

Mon:

Weds: 2nd draft Paper 2

Timekeeping by the beginning of the 19th century

By the end of the 1700s clockmaking had reached the point where accurate marine chronometers could be manufactured in quantity and at a cost that commercial ships could afford.

These marine chronometers were much more accurate than was required for ordinary domestic and work uses. They were more difficult to construct than clocks needed for domestic use.

Demo: British Museum Collections - Arnold
- Earnshaw
- Emery

Davies
1978.

Collectively three English firms made about 3000 chronometers by the 1820s. The number of manufacturers of clocks in England at this point would be about 1300.

Londes

238-247

Civilian demand for watches began to increase in England in the late 1700s. This was associated with increasing numbers of people employed in small industries and set times of work became increasingly common in this period. This promoted the increasing use of watches and clocks by ordinary citizens.

1 Changing lives and timekeeping at the end of the 18th century

This exercise explores the rapidly changing circumstances of ordinary lives and the relationship to time at the end of the 18th century, mostly in Britain. Information can be found in Landes, *Revolution in Time*, pages 238–245.

- a) To what extent was Britain urbanized during the 1700's? How does this compare to our current experience?

Landes pg 239 By 1700 about 25%.

Currently in the US about 70% or 80%. Our modern society is far more urbanized

- b) What was the state of transport in Britain in the late 18th century? How did this change in the early 19th century? In what way would the transport of that era have affected your life compared to the way that you live today?

Landes 239 A road network appeared in Britain in the 18th century. In general these would have been dirt roads. Coach services appeared.

Locomotives appeared in about 1820

Travel was slower than today. There were far fewer opportunities to travel. Most travel would be restricted to the distance a horse could cover in a day. People would have been far less mobile.

- c) How did the non-agricultural workplace in Britain change during the late 18th century? What demands did this place on timekeeping? In what fundamental ways was the work environment of the mid 18th century different to that which you experience today? What conveniences would that work environment offer compared to that of yours today? What disadvantages would it impose?

Landes 240-241 The system in Britain prior to about 1800 was focused on tasks.

Thompson 70- Non-agricultural work involved manufacture in small scale cottage industries (putting-out system). There were no particularly precise times attached to each task.

Daily production would fluctuate wildly. The work week was very irregular.

Our current work experiences are much more structured