**Essay Questions for Exam 1**

**I. Introduction**

🡪 We live in a modern world with modern comforts, especially in USA

🡪 Things weren’t always like this, and it wasn’t even that long ago

🡪 less than 200 years ago, industrial revolution working/life conditions sucked hard

🡪 but this opened peoples’ eyes, led to massive change on many fronts

*🡪 Thesis:* The industrial revolution in Great Britain led to a drastic reshaping. By way of both immediate and enduring impacts, society, legislation, and the distribution of power among citizens were ultimately all transformed, giving rise to a much more equitable nation by 1914.

**II. The GENERAL Status Quo up to 1815, a brief summary**

**🡪** *Topic Sentence:* Leading up to 1815, life for the working class was changing rapidly.

**🡪** agricultural improvements led to significantly decreased work on farms

🡪 people needed to support families, needed work

🡪 then there was the industrial revolution

🡪 provided a plethora of jobs for many families, people moved to the cities

**III. Tying into last paragraph, what were immediate societal impacts?**

**🡪** *Topic Sentence:* This industrial shift had some relatively immediate impacts on society, both good and bad.

🡪 Start with good

🡪 large increase in jobs

🡪 decrease in price of consumer goods

🡪 improved British exporting

🡪 Then do bad

🡪 there was incentive for bare minimum wages … very low pay

🡪 caused a trend of terrible hours, like 16 hour days

🡪 pay so bad that women and children were working

🡪 bad working conditions … injuries, death, long-term health issues

🡪 bad living conditions … mud huts in run-down cities

🡪 concept of the family is gone … and these mothers/kids are future of Britain?

**IV. What change did these impacts give rise to, both laws + political?**

**IV(a) – worker protection**

**🡪** *Topic Sentence:* These social repercussions were masked by the industrial boom for a short while, but soon they were at the forefront of change in Great Britain. One of several areas to see change was the treatment of the working class.

🡪 due to the conditions, many were calling for reform

🡪 rumors going around about horrible working situation in the cities, which most of the rest of Great Britain honestly had NO IDEA was happening

🡪 stimulated the creation of Sadler Committee, whose investigation led to disturbing findings and publication of the atrocities taking place for all to read about (Sadler Report 1832)

🡪 Sadler Report deeply disturbed the rest of Great Britain, who were mostly unaware that this was even taking place … felt no human should have to endure that

🡪 gave rise to the Factory Act of 1833

🡪 set a limit on hours children could work and those under age 9 couldn’t work in the textile industry

🡪 this opened everyone’s eyes and really solidified the idea that there were some low points that

Great Britain was just not willing to subject its working class to

🡪 led to further investigation in mines

🡪 Lord Ashley headed a committee investigating mines, similar to Sadler

🡪 discovered similar atrocities, Mines Act of 1842

🡪 forbade women or children under 10 to work underground

🡪 at this point, change was well in motion in Great Britain

🡪 this trend only continued to grow

🡪 people were becoming more and more aware of these atrocities

🡪 Ten Hours Act of 1847 (limited women and kids 18- in textile mills)

🡪 overall, the working conditions brought about by the industrial revolution caused atrocities on a massive scale, one which Great Britain refused to ignore

🡪 thus, lots of societal change and protection came out for working class

**IV(b) – political change**

🡪 *Topic Sentence:* Concurrent with all of this, the industrial revolution was also directly impacting politics and legislation in Great Britain.

🡪 industrial revolution saw massive population shift to cities, but politics didn’t reflect that

🡪 reform bill of 1832 (1st)

🡪 smaller boroughs lost seats in House of Commons, which were redistributed among emerging industrial cities

🡪 electorate increased to reflect increasing population

🡪 standardized land/property requirement to vote all over Great Britain

🡪 this was the first crack at total agricultural power, more of the middle class could vote

🡪 however, most of Britain still could not vote … unhappy with that

🡪 inspired the Chartist movement, working class … wanted reform

🡪 big elements were universal male suffrage, secret ballot, no property requirements, etc

🡪 by 1840 Chartists had died down, but this set a lasting tone which would spur continual change for the rest of the century

**V. Lasting trend started by this that would continue for the entire century to follow**

**🡪** *General Idea:* The industrial revolution brought about reform for the working class, which inspired Chartists, which made people realize the working class wasn’t to be ignored anymore (both for moral reasons and political leverage), which brought continued reforms for some time

🡪 *Topic Sentence:* Change was now set in motion in Great Britain that could not be stopped. By this point, the industrial revolution had led to an increasingly important working class, which had become the root of much legislation and political leverage. Their support was more vital now than ever before, continuing to spur reforms in their favor.

🡪 while the Chartists had died down, their demands would be a guideline for some time to come

🡪 Disraeli’s 2nd reform bill (1867)

🡪 property qualifications for voting reduced

🡪 most of working class in cities could vote now

🡪 even more power towards workers and away from agricultural aristocracy

🡪 Gladstone (great ministry)

🡪 many important advances, for example 1) trade unions 2) secret ballot 3) military

commissions given out on merit

🡪 by 1870s, the power had shifted GREATLY in favor of the working class

🡪 they were pretty much deciding elections

🡪 3rd reform bill (1884)

🡪 2 million agricultural WORKERS (more working class) given right to vote

🡪 the final blow to the old system of power

🡪 Parliament Bill 1911

🡪 House of Lords could no longer veto anything, only delay

🡪 all this starting because of the industrial revolution

**VI. recap / conclusion**

**🡪** *Topic Sentence:* Overall, there was an entire reshaping of British society and politics during the time period of 1815 to 1915. Where did all this change stem from, deep down at its roots? It all built on the industrial revolution. Both directly and indirectly, as has been shown, the industrial revolution had an overwhelming impact on Great Britain. There were direct societal impacts for the working class, giving them protection in the workplace and better living conditions in general. The industrial revolution also highlighted for everyone the importance of the working class, which began a long trend of legislation in their favor. In 1815, Great Britain was a booming industry center primarily in the hands of the agricultural aristocracy, with poor working class conditions. A century later, everyone had a hand in Britain, especially the working class. The vast increase in voting rights was immeasurably important in magnitude, and everyone’s standard of living was brought up as an entire nation. This would not just stop there, but rather continue to evolve in the twentieth century as a model and inspiration for much of the rest of the world.