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| **HA Resource Hub Submission Form** |
| **Resource Title: Most important changes for Victorian working classes** | **Age Range: KS3**  |
| **Author name and email contact:**Helen Snelsonenquiries@history.org.uk | **Resource Details: (e.g. how many documents does it consist of? In which order?)** 2 pages of A4 |
| **Necessary prior learning to complete this:**Key changes in Victorian England: political, industrial, health, education etc.  | **What does it lead to next?** Sits between learning about 19thC changes and the 20thC changes – esp more struggling for the vote. We used it to show that big change happens through govt and that a say in who governs is therefore crucial to progress.  |
| **Explanation: How should this resource be used?** What follows are two pages of options for improving the life of a working-class person in Victorian England. ‘John Smith’ is a fictional character. This resource can be used as an activity to help students make a judgement about the most important change of the industrial era for working class people. To use it, students need to have studied the changes of Victorian England. They could get this knowledge by working through some textbook pages, or via a knowledge PPT put together by a teacher, or by using a well-selected film clip from eg BBC resources. Students need knowledge of: men getting the vote in the 1800s, housing changes, education developments, public health and regulation. Students then read the 8 options, with their pros and cons (see below), and use their knowledge. They then rank the changes in order of importance, giving reasons for their choices. The reasoning should focus on: ‘Which changes were most important for changing the lives of working people in Victorian Britain?’ |

**Give men such as John Smith the vote**

**Pros**

* MPs in Parliament will have to listen to poorer people like John Smith as they will need their vote
* Huge change happens when MPs have to listen and change laws

**Cons**

* The change won’t necessarily happen immediately
* MPs work at national level, some of the problems are local ones

**Put in place building regulations**

**Pros**

* These would ensure poor quality, dark and damp housing is not built
* Houses could not be built in unsuitable areas and too many in an area

**Cons**

* Regulations would only apply to new buildings and not existing buildings
* Who would pay for inspecting news buildings to check they were obeying the rules?

**Provide free and compulsory primary education for all working class people**

**Pros**

* This would allow people to qualify for better jobs to lift themselves out of poverty
* Better educated people are able to take better crucial life decisions for themselves and their children

**Cons**

* It would take quite a few years before the educated primary school children became adults
* Many poorer people cannot easily afford to have their children out at school rather than working and bringing money into the family

**Provide child medical and care services**

**Pros**

* A healthy childhood lays the foundations for a healthy adulthood
* Parents with limited education would get crucial support about how to sterilise bottles for babies etc

**Cons**

* If the children are still in very unhealthy houses, with no fresh water and unhealthy parents, is there any point in this help?
* It may be seen as very intrusive to have medical and social workers telling people what to do

**Pay for the laying of a system of sewerage pipes**

**Pros**

* Benefits to the whole area and all citizens
* Would be and immediate reduction in the spread of diseases

**Cons**

* The poorest houses still don’t have inside toilets
* There would be a lot of upheaval and building work

**Pay for the provision of pipes to provide fresh drinking water**

**Pros**

* Benefits to the whole area for all citizens
* Would be an immediate drop in waterborne diseases

**Cons**

* The poorest houses still don’t have inside taps
* There would be a lot of upheaval and building work

**Lay out green parks to provide people with areas for recreation**

**Pros**

* Poorer citizens would have healthy places to go and get fresh air
* Would make the city greener and more pleasant for everyone

**Cons**

* Would not make a great difference to health on its own
* Would need an area of town to be found and cleared

**Pass laws to ensure that food that is sold has to be of a decent, healthy standard**

**Pros**

* Poorer citizens would not be forced to buy adulterated and poor quality food
* People would be able to have a healthier diet

**Cons**

* This would have no impact on the spread of infectious disease
* The improvement in health would not be very evident for years