1: Population* and urbanisation – 'for want of more hands'

*Remember that the study of population is called 'Demographics'

By 1900 there were nearly five times as many people in Britain as there were in 1750. These figures show how and when the population of the British Isles grew:

Year	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	Total
1701	5,100,000	450,000	1,000,000	2,700,000	9,250,000
1752	5,800,000	500,000	1,200,000	3,200,000	10,700,000
1801	8,700,000	600,000	1,600,000	5,000,000	15,900,000
1851	16,800,000	1,200,000	2,900,000	6,500,000	27,400,000
1871	21,300,000	1,400,000	3,400,000	5,400,000	31,500,000
1901	30,500,000	2,000,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	41,500,000

At the same time as this big population increase, there was a move from the countryside to the towns. The fast-developing iron, coal and textile industries were creating new work. The workers in these new industries needed somewhere to live. For example, between 1750 and 1800 the population of Manchester increased from 18,000 to 90,000 people. This table shows the changes in the balance of population between towns ('urban') and countryside ('rural'):

1801		1841	
Rural: 69%	Urban: 31%	Rural: 46%	Urban: 54%
1851		**1881**	
Rural: 50%	Urban: 50%	Rural: 32%	Urban: 68%

The rise in population and the move to the cities led to some other big changes. Here are two:

1 There was a rise in the demand for food and for factory goods. People in the towns and cities did not make their own food and clothes in the way that country people did. They no longer had fields to grow their own food. The move to the cities therefore encouraged people to spend more money in the shops.	**2** Completely new communities developed. For example, the growth of the coal and iron industry led to thousands of new jobs in the western lowlands of Scotland. This was why the population of Glasgow rose from 77,000 in 1800 to 904,000 by 1900.
New shops	New communities and <u>urbanisation</u>

2: Emigration – 'for I was tired of England, Sir'

The population did not only move from town to country. The people on the ship in Source A would probably never see their families and friends again. They are leaving to go to another continent – just like the Irish did when they went to America after the potato famine.

In the 19th century, millions of Europeans left home and started life in another country. Nearly 12 million people left Britain, either for the USA or for parts of the British Empire. This map shows you the places where most British **emigrants** went.

Source A (above): families leaving England on a <u>steam</u> ship

Most of the emigrants left because of hardship. The numbers of people leaving Britain increased rapidly during the 1830s and 1840s. During these years, many working people suffered terrible difficulties caused by low wages, unemployment and high bread prices. They often ended up living in the new <u>slums</u> that grew up in the new urban areas, such as Manchester and Liverpool.

In April 1837, some poor labourers in the village of Besthorpe wrote a letter explaining their difficulties (Source B).

Source B (below):

"Gentlemen, excuse the liberty of troubling you with a second letter. We now take the liberty of writing to you again upon the subject of emigration to America for we are quite tired of this country and we should be glad to know whether there by any probability of leaving it. For the thought of being ushered into a workhouse with our wives and children and the miseries of starvation and poverty makes us quite tired of our native land. For we know that we cannot be worse off than we are. The farmers are using threshing machine and other machinery so that there are from 6-12 able men that are able to work but cannot find employment."

3: Transport – 'the power of steam'

The period between 1750 and 1900 saw new ways of moving people and goods more quickly. In terms of **roads,** better design of coaches, such as narrower wheels, and much better road surfaces, meant that by the 1780s many coaches could go much faster. From the 1780s, coaches were used to carry letters. Before this, letters were carried by postboys on horseback. The table below shows the change in travel time, by coach, from London to Manchester.

Year	Journey Time by coach
1700	98 hours or more
1760	48 hours
1830	19 hours

Source D (right) shows what a Victorian London **coach** (like a shared taxi) looked like.

Canals: More roads were being built and improved, but the coaches driving on them couldn't easily handle heavy bulk materials (cargo), like coal, or fragile materials, like pottery. One horse could pull fifty tons in a boat, and there were over a thousand miles of navigable rivers, but the rivers didn't run to the right places anymore! Cargo was needed in the new manufacturing cities in the North. Enter the canal system…

The boats on the canal were horse-drawn with a towpath alongside the canal for the horse to walk along. This horse-drawn system proved to be much cheaper than travel by road. The canal boats could carry thirty tons at a time, with only one horse pulling more than ten times the amount of cargo per horse that was possible with a cart. Because of this huge increase in supply, businessmen could sell their goods more cheaply – and so sell more of them, making more profit. For example, mine-owners in Manchester were able to reduce the price of coal by nearly two-thirds within just a year of the opening of a canal.
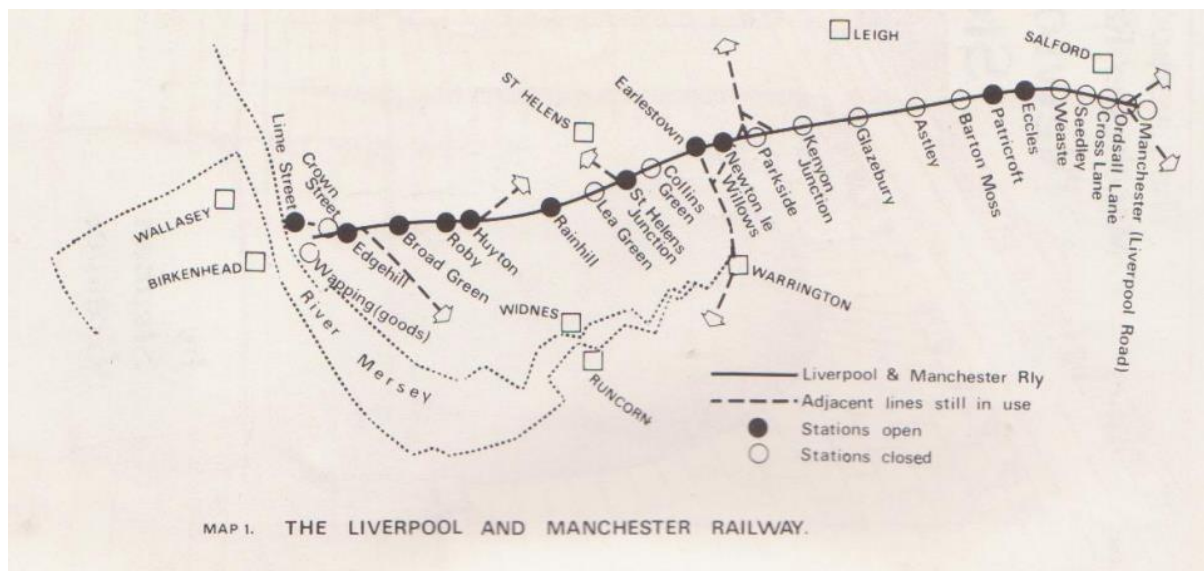
Railways: Railway building was unbelievably fast. In 1832, <u>166 miles</u> of railway track were open. By 1850, there were <u>6,559 miles</u> of railway track in use. Railways helped businesses to move raw materials and goods much more quickly than canals ever could. What's more, unlike canals, railways provided good transport for *people*. See how quickly the railway changed things:

1836	Newcastle-London by road	30 hours
1844	Newcastle-London by rail	12 hours

You needed lots of iron to build a railway and to build the steam engines that pulled the trains. So the railways gave a huge boost to the iron industry.

MAP 1.   THE LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY.

Challenge Questions:

1. This topic is all about change – and, especially, **technological change.** Some people think we are living in the middle of *another* technological revolution**.** Which recent invention (within the past thirty years) do you think will bring about the greatest **change** for people living in the twenty-first century? *Write a few sentences to justify your ideas*.

2. What do you think about **emigration** from Britain **now** to places like China and India? Some people think this is good, others see it as a 'brain drain', where Britain's greatest talent is 'drained away' to other countries. What do you think? *Write a few sentences to justify your ideas*.