1.3 Medicine in Britain, c1500-c1700: The Medical Renaissance and Ideas About the Cause 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 ideas about the causes of disease changed only slowly in England during the years c1500-1700, despite the anatomical discoveries of individuals such as Vesalius and Harvey.

(Total for Question 1 is 8 marks)

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2 'The most significant reason ideas about the human body changed in the years c1500-1700 was the work of individuals such as Vesalius and Harvey.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

(Total for Question 2 is 16 marks)

3 State what Galen incorrectly believed about how the body produced and used blood, which Harvey's work challenged.

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.3 Medicine in Britain, c1500-c1700: The Medical Renaissance and Ideas About the Cause of Disease: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 1 Identifies one or two general reasons why change was slow, with little or no supporting detail or explanation. **1-2**

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

Level 3 Explains two reasons why change was slow, each supported by accurate and relevant detail. **5-6**

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

Indicative content:

- Universities continued to teach Galen's texts as the basis of medical training for a long time, so most trained physicians' underlying theoretical framework (the Four Humours) was not directly overturned by anatomical corrections alone.
- Vesalius's and Harvey's discoveries corrected specific details of anatomy and physiology but did not themselves provide a complete new theory of what caused disease to replace the Four Humours; Germ Theory, which explained disease in a genuinely new way, was not discovered until the nineteenth century.
- Religious belief remained powerful and widespread, so many people continued to see illness partly as a matter of providence or punishment for sin, regardless of new anatomical findings.
- New ideas spread only gradually even with the printing press, because most practitioners could not read Latin scientific texts easily and continued to rely on traditional advice from family, wise women or apothecaries.
- Individuals such as Harvey faced scepticism and resistance from some contemporaries who continued to defend Galen's authority, showing new evidence did not translate immediately into changed belief or practice.

Question 2

Level 1 Shows limited relevant knowledge of ideas about the body in this period, 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: Vesalius's direct human dissections, recorded in De Humani Corporis Fabrica (1543), corrected specific, longstanding errors in Galen's anatomy, showing the value of first-hand observation over ancient authority.
- Supporting the statement: Harvey's De Motu Cordis (1628) used experiment and calculation to prove the circulation of the blood, disproving a core part of Galenic theory and demonstrating a new approach to medical enquiry.
- Against the statement: the invention of the printing press, in use in England from the late fifteenth century, was what allowed Vesalius's detailed illustrations to be copied accurately and spread across Europe; without it, one individual's findings might have remained locally known.
- Against the statement: the founding of the Royal Society in 1660 created an institution that encouraged and organised the sharing and testing of scientific ideas, showing that organisations, not only individuals, helped establish a new scientific approach to medicine.
- Against the statement: government and religious institutions still limited or shaped what could be studied and believed, such as restrictions on dissection and the continuing authority of Church-run universities, so the pace of change also depended on wider social and institutional factors, not only individual brilliance.
- A balanced answer might argue that individuals provided the crucial breakthroughs, but that technology (the printing press) and institutions (the Royal Society) were what allowed those breakthroughs to spread and build into lasting change, rather than remaining isolated achievements.

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Question 3

Galen believed blood was made continuously in the liver from digested food **B1**

and was then used up ('burned as fuel') by the body's organs, rather than circulating and being reused **B1**

Answer: Galen believed blood was made in the liver from food and burned up by the body as fuel, rather than circulating around the body.

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