Revision points for National 4 and 5 –Canals

***By the 1790's Britain was going through a period known as "Canal Mania". During this time Acts of Parliament were passed for the construction of over 50 canals***

* ***Benefits -****They were built mainly as a method to carry heavy goods such as coal (increasing in demand), iron or brick (roads could not cope with such heavy weights),* *They were also used to carry more delicate items e.g. glass and china. Fresh dairy products could also be transported quicker.*
* ***Problems-****There was no national standard size for canal locks,* *it was extremely difficult to develop trade between towns on different canals. Cargoes had to be transhipped or carried in boats small enough to fit every lock. A single rate for the whole trip was impossible as each company had its own financial system. Canals lost business as they were slower and liable to freezing in winter or drought in summer.*
* ***NB –*** *they were cheaper than coach travel but very slow and therefore carried goods and not passengers!*

Revision Points for Nat 4 and 5 – Railways

***The 1840s was the time when there was a boom in railway building – ‘railway mania.’ This obviously also led to the decline of the canals ( consider other reasons as above).***

***Effects of the Railways- positive and negative!!!***

***Economic –*** *coal could be transported across the country , quickly and cheaply. The coal ,iron and steel industries received a boost from the building of the railways. Employment was created and an estimated 100,000 people were employed by railway companies by 1860. Farms and fishing ports could send fresh food . turnpike trusts and canal companies could not compete.*

***Social –****middle class people could live in suburbs and smaller towns. Many people could afford to travel to seaside or country for day trips. Improved communication – better postal services and newspaper distribution.( led to political interest and change) The whole of Britain went to standardised time, Navvies were often blamed for social problems.*

***Environmental changes?***

***Improvements***

***Comfort –****e.g 1873 Sleeping Carriages on North British Railway, 1874 Heated Coaches, 1879 Restaurant Cars*

***Safety-*** *e.g 1834 Signals introduced and improved over the years,1899-Signals introduced and improved over the years. 1906 -Dead Man’s Handle fitted on every engine. Stopped trains automatically if the driver fell asleep, took ill, or passed a stop signal.*

***Speed-****1890s* ***–*** *London to Aberdeen – 9 hours ,1920s – introduction of express trains.*