

Work, resources and the environment

The manufacturing industry and the
impact it leaves on the environment

Exportation and importation

Socio-economic development

Tourism in Malta

The manufacturing industry

The manufacturing industry forms part of the second sector of the economy. It is that stage where natural resources are bought and developed into objects for use by the consumer.

Very often factories are built away from the villages because of the noise and pollution they cause. However, in a country such as Malta we find that this is not very possible. Although factories are built near each other in what is called an industrial estate, we still find that these are close to the Maltese towns and villages because of the small size of our country.

Some of the Maltese industrial estates are:

Bulebel industrial estate

Tal-Handaq industrial estate

Mosta industrial estate

San Gwann industrial estate

Mriehel industrial estate

Hal far industrial estate

Approximately we find around 700 factories in all.



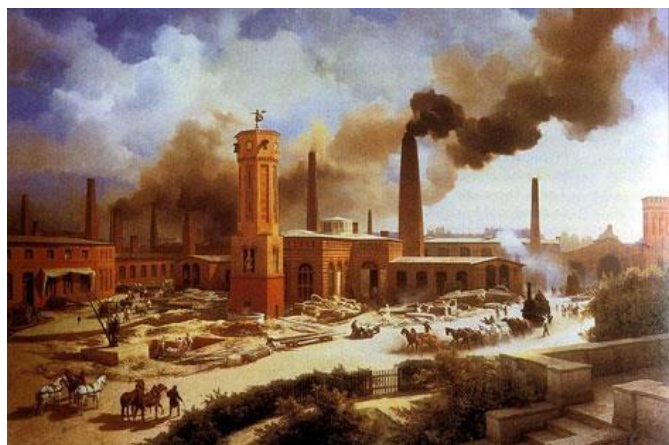
Hal Far industrial estate

Industry took a great leap forward during the **Industrial Revolution**. During this revolution there was a lot of change from traditional work in agriculture to industrial work in factories. The first factories were the textile ones and these used to employ a large number of workers in order to complete a fixed number of products. In factories everyone has a specific piece of work to do – on what is known as the factory line – and this was very different to the traditional way products used to be produced.

We call the industrial revolution a revolution because it is a process which happened in a short span of time and industrial because it happened within the industry sector.

The industrial revolution brought with it many changes in various areas:

- an increase in the use of technology
- apart from a rural environment an urban one was created
- the family started to change from an extended one to a nuclear one
- pollution increased



Advantages of industry

Industry brought about many advantages and changes at the place of work.

Amongst these advantages we find:

- there is an increase of work in the country
- the country's GDP increases
- more use of technology
- it becomes easier to change raw materials into a finished product
- one saves time when finishing a product
- the product is on the market in large quantities
- there is an increase in exportation
- more development



Disadvantages of industry

Unfortunately industry also had a negative impact on the country and the environment.

Amongst the disadvantages we find:

- more pollution of land, sea and air
- a lot of smoke and CO₂ in the air
- global warming is on the increase
- many chemicals are being used and these can be harmful to our health
- they are very noisy
- they are places of work where many accidents take place some of which may be fatal or leave workers with some handicap



Form 4 – Social Studies – Theme 3

Pollution caused by industry

Factories cause many forms of pollution.

Due to the heavy machinery which they use, these cause **noise pollution**. Hence it is important that they are far away from the built up habitat and that the workers use protective clothing so as to safeguard their health. Noise pollution could be the cause of loss of hearing, loss of sleep and a high level of stress

Factories emit **a lot of smoke** and toxic waste in the air. The effect of this smoke is that it could cause disease such as lung cancer, as well as producing smog when it becomes too dense. Certain countries sometimes announce 'smog days' where people are encouraged to stay indoors so that they do not inhale any of the high level of dangerous smoke. If the citizens insist on going out they are obliged to cover their mouth and nose with purposely made filters. Apart from this smoke, the factories are discharging a big amount of CO₂ into the air which in turn is resulting in **global warming**. Because of this global warming the polar icecaps are melting and this is causing floods in certain countries as well as a big change in the weather patterns of other countries.

Industries throw away a lot of **waste**.

They also dump **chemicals and detergents** into the sea and rivers. All this has a negative effect, because it pollutes both the sea as well as drinking water. Due to this no swimming is possible in particular zones where factories dispose of their waste for fear of infections which could be contracted and fish farms are monitored trying to ensure that the fish is of good quality, as well as poisoning the irrigation water used by farmers.

Health and safety at the place of work

Industry is the place where accidents occur due to the heavy and sophisticated machinery which is used. It is of the utmost importance that the health of the workers is safeguarded at the place of work, and that they do not get sick because of some side effect caused by the environment, or machinery and materials which are being used at the place of work.

Nowadays a lot of attention is being given to health and safety at the place of work so much so that by law there has to be a **Health and Safety Officer** employed to ensure that there are no risks and to see what can be improved to protect the health of workers.

Some health and safety measures which are being taken are:

- a clean environment
- large and adequately lit rooms
- machinery which is regularly serviced
- use of **safety gear** like gloves, ear muffs, protective boots , safety helmets and visors; etc



Exportation and Importation

Through **exportation** a country **sells** local products to foreign countries and in this way the country would be making **profit** from these products.

Through **importation** a country would be **buying** products from abroad which cannot be found in the local market, or else as an alternative to some local product.

Malta produces only 20% of the food which the Maltese eat and we have no other form of energy production. So we depend a lot on importation of foodstuffs and of oil for energy.

On the other hand Malta also exports an amount of products both agricultural products as well as typical Maltese ones, as well as products produced in our factories mainly textiles, electronics and medicines.

The Freeport in Birżebbuġa handles a lot of the exports and imports which take place in Malta.

Economic Relations in Malta

We find that Malta enjoys good economic relations with many different countries, amongst which - Turkey, the USA, China, Germany, Italy and Egypt. These countries opened companies, factories or places of work in Malta. Apart from this they are also countries which accept exportation of Maltese products. Malta has very good relations with airports and ports around the world.

Tourism in Malta



Tourism in Malta is the biggest factor which contributes towards Malta's GDP. Every year Malta hosts around a million tourists who apart from spending money during their holiday, are also creating an amount of jobs.

Tourism in Malta has diversified and is not catering only for tourists who come to Malta for a week by the sea but is nowadays catering to diverse forms of tourism. For Malta to remain competitive and continue to diversify we are advertising Malta in a number of ways. As tourists we get:

- The tourists who come to Malta on holiday – these usually come during the summer season, Christmas and Easter when we in Malta are celebrating feasts
- The tourists who come to appreciate and learn about Maltese culture
- The tourists who come for particular sports activities such as scuba diving and yachting.

Form 4 – Social Studies – Theme 3

- Many young people come to learn English
- Business men and doctors also come to take part in conferences
- Recently the idea of medical tourism has been introduced, where foreigners visit Malta to be operated upon or to receive medical treatment against payment, which are not available to them in their own countries.

Advantages of tourism

- An increase in employment
- Modernization of the country ex. Better infrastructure
- Preservation of cultural places and activities
- Maintaining and cleaning of the environment
- Creating a better market for importation
- Mixing of cultures and new ideas



Disadvantages of tourism

- Pollution and strain on the environment
- Seasonal employment – meaning jobs are created only for particular times during the year
- Companies may employ foreigners for certain jobs and so local people do not benefit from this
- Mixing of cultures which could erase the national culture
- The price of housing escalates in tourist zones



'Lovely holiday, terrific wooden souvenirs, but no trees to get any shade under'

Eco-tourism

Many countries are offering also what is called **eco-tourism**, meaning holidays where the tourist lives as much as possible in close proximity to the locals whilst showing respect for the environment of the country so that the impact which such tourists generally leave is minimal.

A tourist who seeks eco-tourism is looking for an opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the natural environment, the cultural environment and to mixing with the local people of the country.

Eco-tourism emphasizes the principles of recycling, conservation of energy, lessening wastage of water and that jobs are given to local people.

Form 4 – Social Studies – Theme 3

Eco-tourism is based on these 7 principles:

- People visit places for their natural beauty
- They lessen the impact on the environment
- They create environmental awareness
- They pay for the conservation of the environment
- They respect local culture
- They respect fundamental rights
- They create jobs for local people

Malta has also started to offer this type of tourism. This helps a lot as it increases tourism all year round not only during the holidays. It is also helpful as many more people and local communities are asked to give their share, whilst many traditions and Maltese food is not forgotten.



Eco-tourists who come to Malta are able to visit natural reserves such as Tas-Simar, go for organized walks in the countryside, go for tasting of organic food and fruit in a number of farms around Malta and Gozo, as well as participating in grape harvesting for winemaking.

