1.2 Medicine in Britain, c1700-c1900: Vaccination, Germ Theory and Public Health: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 10 minutes on this pack.

1 Name the surgeon who pioneered the use of carbolic acid as an antiseptic during operations from 1865.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Explain why some people opposed vaccination against smallpox in nineteenth-century Britain.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.2 Medicine in Britain, c1700-c1900: Vaccination, Germ Theory and Public Health: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

Joseph Lister **B1**

Answer: Joseph Lister

Question 2

Level 1 Identifies one or two general reasons for opposition to vaccination, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one reason for opposition, supported by accurate detail. **3-4**

Level 3 Explains two reasons for opposition, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **5-6**

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

Indicative content:

- There was no understanding of germ theory at this time (Jenner's vaccination pre-dated Pasteur's germ theory by over sixty years), so many people, including some doctors, did not understand why vaccination worked and were suspicious of a treatment using material from a diseased animal.
- Some people had religious objections, believing that injecting material from a diseased cow went against God's design of the human body.
- There was public distrust of compulsory vaccination once it was required by law (the Vaccination Acts of 1853 and 1867 made infant vaccination compulsory), which some people saw as unacceptable interference by the government in family life.
- Poor or careless vaccination practice sometimes carried real risks, such as using material from an already-infected arm rather than a controlled source, which led to some genuine cases of infection and fed public fears, even though vaccination itself was fundamentally sound.
- Anti-vaccination societies and pamphlets spread exaggerated or inaccurate claims about the dangers of vaccination, reinforcing public fear and resistance, especially among the poor who faced fines or imprisonment under compulsory vaccination laws.

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