1. Give two reasons why the population of London expanded from the middle of the eighteenth century.

Ans: Till the beginning of the 18th century, London was a small human settlement along the River Thames. The city began to expand from the middle of the 18th century. Two important reasons for this development were as follows:

   (i) As the textile mills and other factories began to be set up around this period, in and around London, these offered large job opportunities. Large number of people began to migrate from the countryside to the city in search of jobs.

   (ii) Because of industrialization, trade and other associated activities also expanded. These again offered better employment opportunities and living standards. So people started migrating to these towns.

2. What were the changes in the kind of work available to women in London between the nineteenth and the twentieth century? Explain the factors which led to this change.

Ans: During the early 19th century till the early 20th century, the profile of women underwent a change. The kind of work available to women in this period was different from the kind of work available earlier.

   (i) With technological development in industries, the requirements of labour were undergoing a change. Women labourers were not found suitable for operating machines. Instead, male labour came to be employed. Thus, women were thrown out of the factories.

   (ii) Many of these factory-workers became unemployed and stayed back in their homes. They became, what can be called, a housewife.

   (iii) Large number of women became domestic servants.

   (iv) Some women began to work from their homes. They began to accept guests against payment. Other household activities included tailoring, washing or matchbox making.

It was only with the beginning of the First World War in 1914 that many new job opportunities were thrown open. Women came out in large numbers and joined the workforce.

3. How does the existence of large urban population affect each of the following? Illustrate with historical examples.

   (i) A private landlord

   (ii) A Police Superintendent in charge of law and order

   (ii) A leader of political party.

Ans: (i) Expanding large urban population inevitably means a rising demand

for human settlements. Supply of houses cannot keep pace with rising demand. Landlords are in the best position to make use of this situation.

(a) They can charge exorbitant rents for the accommodation they offer for lease.

(b) Anything and whatever, even a simple mud hut that passes as a night shelter, would find takers.

Examples: Tenements in London and chawls in Bombay, besides the growing and ever sprawling slums in different cities throughout the world.

(ii) Things are different for a police superintendent in charge of law and order. Growing urban population also carries with it increasing lads of criminals, i.e., those persons who earn their living by indulging in crime. He has to fight it by all means.

(iii) Political parties find a good playground. Large population becomes a large football ground. Each political party seeks to take the cake by using people power. Growing, fast-expanding population throws up many social, political and economic issues to the fore.

4. Explain what is meant by the Haussmanisation of Paris. To what extent would you support or oppose this form of development? Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper, to either support or oppose this, giving reasons for your view.

Ans: Haussmanisation gets its name from Baron Haussman, who was the chief architect of the new Paris during the second half of the 19th century. Haussmanisation stands for

(i) Forcible eviction of the poor from the city, and

(ii) Forcible reconstruction of the city.

This was done for Beautification of the city of Paris.

Eviction of the poor to reduce the possibility of political rebellion. Haussmanisation had both its admirers and critics.

Those who supported it argued along the following lines:

(i) Straight broad avenues or boulevards come to be established. Likewise, open spaces within the city are designed. Full-grown trees are transplanted. The new city becomes a matter of civic pride. It becomes the pride of all people, not only within the country but all around in the continent.

(ii) Life in the new city becomes more comfortable. It becomes more secure with regular patrolling by police, both during day and night. Transportation becomes convenient and cheaper. Public utilities are planned and provided to all.

(iii) The new city becomes the hub of many architectural, social and intellectual developments.

(iv) The city, in particular, and the country, in general, comes to be associated with higher levels of development and achievements. Its status in the hierarchy of a nation goes up.

But it is not to say that it is all pinks and roses with Hussamanisation. There is a negative side also.

(i) Hussamanisation relies upon force and violent eviction of the poor. They undergo immense misery and agony.

(ii) The ancient culture and civilisation of the city gets uprooted.

(iii) An upper-class culture comes to be established.

(iv) Haussmanisation 'kills the street' and its life. In its place is transplanted an empty, boring city, full of similar-looking boulevards and facades.