# Mills and Ideas

Trace how industrial changes shaped laws and economic theories.

**WH.5.4** "Examine the economic, social, and political changes caused by the Industrial Revolution and their impact on the development of political and economic theories."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one economic change and circle one social effect. Number two places where a change in industrial life connects to a law or an economic theory.

### Manchester's Mills, Britain's Debates

1. In 1840s Manchester, England, cotton mills filled streets with workers and smoke. Machines spun thread faster than workers could at home, while railways brought coal and carried cloth to buyers. Mill owners could sell more cloth and earn profits, but many workers faced long shifts and low pay. Families moving from rural areas crowded into city housing. The growing factory economy brought cheaper goods alongside sharp differences between owners' wealth and workers' living conditions.

2. These conditions raised a political question: should Parliament limit what factory owners could demand of workers? In Britain, the 1833 Factory Act restricted child labor in textile mills and provided for inspectors to enforce its rules. Later, the 1847 Ten Hours Act limited the workday for women and young people in textile factories. Such laws expanded government oversight of workplaces, even as many supporters of free-market liberalism argued that competition and private enterprise worked best with little state interference.

3. Other thinkers drew different conclusions from industrial life. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels argued that factory owners gained wealth from workers' labor while workers had little control over production. In their 1848 Communist Manifesto, they urged workers to unite against owners and called for an end to private ownership of factories. Their communist theory treated conflict between social classes as a force driving political change. Industrialization fueled debates over who should own production and how much power governments should have over the economy.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could conditions in Manchester's mills and housing lead people to demand factory laws?

2. Which economic changes in the passage might supporters of free-market liberalism point to?

3. How did the contrast between owners and workers support Marx and Engels's theory?

4. How did the factory acts differ from the free-market view described in the passage?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence newspaper editorial dated 1848 arguing whether Parliament should limit adult men's factory shifts. Connect one economic change and one social effect from the passage to your position, then explain how a free-market liberal might disagree.

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## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one economic change and circle one social effect. Number two places where a change in industrial life connects to a law or an economic theory. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How could conditions in Manchester's mills and housing lead people to demand factory laws? | **Long shifts, low pay, and crowded housing could lead people to seek government limits on factory work.** |
| 2 | Which economic changes in the passage might supporters of free-market liberalism point to? | **They might point to faster cloth production, increased sales and profits, or cheaper goods as benefits of private enterprise.** |
| 3 | How did the contrast between owners and workers support Marx and Engels's theory? | **Owners gained wealth while workers earned low pay and had little control over production, a contrast Marx and Engels saw as class conflict.** |
| 4 | How did the factory acts differ from the free-market view described in the passage? | **The acts increased government oversight and limited some factory work, while the free-market view favored little state interference.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Parliament should limit adult men's factory shifts. Faster machines and railways help mill owners produce and sell more cloth, so factories can remain productive while workers spend fewer hours on the job. Long shifts and crowded city housing show why workers need protection. A free-market liberal might disagree because a workday limit gives the government more control over private businesses.

Accept other passage-based links between industrial conditions, laws, and theories. For the editorial, look for a clear position, one economic change, one social effect, and a plausible free-market objection.