

Discuss:

Q.1. What forms of entertainment came up in 19th century England to provide leisure activities for the people.

Ans: During 19th century, England was on the path of great development and industrial revolution made 'work' as predominant engagement of the people while at the same time during 19th century, England witnessed the organization of varied forms of entertainment and leisure, which served the recreational needs of different classes of people.

- 1) For the wealthy Britishers, there was an annual 'London Season'/ The London season involved several cultural events such as opera, the theatre and classical music performances.
- 2) The working class people spent their leisure time around pubs, the café or similar gathering place, where there were drinks, gossip and the news of the day.
- 3) In the 19th century, the common people were provided with new sources of entertainment libraries, art galleries and museums were established. For e.g after 1810, the entry made free of cost, British museum witnessed 825, 901 visitors by 1846 annually.
- 4) Going to beaches to escape the pollution of the cities also became an important habit of British people since the 19th century.
- 5) Apart from these, several sports were organized or invented during 19th century. For example first international football match was played between Scotland and England, which was spectated by 4000 people.
- 6) John Phillip Kemble and his sister Sarah Siddon were the famous actors of the 19th century, which played roles in plays and dramas.

Q.2 Explain the social changes in London which led to the need for the underground railway. Why was the development of the underground criticized?

Ans: The continuous migration of people to London led to overcrowding, development of slums and sanitation problems in the city. The streets of London were full of drunkards, which was a worrying aspect of the society of London. The elites of London were particularly concerned about the worsening conditions of the city life and wanted changes. The congestion in the city had also caused air pollution problems. Architects like Ebenezer Howard, Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker gave the designs of Garden cities which would ensure a quality life away from the evils of the prevalent city of London. Therefore to decongest the city of London, new residential areas called suburbs were developed in the surroundings of the London. And to persuade the people to leave the city and live in these suburbs, there arose the need of efficient transport system. Therefore after 1863, underground railways system developed in London.

The development of underground railways was criticized because of the massive destruction that followed the construction of these railways. The underground railways were despised as 'iron monsters' and seen as responsible for the mess and unhealthiness of the city. For example to make two miles of railway, some 900 houses were required to be destroyed. The development of London Tube railway led to a massive displacement of the poor people of London.

Q.3. Explain what is meant by the Haussmanization of Paris. To what extent would you support or oppose this form of development.

Ans: Haussmanization refers to the renovation and remodeling of Paris on the pattern planned and designed by the chief architect of Paris Baron Haussman between 1852 and 1869. At the instance of Louis Napoleon III, who became the emperor of France in 1852, Haussmann rebuilt the city of Paris for 17 years. His designing included laying out straight. Broad avenues or boulevards. Open spaces, given with full grown trees became characteristic of the city of Paris. A large number of people were employed in public works like constructing provisions of tap water, bus stops, public parks and other city facilities. Apart from these, the city was given with policemen to impose order and reduce the possibility of rebellion.

Arguments In support of Haussmanization:

The intention behind the development of Paris was the rebuild it on the pattern of London. Napoleon III having visited London wanted to create green spaces and improved facilities in Paris. The transformation of Paris included the development of underground sewers to drain the wastes from houses and factories. Availability of fresh water was ensured to the people of Paris. There was a marked decline in the communicable diseases. Due to laying out the broad streets and widened roads, traffic circulation improved. If the process of development led to demolition of 20,000 houses, however some 40,000 new houses were built to rehabilitate the displaced people of Paris. Haussmanisation turned Paris into a hub of many new architectural, social and intellectual developments. The city earned praise and applause from whole Europe.

Arguments against Haussmanisation:

The form of development that occurred in Paris led many people to describe Louis Napoleon III as authoritarian who imposed his will by force. For example the state forcibly acquired the land of many owners for the Haussmanisation of the city. In 1852, laws were passed to permit the demolition of constructions in the centre of Paris. It is said that some 350,000 people were displaced from the centre of Paris. An important impact of this new form of development of Paris was the rise of rents in the city which forced many poor out of Paris. While a large number of poor were evicted from Paris to remove the possibilities of political rebellion. In 1860s, the renovation of Paris was accused of having killed the street and its life to produce an empty, boring city, full of similar looking boulevards.

Q.4. To what extent does government regulation and new laws solve problems of pollution? Discuss one example each of the success and failure of legislation to change the quality of

a) Public life

b) Private life

Ans: The extent of success of a government legislation in solving the problem of pollution is determined by the effective means by which that legislation can be implemented.

Legislation to Change/Improve the Public Life *Bengal smoke Nuisance act 1905 (success)*

The residents of Tollyguage Bengal launched a complain against the mill owners there, accusing that the rice mills of Tollyguage burned rice husk instead of coal, which filled the air with black soot causing serious health problems. The government to prevent this problem established the Bengal smoke Nuisance commission in 1879, which recommended the need o a legislation. In 1905, Bengal smoke Nuisance Act was passed and finally this nuisance was controlled in Bengal.

Smoke Abatement Acts 1847 & 1853 (Failure)

The used of coal in England caused the pollution of the atmosphere throughout many cities in England. London was infamous for its combination of smoke and fog (i.e, Sinog) which became a serious health hazard in London. There smoke Abatemats acts were passed in 1842 and 1853, which made the industrialists responsible to reduce the emission of smoke into the air by the introduction of new efficient machinery to their industries. However because of the non-availability of any methods by which to moniter or measure the amount of smoke in the air, these legislations were largely ineffective in bringing any considerable improvement in the public life of London in 19th century.

Legislations to Improve Private Life. Housing Act of 1890 (Success):

Due to large scale migration of people to London, there arose housing problems in the city. Many families had to accommodate only a single room, while many others ended up in slums. There distressed situation caused the government to take up the matter of reducing the overcrowding in London. In 1890, housing Act was passed under which houses were built for the needy and the Act also carried provisions of cleaning away the slums. Its said that by 1914, 24,000 dwelling units were built thereby improving the conditions of many people in London.

Rent Act (1918 (Failure)

It was a measure taken by the British government to ameliorate the miserable living conditions of the poor people of London. Under the Rent Act, it was intended that the reduced rents would make tenements affordable for poorer sections of London. For example the rents under this act were not to exceed 35 (pounds) in London. However the Act turned out to be a sour experience because many landlords and builders withdrew houses from the marked which created severe housing crises.