1.4 Medicine in Britain, c1500-c1700: Treatment, Prevention and the Great Plague of 1665: 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 authorities' response to the Great Plague of 1665 was not effective in stopping its spread.

(Total for Question 1 is 8 marks)

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2 'Continuity, not change, was the main feature of the treatment of disease in Britain in the years c1500-1700.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

(Total for Question 2 is 16 marks)

3 Name the scientific institution founded in London in 1660 that encouraged doctors and scientists to share experimental findings.

(Total for Question 3 is 1 mark)

4 Name the English physician, known as 'the English Hippocrates', who argued that diseases should be observed and classified by their symptoms.

(Total for Question 4 is 1 mark)

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Mark scheme · 1.4 Medicine in Britain, c1500-c1700: Treatment, Prevention and the Great Plague of 1665: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Level 1 Identifies one or two general reasons the response was ineffective, 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 the response was ineffective, 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:

- The true cause of plague (a bacterium spread mainly by fleas carried by black rats, not identified by scientists until the late nineteenth century) was completely unknown to contemporaries, so their prevention measures could not address the real means of transmission.
- The authorities ordered the killing of cats and dogs, wrongly believing they spread the disease; this removed natural predators of rats, which some historians argue made the underlying problem worse rather than better.
- Shutting up infected houses trapped healthy family members inside with the infected, increasing the chance of transmission within the household even as it aimed to protect the wider community.
- London's overcrowded, unsanitary conditions, with rubbish and waste in the streets and many people living closely together, provided ideal conditions for infection to spread despite the measures taken.
- Enforcement was inconsistent and depended heavily on wealth: the King's court and wealthier residents could leave the city entirely, while poorer people, who could not afford to leave, remained in the most crowded and dangerous conditions.

Question 2

Level 1 Shows limited relevant knowledge of treatment 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 continuity: bloodletting, purging and herbal remedies, all based on the Theory of the Four Humours, continued to be widely used, and university medical training still centred on humoural theory.
- Supporting continuity: apothecaries and wise women continued to treat most people alongside physicians, much as in the medieval period, and government responses to epidemics such as the Great Plague still relied on the old idea of miasma.
- Against, showing change: new remedies from the wider world, such as cinchona bark for fevers, became available in Britain for the first time in this period.
- Against, showing change: surgical practice changed through Paré's reintroduction of ligatures in place of cauterisation for amputation, reducing unnecessary trauma and pain for patients.
- Against, showing change: the founding of the Royal Society in 1660 began to establish a new scientific approach, based on shared, tested evidence, that would in the long run transform medicine even if it had little immediate effect on treatment.
- A balanced judgement might conclude that day-to-day treatment for most people changed little in this period, but that the century saw the first seeds of the scientific approach, and some specific surgical and remedial changes, that would eventually transform medicine after this period.

Question 3

the Royal Society **B1**

Answer: The Royal Society

Question 4

Thomas Sydenham **B1**

Answer: Thomas Sydenham

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