

GCSE

History A

91403 Historical Enquiry
Controlled Assessment Sources

9140

Version: 1.0

Specimen for June 2015 examinations

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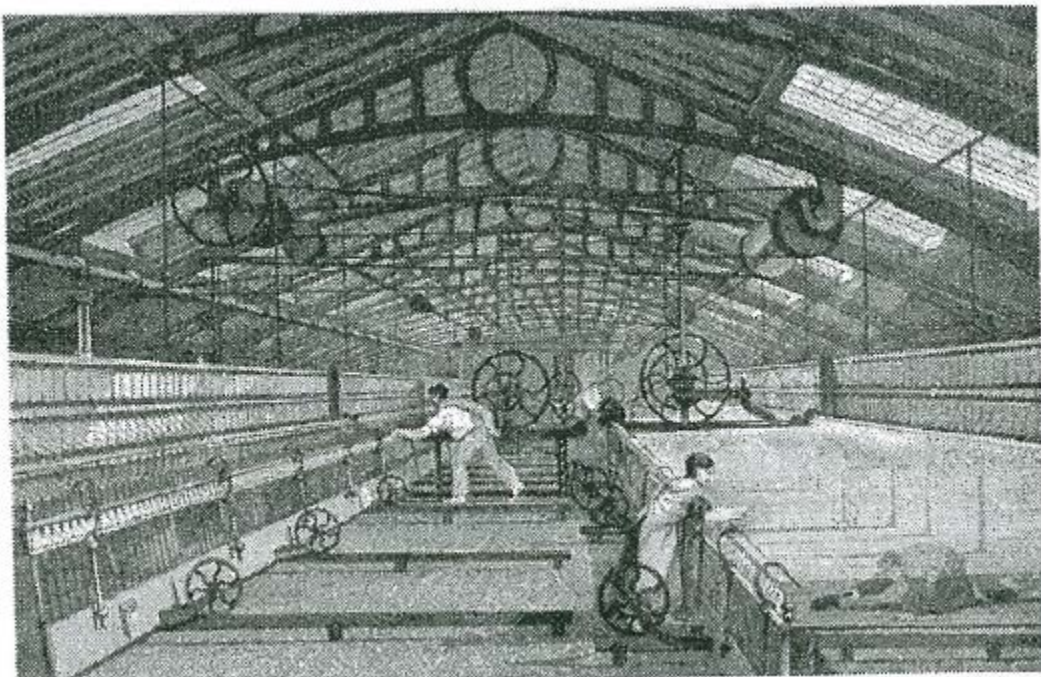
Source A (for use in answering Question 2)

Frederick Engel's interpretation of the treatment of workers in factories in the period of the Industrial Revolution

He takes you to his factory in the country: Mr Greg to Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire. He leads you through a superb building and he shows the lofty airy rooms, the fine machinery and here and there looking workers. He gives you an excellent lunch (but) the presence of the employer keeps you from asking awkward questions; it seems that everyone is well-paid, comfortable, and you begin to be converted from your exaggerated ideas of workers' misery and starvation. But I am sure the system does make slaves of the workers, that the people do hate the mill owner, but they cannot say this because he is present. He dismisses his employees if they read Chartist or Socialist papers, this is all concealed from you.

Taken from Frederick Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class*, 1845
Engels was a writer and campaigner for the rights of the labouring classes

Source B An illustration of a mule spinning factory in 1835.



Source C Child labour in the cotton industry in the early 19th century

The factories themselves were generally dirty, unhealthy, ramshackle affairs. The apprentice houses in which the children were lodged were usually long, low sheds adjoining the factory were worse. Both were entirely free from outside supervision or control. More often than not they were dens of fever and vice. Both sexes and all ages were mixed together in the apprentice houses, with resultant depravity and degradation. The treatment of the children while at work is sickening. They suffered constant flogging to keep them awake. As a punishment one boy was hung by his wrist over moving machinery, so that he had to hold his legs up to avoid mutilation. Many apprentices died of fever and ill-treatment. On Sundays those who were not cleaning the machinery were sent to church, so that somebody could say they had some education.

Adapted from a short extract from *A Social and Economic History of Britain, 1760-1972*, by Pauline Gregg (1973 edition pp54-55). Gregg is a modern historian and not related to the Greggs of Quarry Bank Mill.

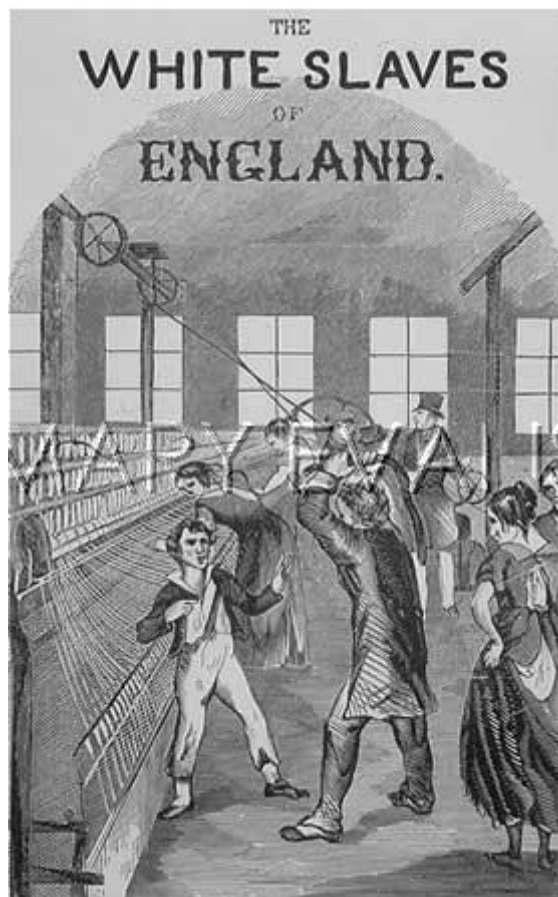
Source D From a report to Parliament in 1843

In Willenhall Mill, West Midlands, the children are shamefully and cruelly beaten with a whip, a strap, a stick, a hammer, a handle, a file or whatever tool is nearest to hand, or are struck with the clenched fist or kicked.

Source E Sarah Carpenter, a factory worker from Derbyshire, was interviewed by James Rayner Stephens (a campaigner against child labour) in 1849. Sarah's account of her life as a child worker at Cressbrook Mill appeared in *The Ashton Chronicle* on 23rd June 1849.

There was a young woman, Sarah Goodling, who was feeling ill and so she stopped her machine. James Birch, the overlooker knocked her to the floor. She got up as well as she could. He knocked her down again. Then she was carried to the apprentice house. Her bed-fellow found her dead in bed. There was another girl called Mary. She knocked her food can down on the floor. The master, Mr Newton, kicked her where he should not do, and it caused her to wear away till she died. There was another, Caroline Thompson they beat her till she went out of her mind.

Source F The front cover of John Cobden's book, *The White Slaves of England*, published in the nineteenth century



Source G Working conditions in the mills

A day in the life of a Mill Girl, 1842

| | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| 4:30am | Gets up |
| 5:30am | Starts work at the factory |
| 7:30am | Quick breakfast |
| Midday | Stops machine, cleans it |
| | Lunch of soup and bread |
| 1:00pm | Back to work |
| 7:00pm | Stops work. Cleans machine |
| 7:30pm | Goes home |

A 14 hour day, six days each week

Adapted from Britain, 1750-1850, Fiona Reynoldson and David Taylor, Heinemann

The working day at Quarry Bank Mill, 1830

| | |
|--------|---|
| 5:30am | Start work |
| 8:30am | Break for breakfast, 10 mins |
| 1:00pm | Lunch, 30 mins |
| 5:30pm | Tea at the machines |
| 8:00pm | End of the working day, unless overtime is demanded |

Adapted from Mill Life at Styal Willow Publishing (1986)

Source H **Extracts from the examination of Thomas Priestley, 1806, after he had ran away from Styal Mill to see his mother in Hackney Workhouse. He was missing her badly.**

I agreed to go as an apprentice to the cotton mill of Samuel Greg, which is situated at Styal in Cheshire. I was put to work the same as the others. I had to look after two machines for spinning cotton. My job was to guide the thread so it stayed straight and to tie them together when they snapped. Once one of the wheels caught my finger and tore it off. I was seen by the surgeon of the factory Dr Holland. I have no reason to complain of the wage I received during the time I was at the factory. We slept in long rooms, the girls on one side of the house and the boys on the other. We had clean sheets at least once a month. Our blankets and our rugs were perfectly clean. We had clean shirts every Sunday and new clothes when we wanted them.

I had no reason to be unhappy with my situation.