1.5 Medicine in Britain, c1900-present: War, Science and the Development of Penicillin: 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 Name the government report that identified disease as one of five giant problems the postwar welfare state should tackle, and state who wrote it and the year it was published.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain why the National Health Service, launched in 1948, was a significant development in the history of medicine in Britain.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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3 'Science and technology have been the most significant factor in improving medical treatment in Britain in the years c1900-present.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

(Total for Question 3 is 16 marks)

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Mark scheme · 1.5 Medicine in Britain, c1900-present: War, Science and the Development of Penicillin: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

the Beveridge Report	**B1**
published in 1942, written by William Beveridge	**B1**

Answer: The Beveridge Report (1942), written by William Beveridge.

Question 2

Level 1 Identifies one or two general reasons for the NHS's significance, 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 for the NHS's significance, 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:

- Before 1948, many people could not afford to see a doctor or pay for hospital treatment, so ability to pay, not medical need, often determined whether someone received care; the NHS provided healthcare free at the point of use for the first time, funded through taxation.
- It followed the 1942 Beveridge Report, which identified disease as one of five giant problems facing postwar Britain, and was created under Health Minister Aneurin Bevan as part of a wider postwar welfare state, showing a new role for government in guaranteeing access to medical care.
- It brought together, for the first time, hospitals, GPs, dentists and other services into one coordinated national system, rather than a patchwork of charity hospitals, private doctors and limited local authority provision.
- It changed who could access modern medical advances such as penicillin, vaccination programmes and surgery; previously these depended heavily on a patient's income, whereas after 1948 they were, in principle, available to everyone.

Question 3

Level 1 Shows limited relevant knowledge of medical developments 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: the discovery and mass production of penicillin (Fleming, 1928; Florey and Chain, early 1940s) gave doctors, for the first time, an effective treatment against many bacterial infections that had previously often been fatal.
- Supporting the statement: advances such as blood storage and transfusion techniques developed during the First World War, and later the discovery of the structure of DNA by Watson and Crick in 1953, building on the X-ray diffraction work of Rosalind Franklin and Maurice Wilkins, opened the way to a genetic understanding of disease.
- Against the statement: government action was also crucial, most obviously the creation of the NHS in 1948, which changed who could access treatment regardless of the scientific advances available, showing that access, not only invention, determines a treatment's real-world impact.
- Against the statement: war acted as a major spur to medical progress in its own right, for example the urgent wartime need driving the mass production of penicillin and battlefield necessity driving advances in blood transfusion and plastic surgery, so the circumstances that funded and demanded these discoveries mattered as much as the science itself.
- Against the statement: the role of individuals, such as Fleming's chance observation or Bevan's political drive to establish the NHS, also shaped exactly when and how these developments happened, showing that no single factor acted alone.
- A balanced judgement might conclude that scientific and technological discoveries provided the essential medical breakthroughs, but that their impact ultimately depended on other factors, especially government funding and organisation and the pressures of war, working together with the science.

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