Year 6 History Assessment: The Victorian Era

Learning objective: To assess knowledge and understanding of significant social, industrial, and daily life changes during the Victorian period.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and makes reference to key events or themes from the 1837–1901 period.

Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 to 1901. During this time, Britain transformed from a rural, farming society into the world's leading industrial power. Cities grew rapidly as people moved from the countryside to work in factories and mines. While this brought great wealth to some, it also created significant challenges for the working class, leading to new laws aimed at improving living and working conditions.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Queen Victoria · Urbanisation · Parliament · Social Reform · Child Labour · Steam Engine

1. Identify two major changes that occurred in British society due to the Industrial Revolution. (2 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant is studying the Victorian Workhouse. Explain why many people feared being sent to a workhouse during this period. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey has found a list of Victorian inventions. Name one invention from the 19th century and explain how it changed the way people travelled or communicated. (3 marks)

4. Describe the typical life of a working-class child during the early Victorian period. Mention at least two types of work they might have performed. (4 marks)

5. Explain the significance of the 1833 Factory Act. How did this represent a shift in the government's attitude towards the welfare of citizens? (4 marks)

6. Write a short report (approx. 100 words) from the perspective of a Victorian reporter visiting a new industrial town. Describe the sights, sounds, and the contrast between the new factories and the housing conditions of the workers. (5 marks)

7. If a family in 1880 earned £1.50 per week, and they spent £0.90 on rent and £0.45 on food, how much money would they have left for other essentials such as coal or clothing? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a Victorian steam-powered machine, such as a locomotive or a factory loom, highlighting the key components that made it work.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out about one Victorian social reformer (e.g., Lord Shaftesbury or Dr. Barnardo) and write three facts about how they helped improve life for children.