The Golden Age of Agriculture 1850 - 1875

Why was there a 'Golden Age of Agriculture'?

1. The __________________________ in 1846 forced British farmers to become more efficient as they now faced foreign competition.

2. There was a growing demand for ________. The population was still increasing. There was a rise in the standard of living among industrial workers who had more __________ to spend.

3. The rapid growth of the __________ in the 1840s had a huge impact on British farming. Farmers could reach a wider market and therefore sell more produce. Farmers could receive artificial fertilisers, feedstuffs and machinery from the ________.

4. Foreign countries which might have exported their ________ to Britain needed the surplus for themselves. Hence it was largely home grown grain which was being sold in Britain.

5. New machinery and new _________________ made it easier to carry out changes quickly and on a big scale.

6. Most of the land in Britain had been _________ by the end of the 1840s.

Many farmers during this period of ______ Farming invested money in agricultural improvements in order make their farms more _________. There were many new farming ideas which were actively encourage and explained by various new organisations.
Selective Breeding

Selective breeding was further improved in this period. There were signs that __________ farming was becoming more important than arable farming. There were new breeds such as the ________ sheep produced by Bakewell, Aberdeen ________ beef cattle, and the Suffolk ________ (huge work horses).

Model Farms

Farmers invested money in improving and reorganising farm buildings in order to improve ________: e.g. tramways ran alongside the cattle sheds leading to the feedstuffs at one end and the manure house at the other. Animals were stall fed so that they quickly put on ________.

Mechanisation

Steam Powered Machinery

Machines now became popular on farms. Machinery could be produced easily and cheaply by the new _____ industry. Steam engines were now used in farming and drove many machines such as ________, chaff cutters, turnip ________, ploughs and water _____. These machines speeded up work, saved _______ costs and therefore increased the yield. These machines were owned by __________ and hired out to farmers. Specialist firms made these machines e.g. ____________ of Ipswich and Howard’s of __________.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bedford</th>
<th>pastural</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
<th>contractors</th>
<th>Angus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>labour</td>
<td>Punch</td>
<td>slicers</td>
<td>efficiency</td>
<td>threshers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>weight</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>