The Industrial Revolution

Main changes:

- The decline of the domestic system (cottage industry, work at home)
- The creation of the factory system, requiring investment and machinery and power.

Causes:

> Growth in population and new markets overseas.

> A country becoming wealthy on changes in agriculture had money to invest in new ideas.

> The country had what was needed for an industrial revolution – water and coal for power, iron ore, transport.

> Changes in one industry (eg textiles) led to changes in others (eg iron).

Results

- The growth of the factory system and decline of domestic industry.
- Shift of population from country to town and from south and east to Midlands and north.
- Poor living and working conditions in short and mid-term.
- Increase in national wealth meant gradual rise in standard of living.
- Social, economic and political changes meant that it was inevitable that there would eventually be a call for education, the vote, greater equality (for women as well as between classes), etc.