The four industrial revolutions

1. **First industrial revolution** (late 18th century): use of steam-powered engines led to establishment of textile factories. Mechanical labour replaced human and animal labour. Urbanisation.
2. **Second industrial revolution** (late 19th - early 20th century): invention of electricity led to mechanization of factories & mass production along assembly lines. Internal combustion engine, telegraph & telephone.
3. **Third industrial revolution** (early 1970s): automation; digital electronics / information technologies. Launch of the Internet.
4. **Fourth industrial revolution** (now): artificial intelligence, robotization, IoT, quantum computing, 3D printing.

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