Life in Victorian Britain: A Historical Report

Learning objective: To use historical knowledge and evidence to write a balanced report about the Victorian era, focusing on social changes and daily life.

Use the following structure to write your report. Remember to write in the third person and use formal language appropriate for a historical account. Ellie the elephant has provided some key themes to help you organise your research.

The Victorian era, spanning the long reign of Queen Victoria from 1837 to 1901, was a period of immense transformation and contrast within British society.

Word bank: Furthermore · Consequently · In contrast · Significantly · Industrial Revolution · Social reform · Urbanisation · Wealth disparity · Technological advancements · Notably

1. Introduction: Define the Victorian period and explain why it was a time of rapid change. Start with: The Victorian era is best remembered as a time of... (2 marks)

2. The Industrial Revolution: Describe how factories and steam power changed how people lived. Start with: During this era, the Industrial Revolution fundamentally altered the landscape because... (3 marks)

3. Life for the Wealthy vs. The Poor: Contrast the experiences of different social classes. Start with: Life in Victorian Britain was defined by a stark divide, as the wealthy... (3 marks)

4. Childhood and Education: Explain what life was like for Victorian children. Start with: For many children, the Victorian period was a challenging time because... (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the legacy of the Victorians today. Start with: In conclusion, the Victorian era left a lasting mark on modern Britain through... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific Victorian invention (such as the electric telegraph or the steam locomotive) and write a short paragraph explaining how it changed the economy or daily communication. Mention the approximate cost of such items if you can find primary source evidence.