# Performer Culture & Literature 1+2

## Exercises

## How Child Labour Changed the World

Page 185 - OPEN CLOZE. For questions 1-12, read the text about the exploitation of children during the 18th century and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

Child labour was a crucial ingredient which allowed Britain’s Industrial Revolution (1) **to** succeed.

By the early 19th century, England had (2) **more** than a million child workers accounting for 15 (3) **per** cent of the total labour force.

Early factory owners – located in the countryside so that they (4) **could** exploit power from rivers – found that local labour (5) **was** scarce and that those agricultural workers (6) **who** were available were unsuitable for industrial production. They (7) **therefore** decided to create a new work force composed of children, tailor-made for their factories.

(8) **Factory** owners were looking for cheap, malleable and fast-learning work forces – and found (9) **them** ready-made (10) **in** the children of the urban workhouses. They weren’t paid – simply fed and given dormitory accommodation. The exploitation of children massively increased as newly emerging factories began their operations in the late 18th century.

The use of working-class children to provide much of the labour force for the Industrial Revolution was, (11) **though**, merely an expansion and extension of an already long-established practice of working-class children employed (12) **by** farmers or artisans.

(Abridged from “The Independent”, *Revealed: Industrial Revolution was powered by child slaves* by David Keys, 2nd August 2010)

4- Answer these questions about the text above

1. What was the percentage of child workers during the Industrial Revolution?
* The percentage of child workers was around the fifteen per cent of the total labour force.
1. Why were they chosen as a work force?
* They were chosen because they were cheap, malleable and fast-learning.
1. Was this a new practice?
* No, it wasn’t. Indeed, it was a long-established practice or working-class children, who were employed by farmers and artisans.