**LO: To use feedback to improve performance**

**I loved**

1. Your effort to answer the question
2. Your SPAG was very good

**Mistakes to avoid next time**

1. Don’t mention the Poor Law – it’s not really relevant to this question
2. Don’t tell me the good points of the British economy – they’re not relevant to the question
3. Don’t use over-exaggerated words: massive, devastating, shocking, fantastic
4. Don’t make assumptions e.g. “Germany and the USA were slowly beginning to catch up.” Base your opinions on the evidence
5. Don’t use capital letters incorrectly e.g. “Britain faced Foreign Competition”

**Explain why the British Economy faced problems in 1900**

There are three main reasons why the British economy faced problems in 1900.

Arguably, the most important reason was the problems that Britain faced in its second phase of industrialisation which began after 1870. Historian Robbins sees “short comings” in Britain’s development in this phase; for example Britain fell behind in the chemical and electrical industries in comparison to Germany and America. Kemp believes that it was Britain’s dependence on its prosperous staple industries which kept it from diversifying into new industries. He also believes that the presence of a large, skilled labour force prevented mechanisation which would have, in the long term, increased productivity.

Foreign competition was the second reason why the British economy faced problems but I believe that this was a consequence of Britain’s failures in the second phase of industrialisation; for example by 1914 American miners were twice as productive as British ones but this was because Britain had failed to invest in machinery. Similarly, Britain’s production of steel fell from 36-20% of the world’s total (1879-1900) but this was because it was slower than other competitors to adopt the Thomas-Gilchrist process, leading Germany and America to have overtaken it in steel production by 1893. As Britain failed to keep up with competition from Germany and America its share of world manufacturing exports fell from 45-28% (1870-1913).

I believe that the least important problem in the short term was the balance of payments gap. This was a problem because the gap between British imports and exports grew from £163-199 million between the 1880s and 1890s but the problem was hidden by Britain’s invisible earnings in the short term. However, this can be linked back to both Britain’s failures in the second phase of industrialisation and foreign competition. Pollard estimates that by 1913 Britain had £4 billion of overseas investment. This money had not been invested in developing new industries in Britain preventing Britain from making the same investment as her competitors (Germany and America) in her economy. Better investment would have strengthened Britain in the second phase of industrialisation against her competitors.

Overall therefore I believe that Britain’s failures in the second phase of industrialisation increased the strength of her foreign competitors and caused the lack of investment that would lead to financial problems. Lack of investment then exacerbated the weaknesses of Britain in the second phase. The only exception to this might be agriculture. Britain’s lack of land meant that it could not keep up with foreign competitors and therefore agriculture’s contribution to national output fell from 1/6 to 1/12 (1870-1900) but this does not explain the problems faced by industry.

**Identify using highlighters**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signpost sentences | How many |
| Opinion vocabulary |  |
| Facts/ Historians to back up the point |  |
| Links/ consequences/ cause |  |
| Evaluative vocabulary: short term, long term, most important, least important |  |

* Does the essay focus on the question all the way through?
* Does the essay rank the reasons?
* Do you understand your targets for next time based on this lesson?
* Mark the essay against the mark scheme

**Homework**

1. Fill in page 4 (Type of Question Progress Check)
2. Progress Check page 5 (Progress Check)
3. Read sheet 3.2 for tomorrow’s lesson
4. Assessment

**Explain why there was a need to reform living and working conditions in the late C19th (2011) for Tuesday 15th October**

3 reasons

Links

1. **Green and Blue boxes for sheets 3.1 and 3.2 for Monday 14th Folder Check – bring lunch**