“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ...”

An introduction to nineteenth-century Britain
Part One

A Time of Contrasts
Prosperity ...
and poverty.
Innocence ...
and exploitation.
Science...
and superstition.
Democracy ...
and disorder.
Forward thinking...
and backward looking.
Part Two

A Time of Change
The Agricultural Revolution
## Population Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1780 (est.)</th>
<th>1801</th>
<th>1831</th>
<th>1851</th>
<th>1871</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>16.92</td>
<td>21.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>5.22</td>
<td>7.77</td>
<td>6.51</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total UK</td>
<td>12.98</td>
<td>15.74</td>
<td>24.15</td>
<td>27.39</td>
<td>31.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England (as %)</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>52.7%</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
<td>67.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Seafaring dominance
Progress
The Industrial Revolution
Transport
Urbanisation
Science
Part Three

A Time of Reformers
William Wilberforce
Charles Darwin and the Origin of Species

“In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the expense of their rivals because they succeed in adapting themselves best to their environment.”
Robert Owen and New Lanark

“Eight hours' daily labour is enough for any human being, and under proper arrangements sufficient to afford an ample supply of food, raiment and shelter ... and for the remainder of his time, every person is entitled to education, recreation and sleep.”
Charles Dickens

“Please, sir, I want some more.”

The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralysed with wonder; the boys with fear.

“What!” said the master at length, in a faint voice.

“Please, sir,” replied Oliver, “I want some more.”
Jeremy Bentham and Utilitarianism

“It is the greatest good to the greatest number of people which is the measure of right and wrong.”
Karl Marx and Communism

“Workers of the world, unite!

“You have nothing to lose but your chains!”
Edwin Chadwick

“The annual loss of life from filth and bad ventilation are greater than the loss from death or wounds in any wars in which the country has been engaged in modern times.”
Part Four

Conclusion