Unit 6 LEQ #1:

Discus the combination of social, political, and economic factors that allowed Great Britain to be the first nation to industrialize.

Intro: Contextualization: In the 18th century, various countries in Europe began developing new technologies, revolutionizing consumption and producing more goods and services than ever before. The Industrial Revolution, as the movement was called, involved the industrialization and mechanization of the economy, and had great impact at the social, political, and economic levels of many nations. Thesis: A perfect storm of social, political, and economic factors allowed Great Britain to be the first nation to industrialize, leading the rest of Europe to follow in its lead.

Argument: The early industrialization of England unsurprisingly gave it an advantage in technology advances and made production efficient, contributing to future successes in 19th-20th century conflicts.

Body Paragraph 1: Social Factors: London’s influence and size as well as the large English working class allowed for industrialization to successfully grow in Great Britain.
Evidence: London was the largest European city in the 18th century, embodying fashion and taste.
Argument: As a result of its size and influence, many Britons learned to desire material goods. The increased number of consumers in England led to increased demand for goods and hence demanded the development of better systems to provide them, successfully achieved by industrialization.
Evidence: England had the largest working class out of all the European states.
Argument: As many farmers and countrymen came to the cities to look for work and a way of making more money, factories were easily able to find and hire laborers. The large labor base allowed for the success of factories, mines, and textile workshops, all major components of industrialization.

Body Paragraph 2: Political Factors: Government encouragement of innovation and economic growth and political stability within the state allowed for industrialization.
Evidence: The prevalence of patents and monopolies by the British government in the 18th century.
Argument: The acknowledgement of intellectual property for profit and grants of money instilled a sense of competition in the economic sector, leading to increased innovation and development to explore more efficient ways to produce goods.
Evidence: Throughout Europe, numerous conflicts took place, such as the French Revolutionary Wars and skirmishes in the Holy Roman Empire during the 18th century.
Argument: Though England was involved in some of the conflicts of the 18th century, it was overall more politically stable than France or the Holy Roman Empire. As a result, Great Britain could easily develop and industrialize without too much outside interference.

Body Paragraph 3: Economic Factors: Financial and technological innovations and the immense expansion in foreign trade were important economic factors contributing to Britain being the first welcome industrialization.
Evidence: Financial inventions, such as the creation of central banks, stock markets, and joint stock companies, and technology, like the water frame and steam engine, were born in England.
Argument: Banks, stock markets, and stock companies allowed for the accumulation of capital to finance various factories and industrial activities. Likewise, the appearance of such technologies in Great Britain first allowed for it to get a head start in mechanizing the industry.
Evidence: Britain had numerous colonial possessions, including those in North America, India, etc.
Argument: Colonies were able to provide many raw resources for the goods that consumers demanded. In order to make these goods out of the many resources they had, many merchants were stimulated to produce machines to process these goods. In reverse, this also meant that Britain had to provide to their foreign consumers in their markets, giving all the more incentive to industrialize goods production.

Conclusion: Various social, economic, and political factors contributed to Britain being able to industrialize first out of all the European nations in the 18th century. Synthesis: Likewise, the beginning of Renaissance thinking, ideas, and discovery in the Italian city states allowed for these territories to make great advances. Similarly to industrialization, the results of the Renaissance movement were very influential historically, making some of the first instances of humanist, individualist, and secular thought in 15th century that has influenced modern society.