

World history topic 7: Origins, development and impact of industrialization (1750–2005)

This topic focuses on the huge social and economic changes associated with industrialization. As industrialization occurred at different times in different countries, the specific time frame focused on within the overall period (1750–2005) will depend on the examples chosen for study. The topic focuses on exploring the origins, development and impact of industrialization. Examination questions may require students to make reference to examples from two different regions of the world.

Topic	Prescribed content
The origins of industrialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The causes and enablers of industrialization; the availability of human and natural resources; political stability; infrastructure • Role and significance of technological developments • Role and significance of individuals
The impact and significance of key developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments in transportation • Developments in energy and power • Impact of technological developments: exploitation of natural resources; introduction of new products • Changing patterns of production: mass production • Developments in communications
The social and political impact of industrialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urbanization and the growth of cities and factories • Labour conditions; organization of labour • Political representation; opposition to industrialization • Impact on standards of living; disease and life expectancy; leisure

Suggested examples

Please note that the examples provided here are **suggestions only**. Teachers are free to use examples from this list or any other appropriate examples, depending on the particular needs and interests of the teacher and students.

Examples of countries:

- Africa and the Middle East: Egypt, South Africa
- The Americas: Argentina, US, Canada
- Asia and Oceania: Japan, India, Australia
- Europe: Great Britain, Germany, Russia/USSR

Examples of technological developments: the combustion engine; steam power/the steam engine; gas lighting; generation of electricity; iron production; mechanized cotton spinning; production of sulphuric acid; production of steel and the Bessemer process; nuclear power; growth in information technology

Examples of significant individuals: Thomas Edison; the Wright brothers; Charles Babbage; Andrew Carnegie; Cornelius Vanderbilt; Alexander Graham Bell; Henry Ford; Richard Arkwright; Michael Faraday; James Watt; Jean Lenoir; Tim Berners-Lee