

Victorian Britain: A Historical Assessment

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of social, industrial, and daily life changes during the Victorian era.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses appropriate historical terminology.

Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 to 1901. During this period, Britain transformed from a rural, farming society into a world-leading industrial powerhouse. While factories and railways changed the landscape and brought wealth to many, life for the working class—especially children—was often fraught with hardship, long hours, and poor living conditions.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Social Reform · Victorian · Urbanisation · Empire · Apprentice · Textile Mill

1. Identify two major inventions or technological advancements that changed daily life during the Victorian period. (2 marks)

2. Explain why many families moved from the countryside to cities during the Industrial Revolution. (2 marks)

3. Ellie the elephant is studying the lives of Victorian children. Compare and contrast the lives of a child from a wealthy family with a child living in poverty during this era. (4 marks)

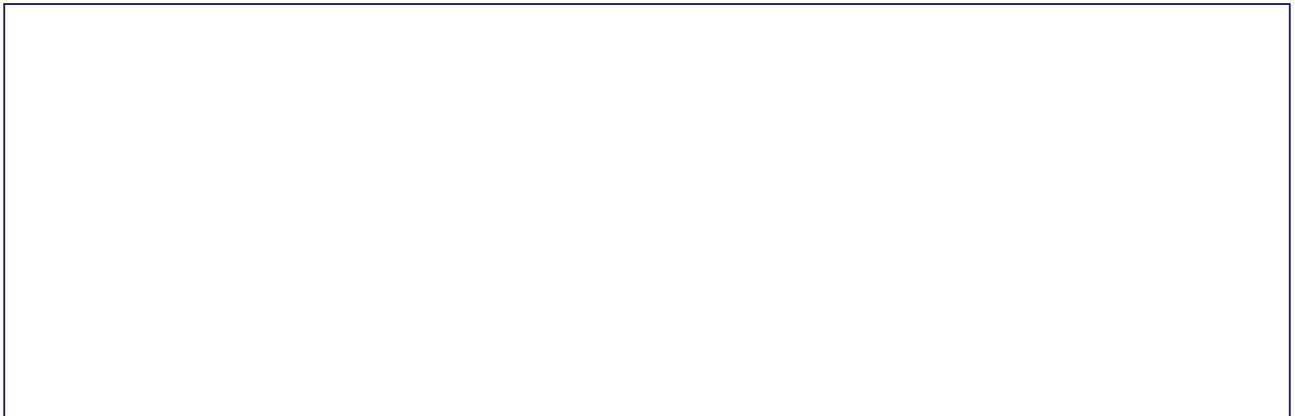
4. What was the purpose of a Victorian workhouse, and why were they often feared by the public? (3 marks)

5. Justify why many people campaigned for 'Social Reform' in the late 19th century. What were they hoping to change? (4 marks)

6. Nova the owl is looking at the expansion of the British Empire. Explain how the growth of the Empire influenced the goods available in British shops at the time. (5 marks)

7. What might happen if the Factory Acts had never been passed? Discuss the potential impact on child labour. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a Victorian street scene showing the contrast between new industrial buildings (like a mill) and traditional homes.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1880. Write a short diary entry (150 words) describing a visit to a bustling Victorian railway station. Describe the sights, sounds, and the types of people you might encounter. Total: /25