

A Day in the Life: Victorian Perspectives

Learning objective: To write a balanced historical narrative comparing the experiences of different social classes in Victorian Britain.

Use the writing frame below to construct your narrative. Ellie the elephant has provided some key historical points to help you focus on the differences between life for the wealthy and life for the working classes during the Victorian era.

The soot-stained chimneys of London stretched towards the clouds like jagged fingers, marking the dawn of another bustling Victorian morning.

Word bank: consequently · furthermore · in contrast · nevertheless · hitherto · simultaneously · a stark disparity · prosperous · destitute · industrialisation

1. Introduction: Establish the setting and the character you have chosen to follow. Begin with: 'The morning mist clung to the cobblestones as my character stepped out into the Victorian street...' (2 marks)

2. Daily Routine: Describe the daily tasks your character must complete. Explain why these tasks were essential for their survival or status. Start with: 'For my character, the day consisted of...' (3 marks)

3. The Industrial Impact: Describe the environment surrounding your character. How did the growth of factories and railways affect their life? Use the phrase: 'The roar of the steam engine symbolised...' (3 marks)

4. Social Comparison: Compare your character's life to someone from a different social standing. Justify why the lives of these two people were so vastly different. Start with: 'While some citizens enjoyed the luxury of... others were forced to endure...' (4 marks)

5. Reflection: What might happen if your character were transported to the modern day? Explain how their perspective on Victorian life would change. (3 marks)

6. Evaluation: Conclude your piece by summarising the Victorian era. Is it fair to call this a time of 'progress'? Justify your answer using evidence from your writing. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Victorian journalist writing an editorial for a local newspaper. Write a persuasive paragraph arguing for or against the installation of new machinery in local factories, considering both the economic benefits and the impact on the workers' welfare.