Chapter 5: Secondary Activities

Exercises — Exercises

Q1 Choose the right answer. Which one of the following statements is wrong?
(a) Cheap water transport has facilitated the jute mill industry along the Hugli.
(b) Sugar, cotton textiles and vegetable oils are footloose industries.
(c) The development of hydro-electricity and petroleum reduced, to a great extent, the importance of coal energy as a locational factor for industry.
(d) Port towns in India have attracted industries.

(b). Sugar, cotton textiles and vegetable oils depend on bulky, perishable or weight-losing farm raw materials, so they are located near the raw-material source. Footloose industries are not tied to any specific raw material, which makes the statement wrong.

Q2 Choose the right answer. In which one of the following types of economy are the factors of production owned individually?
(a) Capitalist
(b) Mixed
(c) Socialist
(d) None

(a) Capitalist. In capitalist countries industries are generally owned and managed privately by individual investors, whereas socialist economies have state-owned industries and mixed economies have both public and private enterprises.

Q3 Choose the right answer. Which one of the following types of industries produces raw materials for other industries?
(a) Cottage Industries
(b) Small-scale Industries
(c) Basic Industries
(d) Footloose Industries

(c) Basic Industries. Their products, such as iron and steel, are used as raw material to make other goods, for example machines for the textile industry.

Q4 Choose the right answer. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?
(a) Automobile industry ... Los Angeles
(b) Shipbuilding industry ... Lusaka
(c) Aircraft industry ... Florence

(a) Automobile industry ... Los Angeles. Lusaka (Zambia) and Florence (Italy) are not known for shipbuilding or aircraft manufacture respectively, so the other pairs are wrong.

Q5 Write a short note on High-Tech industry in about 30 words.

High-tech industry is the latest generation of manufacturing, based on intensive research and development. It makes advanced scientific and engineering products, uses mostly white-collar specialists, and employs robotics and computer-aided design. Examples include electronics and pharmaceuticals.

Q6 Write a short note on Manufacturing in about 30 words.

Manufacturing literally means making by hand, but now includes goods made by machines. It transforms raw materials into finished goods of higher value for local or distant markets, using power, mass production and specialised labour in factories.

Q7 Write a short note on Footloose industries in about 30 words.

Footloose industries can be located in a wide variety of places because they do not depend on any specific raw material. They use component parts obtainable anywhere, produce in small quantity, employ few workers, rarely pollute, and need good road access.

Q8 Differentiate between primary and secondary activities (not more than 150 words).

Primary activities directly obtain natural resources from the earth, as in agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining and quarrying. They yield raw materials, often of limited direct use, such as cotton in the boll or iron ore from a mine. Secondary activities add value to these natural resources by transforming raw materials into more useful products. Cotton becomes yarn and then clothes, and iron ore becomes steel used for machines and tools. Secondary activities cover manufacturing, processing and construction (infrastructure) industries. They use power, machinery, specialised labour and often factory settings to produce standardised goods in quantity. Primary activities are tied to the places where resources occur and are spread over large areas, whereas manufacturing is concentrated on much smaller areas. Thus primary activities supply the resources and secondary activities convert them into valuable finished goods for consumers and other industries.

Q9 Discuss the major trends of modern industrial activities especially in the developed countries of the world (not more than 150 words).

Modern manufacturing relies on complex machine technology, with extreme specialisation and division of labour that produce more goods with less effort and lower cost. Mechanisation has advanced to automation, with computer-controlled factories in which machines are developed to think. Technological innovation through research and development improves quality, removes waste and inefficiency and helps combat pollution. It needs vast capital, large organisations and executive bureaucracy. High-technology industry has emerged, with robotics, computer-aided design and manufacturing, and new chemical and pharmaceutical products. Its workforce is mainly professional white-collar specialists, who outnumber production workers. Its landscape of low, dispersed office-plant-lab buildings in planned business parks differs from massive factories. Regionally concentrated, self-sustained, highly specialised high-tech clusters called technopolies, such as Silicon Valley, have developed. Improved transport has encouraged regional specialisation, and large-scale manufacturing has diffused to less developed countries.

Q10 Explain why high-tech industries in many countries are being attracted to the peripheral areas of major metropolitan centres (not more than 150 words).

High-tech industries need neat, low, dispersed office-plant-lab buildings rather than massive assembly structures, factories and storage areas. Such space is hard to find in crowded city centres but is available on the periphery, where land is cheaper and planned business parks for high-tech start-ups can be laid out. Regional and local development schemes encourage these parks. The industries are largely footloose, depending on component parts available anywhere, producing in small quantity, employing small labour forces and causing little pollution, so they can move away from the congested core. Road accessibility is the key locational factor, and peripheries are well connected to the metropolis. They also stay close to the metropolitan market, communication facilities, research institutions and highly skilled professionals, whose presence supports self-sustained, specialised clusters (technopolies) such as Silicon Valley near San Francisco.

Q11 Africa has immense natural resources and yet it is industrially the most backward continent. Comment (not more than 150 words).

Natural resources alone do not create industry; several other conditions must be met. Modern large-scale manufacturing needs vast capital, advanced technology, skilled and specialised labour, large organisations and enormous energy. It also needs a large market with high purchasing power, and efficient transport and communication. Large-scale industry developed over the last 200 years in the United Kingdom, north-eastern U.S.A. and Europe, which also have highly developed transport systems and rich markets. Africa lacks much of this: capital, technology, trained workers, dense transport networks and strong purchasing power. Its resources are therefore often exported as raw materials instead of being processed at home, so the value added by secondary activities is gained elsewhere. This weakens the growth of local industry. This reasoning is drawn from the locational factors in the chapter; the chapter itself does not discuss Africa.