# 1.1 Medicine in Britain, c1250-c1500: Ideas About the Cause and Treatment of Disease: 30-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this pack.**

**1** Explain why the Catholic Church had such a significant influence over medicine in medieval Britain.

**(Total for Question 1 is 8 marks)**


© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

**2** 'Religious belief was the main reason why people in medieval Britain struggled to explain the causes of disease.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

**(Total for Question 2 is 16 marks)**

**3** Name the physician of the Roman Empire whose medical writings, based on the Theory of the Four Humours, were still the basis of university medical training in England in the later Middle Ages.

**(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)**

**4** State what a regimen sanitatis was, and give one example of the advice it might contain.

**(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)**


© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

# Mark scheme · 1.1 Medicine in Britain, c1250-c1500: Ideas About the Cause and Treatment of Disease: 30-minute Pack

## Question 1

**Level 1** Identifies one or two general reasons for the Church's influence over medicine, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

**Level 2** Identifies and begins to explain one reason for the Church's influence, supported by accurate detail. **3-4**

**Level 3** Explains two reasons for the Church's influence over medicine, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **5-6**

**Level 4** Explains two or more reasons for the Church's influence over medicine in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the reasons connect. **7-8**

**Indicative content:**

- The Church ran the universities where physicians trained and controlled the medical curriculum, which was based on the ancient texts of Hippocrates and Galen.
- Dissection of human bodies was rare and restricted, partly for religious reasons, which limited physicians' opportunities to challenge or correct Galen's ideas.
- The Church taught that illness could be sent by God as a punishment for sin, so prayer, confession and pilgrimage were widely accepted as valid treatments alongside physical remedies.
- Monasteries and the Church ran most hospitals, which focused on care, rest and prayer for the sick rather than on medical cure.
- Because the Church controlled education and was the main source of authority in society, its approval was needed for new ideas to be accepted, which discouraged physicians from questioning ancient authorities such as Galen.

## Question 2

**Level 1** Shows limited relevant knowledge of ideas about the causes of disease in medieval Britain, and offers only a simple, unsupported opinion on the statement. **1-4**

**Level 2** Shows some relevant knowledge and identifies relevant factors, but the argument is only partly supported and lacks a developed judgement on how far the statement is accurate. **5-8**

**Level 3** Shows good relevant knowledge and explains a range of factors, reaching a supported judgement on how far the statement is accurate, with some links made between factors. **9-12**

**Level 4** Shows precise, well-selected knowledge and explains a range of factors in a balanced way, reaching a fully supported and sustained judgement on how far the statement is accurate, with clear analytical links between factors and consistently accurate use of specialist historical terminology. **13-16**

**Indicative content:**

- Supporting the statement: religious belief was deeply embedded in medieval society and shaped how disease was understood, e.g. the idea that God sent illness as a punishment for sin, or that the Black Death was God's wrath, led people to prioritise spiritual explanations and remedies such as prayer and pilgrimage.
- Supporting the statement: because the Church controlled education and approved what could be taught, religious explanations for disease were rarely challenged, reinforcing their dominance.
- Against the statement: the Theory of the Four Humours, based on the ancient writers Hippocrates and Galen, was the main scientific/medical explanation taught to physicians and shaped most professional treatment, largely independent of religion.
- Against the statement: miasma theory (the belief that bad air caused disease) was also a widely held and largely separate explanation that influenced everyday behaviour, such as carrying sweet-smelling herbs.
- Against the statement: astrology was taken seriously by trained physicians, who used charts linking the causes and treatment of disease to the positions of the stars and planets, showing that non-religious ideas also shaped explanations.
- A balanced answer might argue that these explanations overlapped and reinforced each other rather than competing (astrology and the humours were both taught within a Christian intellectual framework), so isolating religion as 'the main reason' oversimplifies a combination of interlinked medieval beliefs.

## Question 3

Galen **B1**

**Answer: Galen**


© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

## Question 4

a set of guidelines on diet and daily lifestyle, believed to help keep the humours balanced and prevent illness **B1**

an example of advice, e.g. what to eat and drink, how much exercise or sleep to take, or when to bathe **B1**

**Answer: Guidance on diet and lifestyle to keep the humours balanced, e.g. advice on food, exercise and sleep.**


© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk