1830 Birth of Rossetti

1832 First Reform Bill

1833 Slavery abolished in the British Empire

1834 Poor Law Amendment Act (workhouses set up)

1836 Bad harvests lead to economic unrest

1837 Victoria comes to the throne, aged 18

1840 Victoria marries Albert

1847 Factory Act limited children to a maximum of 10 hours a day

1848 Chartists’ last petition

1851 Great Exhibition: importance of Victorian Britain as a world power in Crystal Palace

1853 Crimean War

1857 Indian Mutiny

1861 Albert dies

1867 Second Reform Bill

1876 Victoria becomes Empress of India

Pace of change/nostalgia

Technological and social change

Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury: extremely enthusiastic about power of electricity to improve society, but opposed to social revolution.

1836-43 GR Porter ‘Progress of the Nation’ “the greatest advances in civilisation that can be fond recorded in the annals of mankind.”

Belief in God challenged by scientific advances

Look for a symbol of change

Isambard Kingdom Brunel “the man who takes charge of such a machine… must have a mind capable of setting aside, without forgetting, all his previous experience and habits, and must be prepared to commence as an observer of new facts, and seize rapidly the results.”