3. The advent of electricity and of information technology are often referred to as the Second and Third Industrial Revolution. Choose one of these revolutions and compare and contrast its effects to that of the First Industrial Revolution (the one that you've read about this term).

this is a good move, the length of the piece does not allow a comprehensive discussion of the effects of the Ind. Rev. so the student states what aspects of live she will look at

This is a clear statement of iwhat the student intends to do and is a good brief intro statement, but it does not mention that the arguments to follow will contain any "compare and contrast" arguments.

This article aims to define the main drivers of the first and second industrial revolution, and provide a systematic breakdown of their impacts on the economy evaluated in connectedness and production.

The first industrial revolution between 1760 and 1850 is widely characterised by the introduction of machines and steam engines which replaced human labour. New combinations of labour and capital in product manufacturing led to greater labour productivity and hence, higher wages. This was a major turning point in Europe, where labour was more expensive than coal and other capital goods. Technology and its practical possibilities encouraged further knowledge expansion, leading the path for the second industrial revolution. Skilled labour (knowledge to operate machines) saw wages rising, leading to a quick rise in the rich-poor gap.

These paragraphs are generally well written.
However, no sources have been cited here This is a problem. There are a number of factual statements in these paragraphs for which we want sources (e.g. the rise in skilled labour wages and changes in distribution).

Along with production, the first industrial revolution enabled increased connectedness of the world. Prior to the discovery of steam engines, the main mode of transport was by horse carriages or bicycles. This new technology created possibilities for sea travel and opened countries up to foreign trade. This allowed for cultural exchange, geographical movement and also foreign trade, resulting in increased incomes.

here is the anticipated impact of the 1st Ind Rev on connectedness. This is good.A discussion on the impact on production technologies is sort o discussed in the previous paragraph.

This Figure is not well worked into the argument. At no stage in the text does the student refer tothe figure. It has the potential to help the argument on the next page. So use it properly.
The source in the figure does not appear in the reference list. make sure a reader can clearly identify the source.
If at all possible don't just copy and paste a graph from some other source but try and get the actual data and produce the figure yourself, in Excel, or R or other software.

During the second industrial revolution between 1850 and 1910, electricity and advanced technologies such as the internal combustion engine were introduced. Major discoveries such as the

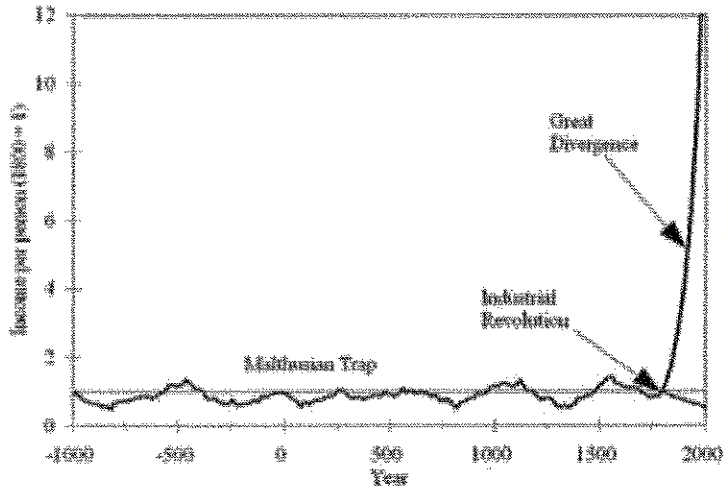
good clear characterisation!

use of electricity by Micheal Faraday and coal gas were also made. Electricity was cheaper and more efficient; soon replacing steam as the main source of power in manufacturing. This allowed for mass production, and it came with its relevant economies of scale as firms started to expand. Unemployment shrank and wages increased. Skilled labour continued to be high in demand, exacerbating inequality in the economy.

Altogeher this seems like a useful summary of the the 2nd Ind Rev

but most transportation in the 2nd half of the 19th century would not be powered by electricity.

With electricity replacing steam engines, transportation became faster and its networks wider. People could travel between nations quickly and cheaply. Easier geographical movement encouraged trade and access to cities which led to sustainable increase in income year over year.



same comment for this figure as for the previous one. Its content is not used in the argument.
Further there is no source information fo these data.

So far you have given individual short "summaries" of some of the features of the two revolutions, but you have not really done any comparing or contrasting which was the actual task.
To achieve this you would have either left you some space to follow-up after the two individual descriptions to highlight the differences. At this stage you leave that to the reader.

Figure 1 World Economic History in One Picture. After 1800 income in some societies rose sharply, while in others it declined.

The Industrial revolution has led to major improvements we enjoy today. Each phase of development has its own unique invention but their positive effects are felt cumulatively and should be evaluated together.

This is a nice summary statement to end with. However,it does not make up for the lack of "compare and contrast" content.

References:

Economic History: Did living standards improve in the industrial revolution? (http://www.economist.com/blogs/freeexchange/2013/09/economic-history-0)

The second industrial revolution (http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-424_t-1100_c-4258/the-second-industrial-revolution/nsw/the-second-industrial-revolution/the-industrial-revolution/the-impact-of-the-industrial-revolution)

1) The formatting of these references does not follow any of the standard referencing conventions (e.g. the Harvard system)
2) It is totally unclear where in the text you are using these references. Make sure you check out the University's guidance on referencing to understand how to properly reference.