Questions for Section 3D: The Labor Process and Relative Surplus Value

1. What is the difference between relative surplus value and absolute surplus value?

2. If an innovation cheapens the commodity (reduces its value), how does the innovator benefit from innovating?

3. What benefit does a capitalist obtain by innovating if the innovation will be copied by rivals?

4. Explain what is meant by "superprofit."

5. How is superprofit competed away as a result of copying an innovation by rivals?

6. How does innovation affect the rate of surplus value for the first innovator before the innovation has been copied by rivals?

7. How does an innovation affect the economy-wide rate of surplus value after the innovation has been copied by all enterprises that can utilize it?

8. How does the shift from simple commodity production to capitalist relations of production, at the initial stage of simple cooperation, tend to cheapen commodities?

9. What are the differences between social division of labor and division of labor in a workshop?

10. How does the division of labor in a workshop increase the productiveness of labor?

11. Is supervisory labor productive or unproductive labor?

12. How does the "manufacturing" stage of the labor process make workers more dependent on capital than they previously had been?

13. Why does Marx say that only in the stage of modern industry does capitalism become truly "revolutionary" in relation to the development of the forces of production?

14. How does the stage of modern industry make workers still more dependent on capital than they had been in the manufacturing stage?

15. What effects does the introduction of machinery have on the working class?