

NCERT Solutions CBSE Class 10 History The Age of Industrialisation | 2026-27

⚡ Quick Revision Box — The Age of Industrialisation

- **Chapter:** Chapter 5 — The Age of Industrialisation | Class 10 History (India and the Contemporary World – II)
- **Proto-industrialisation:** Large-scale production for international markets before factories existed; work done in countryside by peasants and artisans.
- **Putting-Out System:** Merchants supplied raw materials to rural workers and collected finished goods — a key feature of proto-industrialisation in Europe.
- **Gomastha:** Paid servant appointed by the East India Company to supervise weavers, collect cloth, and check quality.
- **Jobber:** Old industrial worker who helped recruit new workers from villages, helped them settle in cities, and acted as a middleman between workers and employers.
- **Spinning Jenny:** Invented by James Hargreaves; allowed one worker to spin multiple threads simultaneously — threatened hand-spinners' livelihoods.
- **Fly Shuttle:** Helped handloom weavers increase productivity and compete with the mill sector.
- **First World War Impact:** Manchester imports to India fell; Indian mills boomed supplying the home market and war needs.
- **Port of Surat:** Declined by the late 18th century as European companies gained trade monopolies and new ports like Bombay and Calcutta rose.

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The **NCERT Solutions CBSE Class 10 History The Age of Industrialisation** on this page cover every textbook question from Chapter 5 of *India and the Contemporary World – II*, updated for the **2026-27** CBSE board exam. Whether you need step-by-step answers for the explain-type questions, True/False justifications, or MCQ solutions, you will find everything here. For the full list of Class 10 solutions across all subjects, visit our [NCERT Solutions for Class 10](#) hub. You can also browse all grades at our main [NCERT Solutions](#) page. The official textbook is available on the [NCERT official website](#).

NCERT Solutions CBSE Class 10 History The Age of Industrialisation — Chapter Overview

Chapter 5 of Class 10 History — *The Age of Industrialisation* — explores how industrialisation began in Britain and then spread to other parts of the world, including India. It discusses the proto-industrial phase, the factory system, the role of merchants and

artisans, and the devastating impact of colonial trade policies on Indian weavers and craftsmen.

This chapter is important for CBSE board exams because it typically contributes to the History section of the Social Science paper. Questions from this chapter appear as 1-mark MCQs, 3-mark short answers, and 5-mark long answers. Understanding the contrast between British and Indian industrialisation patterns is a frequent exam theme.

Detail	Information
Chapter	Chapter 5 — The Age of Industrialisation
Textbook	India and the Contemporary World – II (History)
Class	Class 10
Subject	Social Science (History)
Academic Year	2026-27
Difficulty Level	Medium

Key Concepts: Proto-Industrialisation, Putting-Out System, Gomastha & More

Proto-industrialisation (meaning in Hindi: पूर्व-औद्योगिकीकरण) refers to the phase of large-scale production for international markets that existed before factories were established. Work was done in rural homes, not in urban factories.

The **Putting-Out System** was the mechanism of proto-industrialisation. Merchants supplied raw materials to peasants and artisans in villages, who worked from home and returned finished goods. This gave merchants control over production without needing to own a factory.

The **Gomastha** (meaning in Hindi: गोमस्था / एजेंट) was a paid supervisor appointed by the East India Company. The gomastha replaced traditional brokers and traders, giving the Company direct control over weavers.

The **Jobber** (meaning in Hindi: दलाल / भर्ती करने वाला) was a trusted old worker who recruited new workers from villages, helped them settle in cities, and provided loans during emergencies. The jobber held great social power in industrial communities.

The **Fly Shuttle** (meaning in Hindi: उड़न शटल) was a weaving innovation that increased the speed of handloom weaving and helped weavers compete with the mill sector. The **Spinning Jenny** (meaning in Hindi: कताई मशीन), invented by James Hargreaves, allowed one worker to spin multiple threads at once.

NCERT Textbook Solutions — All Exercises (Class 10 History Chapter 5)

Below are complete answers to all questions from the NCERT textbook exercise for this chapter. These answers are structured for the 2026-27 CBSE board exam pattern. Each answer follows the marking scheme — short answers are 3–4 sentences; long answers are 6–8 sentences with all key points covered.

Question 1: Explain the Following

Question 1(a)

Medium

Woman workers in Britain attacked the Spinning Jenny. [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Step 1 — Context: In 19th century Britain, unemployment was extremely high. At times, the proportion of unemployed workers went up to 35–75 per cent in certain industries.

Step 2 — The Threat: When the Spinning Jenny was introduced in the woollen industry, it allowed one worker to set multiple spindles in motion with a single wheel, spinning several threads simultaneously.

Step 3 — Impact on Women: Women who depended entirely on hand spinning for their income suddenly found their jobs at risk. The machine reduced labour demand drastically.

Step 4 — Reaction: Fearing unemployment and loss of livelihood, women workers attacked the Spinning Jenny machines. This conflict between workers and new technology continued for a long time.

Answer: Women hand-spinners attacked the Spinning Jenny because it threatened their livelihoods by speeding up the spinning process and reducing the need for manual labour in the woollen industry.

Board Exam Note: This question appears frequently in 2-3 mark sections. Always mention fear of unemployment and reduction in labour demand as the two core reasons.

Question 1(b)

Medium

In the seventeenth century, merchants from towns in Europe began employing peasants and artisans within the villages.

Reason 1 — Increased Demand: Expansion of world trade and acquisition of colonies led to a significant rise in demand for goods. Merchants needed more production capacity.

Reason 2 — Guild Restrictions in Towns: Urban crafts and trade guilds were powerful. They controlled production, regulated prices, and restricted entry of new merchants. Rulers granted guilds monopoly rights, making it difficult to set up new businesses in towns.

Reason 3 — Favourable Countryside Conditions: In the countryside, enclosure of common lands had left many peasants without enough work. Peasants with tiny plots eagerly accepted work from merchants because it allowed them to stay in their villages and supplement their income.

Reason 4 — Family Labour: The putting-out system allowed peasant families to use all members — including women and children — for productive work.

Answer: Merchants moved to the countryside because guild restrictions blocked expansion in towns, while rural peasants — facing land scarcity — were willing to work for merchants, enabling flexible, low-cost production.

Board Exam Note: This is a popular long-answer question. Cover guild restrictions, enclosures, and peasant willingness to work as three separate points for full marks.

Question 1(c)

Medium

The port of Surat declined by the end of the eighteenth century.

Background: Before the age of machine industries, Surat on the Gujarat coast was a major trading port connecting India to the Gulf and Red Sea ports. Indian merchants controlled a vibrant sea trade through this port.

Reason 1 — European Trade Dominance: By the 1750s, European companies — especially the East India Company — gradually gained power, secured concessions from local courts, and obtained monopoly rights to trade.

Reason 2 — Shift in Trade Routes: Trade shifted to new ports like Bombay (Mumbai) and Calcutta (Kolkata), which were controlled by European companies. Surat and Hooghly decayed as the old trading network collapsed.

Evidence: In the late 17th century, the gross value of trade through Surat was ₹16 million. By the 1740s, this had fallen to just ₹3 million.

Answer: Surat declined because European companies gained trade monopolies, redirected trade through Bombay and Calcutta, and destroyed the old Indian merchant networks that had operated through the port.

Board Exam Note: Always include the trade value figures (₹16 million to ₹3 million) — they demonstrate factual knowledge and earn extra credit.

Question 1(d)

Medium

The East India Company appointed Gomasthas to supervise the weavers in India. [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Reason 1 — Monopoly Goal: After establishing political power in India, the East India Company wanted to assert a monopoly right over trade in cotton and silk goods.

Reason 2 — Eliminating Middlemen: The Company needed to eliminate existing traders and brokers connected with the cloth trade to establish direct control over weavers and reduce costs.

Reason 3 — Quality and Supply Control: The gomastha supervised weavers, collected supplies, and examined the quality of cloth to ensure regular, reliable supplies for export.

Reason 4 — Advance System: Weavers who received loans (advances) from the Company to buy raw materials were required to hand over their finished cloth only to the gomastha — they could not sell to any other trader.

Answer: The East India Company appointed gomasthas to eliminate middlemen, directly supervise weavers, ensure quality, and enforce the advance system that bound weavers exclusively to the Company's trade.

Board Exam Note: This is a high-frequency question. Mention all four aspects: monopoly, eliminating brokers, quality control, and advance system.

Question 2: True or False

Question 2 — True or False with Explanation

Easy

Write True or False against each statement.

(a) At the end of the 19th century, 80 per cent of the total workforce in Europe was employed in the technologically advanced industrial sector.

Answer: FALSE. Even at the end of the 19th century, a large portion of Europe's workforce was employed in non-factory, traditional sectors. The technologically advanced industrial sector did not employ 80% of the workforce.

(b) The international market for textiles was dominated by India till the eighteenth century.

Answer: TRUE. Before the age of machine industries, India's silk and cotton goods dominated the international textile market. Indian fabrics were highly valued worldwide.

(c) The American Civil War resulted in the reduction of cotton exports from India.

Answer: FALSE. The American Civil War actually caused an increase in cotton exports from India. When American cotton supply was disrupted, Britain turned to India, leading to a cotton export boom from India.

(d) The introduction of the fly shuttle enabled the handloom workers to improve their productivity.

Answer: TRUE. The fly shuttle increased the speed of weaving on handlooms, allowing weavers to produce more cloth in less time and compete more effectively with the mill sector.

Board Exam Note: True/False questions carry 1 mark each. Always write a one-sentence justification — it protects your mark if the examiner requires reasoning.

Question 3: Proto-Industrialisation

Question 3

Easy

Explain what is meant by proto-industrialisation.

Definition: Proto-industrialisation refers to the phase of large-scale industrial production for international markets that existed even before factories were established.

Key Features: This system was not based on factories. Production was part of a network of commercial exchanges. Merchants were based in towns, but the actual work was carried out mostly in the countryside by peasants and artisans working from home.

Why It Happened: Merchants moved work to the countryside to avoid guild restrictions in towns and to take advantage of cheap rural labour. Peasants took up this work to supplement their income from small plots of land.

Historical Significance: Proto-industrialisation laid the foundation for the factory system by creating networks of production, trade, and capital accumulation that later powered the Industrial Revolution.

Answer: Proto-industrialisation was large-scale production for international markets before factories existed, carried out in rural households through the putting-out system organised by town-based merchants.

Board Exam Note: This is a standard 3-mark definition question. Include the three elements: pre-factory, international market, and countryside production for full marks.

Question 4: Hand Labour Over Machines

Question 4

Medium

Why did some industrialists in nineteenth century Europe prefer hand labour over machines? [CBSE Sept. 2010, 2011]

Reason 1 — High Cost of Machines: New technologies and machines were expensive to purchase. Producers and industrialists were cautious about investing large amounts in machinery.

Reason 2 — Costly Repairs: Machines broke down frequently and repairs were expensive, adding to the overall cost of production.

Reason 3 — Less Effective Than Claimed: Early machines were often not as effective as their inventors claimed, making industrialists hesitant to rely on them entirely.

Reason 4 — Cheap Labour Supply: Poor peasants and migrants moved to cities in large numbers, creating an oversupply of workers. Labour was available at very low wages, making human workers more economical than machines.

Reason 5 — Need for Intricate Designs: Machines produced only standardised, uniform goods. But markets often demanded products with intricate designs and specific shapes — work that required skilled human hands. For example, in mid-19th century Britain, 500 varieties of hammers and 15 kinds of axes were produced, requiring human skill.

Answer: Industrialists preferred hand labour because machines were expensive and unreliable, cheap migrant workers were abundantly available, and skilled hands were needed for products requiring intricate designs that machines could not produce.

Board Exam Note: This is a very high-frequency 5-mark question. Write all five reasons with examples. The hammer/axe example is a strong supporting detail.

Question 5: East India Company and Weavers

Question 5

Medium

How did the East India Company procure regular supplies of cotton and silk textiles from the Indian weavers?

Step 1 — Asserting Monopoly: Once the East India Company established political power in India, it asserted a monopoly right to trade, eliminating competition from other buyers.

Step 2 — New System of Control: The Company developed a system of management to eliminate competition, control costs, and ensure regular supplies of cotton and silk goods.

Step 3 — Appointing Gomasthas: The Company appointed paid servants called gomasthas to supervise weavers, collect supplies, and examine the quality of cloth. This replaced the traditional brokers and traders.

Step 4 — System of Advances: The Company introduced a system of loans (advances) to weavers. Weavers received money to buy raw materials, but in return they had to hand over finished cloth only to the gomastha — they could not sell to any other trader.

Step 5 — Use of Force: Where weavers refused to cooperate, the Company used its police. Weavers were often beaten and flogged for delays in supplying cloth.

Answer: The East India Company secured textile supplies through monopoly rights, gomastha supervision, the advance-loan system that bound weavers exclusively to the Company, and coercive force when weavers resisted.

Board Exam Note: This is a standard 5-mark question. All five steps must be covered. The use of force is a detail many students miss — include it for full marks.

Question 6: Britain and the History of Cotton

Question 6

Hard

Imagine that you have been asked to write an article for an encyclopedia on Britain and the history of cotton. Write your piece using information from the entire chapter.

Model Answer:

Cotton has been central to Britain's industrial history. Before the Industrial Revolution, cotton cloth was produced through the proto-industrial putting-out system, where merchants supplied raw cotton to rural spinners and weavers who worked from home.

The 18th century saw transformative inventions. The Spinning Jenny (James Hargreaves) allowed one worker to spin multiple threads simultaneously. The fly shuttle sped up weaving. These innovations shifted production from homes to factories, making Britain the world's leading cotton manufacturer.

Britain sourced raw cotton from its colonies, including India and America. When the American Civil War disrupted cotton supplies, India became a major supplier. However, this caused a raw cotton shortage for Indian weavers who depended on it locally.

Britain exported cotton textiles to India and other colonies, destroying traditional weaving industries. Indian handloom weavers could not compete with cheap, machine-made British cloth. By the mid-19th century, India had shifted from being a textile exporter to a raw material supplier and market for British goods.

After World War I, Britain's cotton industry declined rapidly. Unable to modernise and compete with the US, Germany, and Japan, cotton exports from Britain fell dramatically, allowing Indian mills to capture the home market.

Key Points to Include: Proto-industrialisation → Factory system → Key inventions (Spinning Jenny, fly shuttle) → Raw cotton sourcing → Impact on Indian weavers → Post-WWI decline of British cotton.

Board Exam Note: This is a creative/analytical question worth long-answer marks. Structure your answer chronologically. Cover at least 5 distinct points from the chapter.

Question 7: Industrial Production During the First World War

Question 7

Medium

Why did the industrial production in India increase during the First World War? [CBSE Sept. 2011]

Reason 1 — Decline of Manchester Imports: British mills were busy producing goods for the army during the war. As a result, Manchester imports into India declined sharply.

Reason 2 — Vast Home Market: With imports falling, Indian mills suddenly had a large home market to supply. Demand for Indian-made goods surged.

Reason 3 — War Supplies: Indian factories were called upon to supply war needs — jute bags, cloth for army uniforms, tents, leather boots, horse and mule saddles, and other military items.

Reason 4 — New Factories and Longer Hours: New factories were set up, and existing ones ran multiple shifts. More workers were employed and everyone worked longer hours.

Long-term Impact: After the war, Manchester could never recapture its position in the Indian market. Britain's economy crumbled, and local Indian industrialists consolidated their position by substituting foreign goods and capturing the home market.

Answer: Indian industrial production boomed during WWI because Manchester imports fell, the home market opened up, and Indian factories supplied war materials — leading to new factories, longer shifts, and lasting growth of Indian industry.

Board Exam Note: Always include the post-war consequence (Manchester's permanent decline) — it shows analytical thinking and earns marks in 5-mark answers.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) — The Age of Industrialisation

These MCQs are from the CBSE CCE pattern and are frequently asked in Class 10 Social Science exams. Study these for the **ncert solutions for class 10 social science MCQ** section.

Q. No.	Question (Short)	Correct Answer	Explanation
1	Person who helped workers settle in cities and provided money in need	(d) Jobber	The jobber was a trusted old worker who recruited new workers from villages and helped them settle in the city.
2	Where was the first Indian Jute mill set up?	(a) Bengal	The first jute mill in India was established in Bengal (near Calcutta).
3	In 1911, 67% of large industries were located in:	(a) Bengal and Bombay	These two regions were the industrial centres of colonial India.
4	Who did the British appoint to supervise weavers?	(d) Gomastha	The East India Company appointed gomasthas as paid supervisors to control weavers directly.
5			

Q. No.	Question (Short)	Correct Answer	Explanation
	Indian industrial growth increased after WWI because:	(a) Indian mills had a vast home market to supply	Manchester imports fell, opening the home market to Indian mills.
6	What helped handloom cloth production?	(a) Technological changes (fly shuttle)	The fly shuttle increased weaving speed, helping handloom weavers compete with mills.
7	Why did weavers suffer from a problem of raw cotton?	(b) Raw cotton exports increased	During the American Civil War, raw cotton from India was exported heavily to Britain, creating a local shortage.
8	In early 20th century handloom production expanded because:	(b) New technology like looms with flying shuttle were introduced	The fly shuttle innovation boosted handloom productivity significantly.
11	Why were there frequent clashes between gomastha and weavers?	(c) Gomasthas were outsiders without long-term social links with the village	Unlike old brokers who had community ties, gomasthas were strangers who enforced Company rules harshly.
12	Why were workers in England hostile to machines?	(b) They feared losing their jobs and livelihood	Fear of unemployment drove workers to resist new technology like the Spinning Jenny.
16	Innovation that helped weavers compete with mill sector:	(b) Flying shuttle	The fly shuttle increased handloom speed and productivity.
17	Why did British manufacturers print calendars for advertisements?	(b) Calendars were used even by people who could not read or write	Calendars with images reached a wider, illiterate audience — a smart marketing strategy.

Important Questions for CBSE Board Exam 2026-27

These questions are likely to appear in the 2026-27 CBSE board exam based on previous years' patterns. Practise them for your **ncert solutions for class 10 sst** preparation.

1-Mark Questions

Q1. What is a gomastha?

A gomastha was a paid servant appointed by the East India Company to supervise weavers, collect cloth supplies, and examine quality.

Q2. What was the putting-out system?

The putting-out system was the practice where merchants supplied raw materials to rural artisans who worked at home and returned finished goods.

Q3. Who invented the Spinning Jenny?

James Hargreaves invented the Spinning Jenny.

3-Mark Questions

Q4. Why did clashes occur between gomasthas and weavers?

Gomasthas were outsiders with no long-term social links to the village community. Unlike the old brokers who had personal relationships with weavers, gomasthas were Company agents who enforced rules strictly, often humiliating weavers in public. They reported delays harshly, and weavers who had taken advances were completely at their mercy. This created deep resentment and frequent conflicts between weavers and gomasthas.

Q5. How did the fly shuttle help Indian handloom weavers?

The fly shuttle mechanically propelled the weft thread across the loom at greater speed, allowing weavers to produce wider cloth faster. This technological improvement increased handloom productivity, reduced production time, and helped weavers compete with the cheaper mill-made cloth that was flooding the Indian market. As a result, handloom cloth production expanded steadily in the early 20th century.

5-Mark Questions

Q6. Describe the main features of proto-industrialisation and explain why merchants preferred to organise production in the countryside.

Proto-industrialisation was large-scale production for international markets that took place before factories were established. It was based on the putting-out system. Merchants in towns supplied raw materials to peasants and artisans in villages, who produced goods at home. Merchants preferred the countryside for several reasons: (1) Trade guilds in towns blocked new merchants from setting up businesses. (2) Rural peasants, displaced by enclosures, were available as cheap labour. (3) Peasants were willing to work for merchants while continuing to farm their small plots. (4) Family labour — including women and children — could be used fully. (5) Production costs were lower than in urban workshops. This system created networks of production and trade that later evolved into the factory-based Industrial Revolution.

Common Mistakes Students Make in This Chapter

Mistake 1:

✗ Wrong: Writing that the American Civil War reduced cotton exports from India.

✓ Correct: The American Civil War *increased* cotton exports from India because Britain needed Indian cotton to replace disrupted American supplies.

Mistake 2:

✗ Wrong: Confusing the gomastha with the jobber.

✓ Correct: The gomastha supervised weavers for the East India Company. The jobber was an industrial worker who recruited new factory workers from villages in Indian cities.

Mistake 3:

✗ Wrong: Saying proto-industrialisation happened inside factories.

✓ Correct: Proto-industrialisation happened in rural homes — it was specifically the pre-factory phase of large-scale production.

Mistake 4:

✗ Wrong: Stating that the fly shuttle replaced handloom weaving.

✓ Correct: The fly shuttle was an improvement to the handloom that increased its speed and productivity — it helped handloom weavers compete with mills, not replace them.

Mistake 5:

✗ Wrong: Saying India's industrial production declined during WWI.

✓ Correct: Indian industrial production *boomed* during WWI because Manchester imports fell and Indian factories supplied the home market and war needs.

Exam Tips for 2026-27 CBSE Board Exam

Exam Strategy — The Age of Industrialisation

- **Know your definitions:** Proto-industrialisation, putting-out system, gomastha, jobber, fly shuttle, and Spinning Jenny are all definition-type 1-mark questions. Write crisp, one-sentence definitions.
- **Structure long answers in points:** For 5-mark questions, write 5 clearly numbered points. The 2026-27 CBSE marking scheme awards 1 mark per valid point in long answers.
- **Use evidence:** Mention specific data — trade value through Surat (₹16 million → ₹3 million), the 500 varieties of hammers example, 67% of industries in Bengal and Bombay in 1911. Examiners reward specific details.
- **Don't skip MCQs:** MCQs in the CBSE Social Science paper carry 1 mark each with no negative marking. The Spinning Jenny, fly shuttle, jobber, and gomastha are frequent MCQ topics.

- **Revise the True/False section:** The statement about the American Civil War reducing cotton exports from India is a classic trap — it actually increased exports.
- **This chapter's weightage:** History (India and the Contemporary World) carries approximately 20 marks in the Class 10 Social Science board paper. Chapter 5 typically contributes 5–8 marks across question types.

This page covers the updated 2026-27 syllabus and exam pattern. For more chapters, visit our [NCERT Solutions for Class 10](#) page.

Frequently Asked Questions — NCERT Solutions Class 10 History The Age of Industrialisation

What is proto-industrialisation in Class 10 History Chapter 5?

Proto-industrialisation refers to large-scale industrial production for international markets that took place before factories were established. It was part of a network of commercial exchanges where merchants based in towns gave work to peasants and artisans in the countryside. Workers produced goods at home using raw materials supplied by merchants. This system is also called the putting-out system and laid the groundwork for the later factory-based Industrial Revolution.

Why did woman workers in Britain attack the Spinning Jenny?

Women who depended entirely on hand spinning for their livelihood attacked the Spinning Jenny because the machine threatened their jobs. The Spinning Jenny allowed one worker to operate multiple spindles simultaneously, drastically reducing the need for hand-spinners. With unemployment already very high (sometimes 35–75% in certain industries), women workers saw the machine as a direct threat to their survival. This conflict between workers and new technology continued for a long time in the woollen industry.

How did the East India Company procure cotton and silk from Indian weavers?

The East India Company used a combination of monopoly rights, gomasthas (supervisory agents), and the advance-loan system to control weavers. Weavers who accepted loans from the Company were bound to sell their finished cloth only to the Company's gomastha. They could not trade with anyone else. Where weavers resisted, the Company used its police to enforce compliance, sometimes beating weavers for delays. This system effectively eliminated all competition and gave the Company complete control over India's textile trade.

Why did industrial production in India increase during the First World War?

During World War I, British mills were occupied producing goods for the army, so Manchester imports into India fell sharply. This opened up a vast home market for Indian mills. Additionally, Indian factories were asked to supply war materials like jute bags, army uniforms, tents, and leather boots. New factories were set up and existing ones ran multiple shifts with more workers and longer hours. This wartime boom permanently changed India's industrial landscape, as Manchester never regained its dominant position after the war.

Why did the port of Surat decline in the eighteenth century?

Surat declined because European trading companies — especially the East India Company — gained political power in India and secured monopoly trading rights from local courts. Trade shifted from old ports like Surat and Hooghly to new European-controlled ports like Bombay and Calcutta. The Indian merchant networks that had operated through Surat collapsed. By the 1740s, trade through Surat had fallen from ₹16 million (late 17th century) to just ₹3 million — a dramatic decline driven by European trade dominance.

Source: ncertbooks.net — Updated for CBSE Academic Year 2026-27