

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## G101 Theme 1 - Industrialisation and urbanisation

### THE AGRARIAN REVOLUTION

Process related to changes in farming brought about by an increase in demand for food from a growing population amongst other reasons. This led to developments in farming machinery, land organisation (eg enclosure) and crops which ultimately replaced feudal systems of production.

### CHOLERA

A water-borne disease that killed thousands of people especially in London in the 1840s and 1850s. It came about largely due to the consumption of drinking water from sewage polluted water courses, particularly the River Thames.

### THE DOMESTIC SYSTEM

A process by which textiles, mainly woollen cloth, were produced at home by families to supplement agricultural wages. It existed in various forms in different areas of the UK, often organised through merchants. It was especially prevalent in the West Country, East Anglia and Yorkshire.

### DIVISION OF LABOUR

The organisation of the labour force to perform separate and specific tasks within a production process rather than being involved in the whole process. It was particularly associated with the development of cotton factories in the 19th century but was universally adopted as the standard form of production in factory settings.

### ENCLOSURE

A change within the Agrarian Revolution that changed the organisation of farming land from open field farming of common land to that which was enclosed by fences and hedges and farmed solely by its owner. As well as the changes in land ownership, it was accompanied by widespread social change and rural depopulation. There was much initial opposition to the enclosure movement.

### THE FACTORY SYSTEM

The move away from producing textiles at home under the Domestic System to the development of factories which controlled the whole process and required a large labour force working on the premises. It was brought about by a number of factors including developments in power (water, steam) and other technological advances along with the growth in population and demand for textile and other products. The growth of the factory system was often driven by particular individuals (Arkwright, Cadbury, Salt, Wedgwood etc.).

### THE GREAT STINK

The Great Stink, or the Big Stink, was a time in the summer of 1858 during which the smell of untreated human waste was very strong in central London, especially close to Parliament, where it was necessary to close all windows to keep the smell out. It is suggested by historians that this persuaded Parliament to introduce laws to improve sanitation.

### INDUSTRIALISATION

The growth of industry in particular areas as a result of the expansion of traditional small scale works or as a consequence of the discovery of raw materials, technological advances and/or entrepreneurial initiatives alongside a readily available labour source.

### URBANISATION

The growth of large towns and cities largely fuelled by industrialisation and population movements from rural areas. In the UK, this process happened in the nineteenth century and is closely associated with the growth of factories, agrarian reforms and a general increase in population. Urbanisation is still proceeding in the developing world, often driven by the same factors.