towards disability in the modern era.



Freaks or Entrepreneurs: What were attitudes towards difference like in the 19th century? (2)



Freaks or Entrepreneurs: What were attitudes towards difference like in the 19th century? (1)



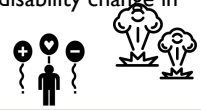
How did the disability rights movement develop? (2)



How did the disability rights movement develop? (1)



Did attitudes towards disability change in Post War Britain?



How have attitudes towards disability developed across time?

Did the world wars act as turning points in attitudes towards disability?

Is Burnell right? Have modern attitudes towards disability been shaped by historical attitudes?

How did modern attitudes towards disability develop? (1)



How did modern attitudes towards disability develop? (2)



How did the industrial revolution impact on the lives of the disabled in Britain? (2)



Have modern attitudes been influenced by historical models of disability?



How did the industrial revolution impact on the lives of the disabled in Britain? (1)



# LEARNING OUTCOMES:



## ASPIRE: *It's who I am*

To be able to **assess** the validity of a historic argument.

## CHALLENGE: *I want adults to always think positively of me*

To be able to **identify** evidence to support/challenge a historic viewpoint.

BE SAFE. BE RESPECTFUL. BE RESPONSIBLE.



*Students First*  
**OUTWOOD**  
GRANGE ACADEMIES TRUST

**Interpretation I:** From *The New Politics of Disablement*, by Michael Oliver and Colin Barnes, 2012.

Prior to the industrial revolution, the physically impaired may have experienced poverty and stigma but the organisation of society enabled them to participate in daily life to the best of their abilities. Production was centred in the home, and people had greater autonomy. With industrialisation, this flexibility was undermined and impaired people were forced into less desirable positions.

It was clear, that there were four ‘disabling’ elements of industrial society:

- 1) Growing speed of production, and with this mechanisation
- 2) Stricter discipline of the workforce, no longer working with family
- 3) More stringent time keeping
- 4) Standardised production

As a result, people became stigmatised as unproductive and were pushed to the margins of society. In this period, those with impairments were increasingly regarded as a problem. Disabled people were subjected to institutional ‘solutions’, which saw many placed in specially created facilities and segregated from the wider community.



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**Source A:** Extract from an article in the *Glasgow Herald*, 1876.

All who know the decent working people of this part of the kingdom are aware how reluctant they are to become...recipients of charity. The miners whose infirmity was supported by payments from the 'box' of his friendly society into which he contributed when able to work are regarded as gentlemen compared with the one who has had to go to the parish.

**Source C:** From *Martyrdom of the Mine*, the account of Edward Rymer.

Born in Sunderland in 1835, Rymer was seriously hurt in a house fire as a child which left him visually impaired and permanently injured on the right side of his body. His defective eyesight he wrote, had a profound impact on his life and he referred to himself as 'crippled' but he was employed in a variety of roles underground in the pits in the north east, beginning work as a trapper and eventually becoming a hewer in 1860. His defective eyesight didn't stop him working but it made it harder and caused others to exploit him. He described himself as 'blind and friendless'. Rymer was proud that he was able to work as it allowed him to avoid dependence, but he does note that due to his 'lameness' he struggled to make as much money as others.

**Source B:** Extract from the Children's Commission, 1842.

William McNeil - 11 year old boy, deaf and dumb, who had worked below ground for two years.

Catherine Thomson - 11 year old that had returned to work after having her knee crushed by a cart, which continued to cause her great pain and made her unable to stand pushing carts all day.

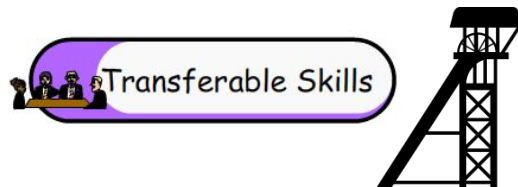
Taylor Coats who hooked and unhooked chains from rolleys, had been 'lamed' twice by his work, resulting in an absence of three weeks and twenty-two weeks. Now he walks lame, has a bad step, cannot walk comfortably but continues his work at the pit.

**Source D:** Extract from the report on mines in south Wales and the South-West of England by inspector Herbert Mackworth, 1855.

...it seems evident that twice as many men were disabled for life by mine accidents than killed, but from my enquiries, I see that many of those victims of serious injury have been restored to usefulness. Some go on to perform the roles they had prior to injury, and are put to usefulness prior to this in another role within the mine. Some of the men have spoken of their displeasure at this, as the work they are given is that of young boys, and they view this as a loss of status....impacts on their pay.

**Source E:** From Parkinson, *True Stories*.

...William Morrow, begun working in mines as a trapper...fallen asleep one night by his door and some wagons ran over him, causing him to lose his leg. Fitted with a prosthetic he returned to his role but a series of accidents, including having his head cut, breaking of his arm, led him to taking work on the surface.



**Task –**  
Starting as a group with Source A, work out what it tells you about the coal mining industry in industrial Britain. Then B & C with your shoulder partners and D & E individually. Then come back as a group to discuss your ideas.

**S & C:** Does this small collection of evidence, support or challenge the interpretation provided by Oliver & Barnes?

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## Key points:

- ★ Oliver & Barnes' view doesn't appear to fit with the coal mining industry
- ★ Working through sickness and impairment was a part of the British working class experience in the 19th century
- ★ Disabled Britons worked throughout the 19th century in some of the most arduous industries of the time!

**Task** – With your shoulder partner to begin with, and then your table, discuss the following questions:

- 1) What do these sources tell us about the view of Oliver & Barnes?
- 2) Can you identify any problems with their enquiry?
- 3) Can you identify any problems with our enquiry?
- 4) How could we follow up our enquiry?

**S & C:** Have you any further questions based on our enquiry?



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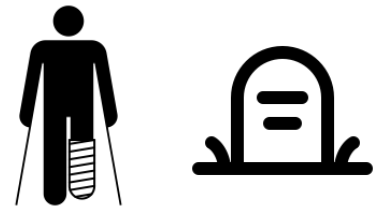
Did welfare improve for workers in this period?



How were physically impaired people treated in communities?



Did more miners die in accidents than were injured?



**Task** – For the questions above, which type of sources from the list do you think might be most useful for answering each of the questions.

- Types of sources:**
- ★ Photographs
  - ★ Accident records
  - ★ Medical articles
  - ★ Government reports
  - ★ Newspaper reports
  - ★ Inspection records
  - ★ Personal accounts
  - ★ Friendly society accounts
  - ★ Hospital records

**S & C:** For the sources you have selected, can you give a reason why you think that source is the most appropriate for helping you with your enquiry?



**Interpretation 2:** From *Disability in the Industrial Revolution*, by David Turner and Daniel Blackie, 2018.

Disability was essential to the industrial revolution. The historical materialist accounts are too simplistic. These views emphasise the idea that the birth of industrialisation led to the marginalisation of disabled people and made them economically unproductive 'burdens', whose inability to conform to more stringent productivity demands, work or time discipline meant they could no longer compete in the workplace.

The coal industry between 1780 and 1880 presents a more complicated picture. Rather than leaving the world of work, those 'disabled' miners were expected to return to productive work if they were able. Such workers were valued for their skills and experience, even more so when labour was scarce.

For much of this period flexible working seems to have existed in coal mining as did the practice of working in family groups relatively free from supervision. Combined with piecework such practices enabled some 'disabled' miners to remain active in the workforce. People with disabilities expanded the coal mining industry. In this respect, disabled workers helped to shape the industrial revolution.



# Plenary

**Task** – You have examined the view presented by Oliver & Barnes. What is the difference in view presented by David Turner? Remember to support your statement with evidence.

**S & C:** Based on your work in the last two lessons, which view do you agree with the most? Explain your decision.

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CHALLENGE:

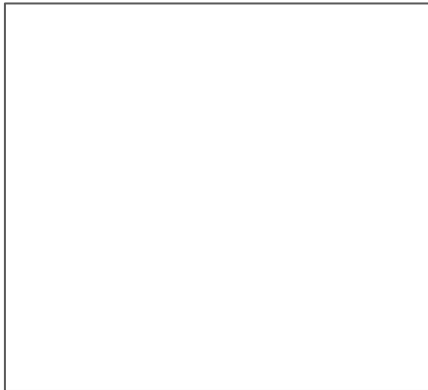
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What do Turner and Blackie mean by 'materialist accounts'?



S&C: How does Turner and Blackie's interpretation differ from Oliver and Barnes'?



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Disability was **essential** to the Industrial Revolution. The **historical materialist accounts are too simplistic**. These views emphasise the idea that the birth of industrialisation led to the marginalisation of disabled people and made them **economically unproductive 'burdens'**, whose inability to conform to more stringent productivity demands, work or time discipline meant they could no longer compete in the workplace.

**The coal industry between 1780 and 1880 presents a more complicated picture.** Rather than leaving the world of work, those 'disabled' miners were **expected to return to productive work if they were able**. Such workers were **valued** for their skills and experience, even more so when labour was scarce. For much of this period flexible working seems to have existed in coal mining as did the practice of **working in family groups** relatively free from supervision. Combined with piecework such practices enabled some 'disabled' miners to remain active in the workforce. **People with disabilities expanded the coal mining industry.** In this respect, disabled workers helped to shape the Industrial Revolution.

Add at least two pieces of SFD to support the view highlighted in the interpretation.

