

# GCSE Paper 1 - Medieval Medicine, c1250 - c1500 Knowledge Organiser

**Rationale:** Medicine in Britain, c1250 – present will be examined on Paper 1. The topic is divided into four sections, the first of which is medicine in the medieval period. You will learn about what people at the time thought caused disease and illness, how disease and illness was treated and how people tried to prevent disease and illness. There will be a focus on the reasons why there was limited progress in medicine during this period.

Key concepts		Key vocabulary	
1. Progress	When something improves over a period of time	17. Lazar houses	Leper colonies where people with leprosy lived away from other people
2. Change	Differences between different periods of the past	18. Urine chart	Used to examine urine to diagnose an illness
3. Continuity	Things that stay the same in different periods of the past	19. Dissection	To cut open a human body and examine the insides
Key people		20. Theory of Opposites	The idea of balancing the humours to make a person well e.g. too much phlegm could be cured by eating hot peppers.
4. Hippocrates	A Greek doctor who suggested the body is made up of Four Humours. He believed that if they became unbalanced a person would become ill.	21. Fasting	To avoid eating or drinking
5. Galen	A Greek doctor who developed the Theory of the Four Humours and added his own ideas, the 'Theory of Opposites' to heal illness.	22. Pilgrimage	A journey to a religious shrine and relics to show your love of God and to cure an illness
Key events		23. Purging	Emetics were given to make you vomit, and laxatives to empty your bowels. This was meant to 'flush out' the body.
6. The Black Death, 1348	An epidemic of the bubonic plague	24. Bloodletting	A treatment to balance the humours. It could be done by leeching, cupping or cutting a vein
Key vocabulary		25. Herbal remedy	Medicines made from plants. A common herbal remedy was theriaca.
7. Cause (of illness)	The reason why someone becomes ill	26. Amulet	A charm that people bought to protect from disease
8. Treatment	Methods used to make a sick person well again	27. Regimen Sanitatis	A list of instructions given by a physician that gave advice about hygiene and diet.
9. Prevention	Methods used to stop people becoming ill	28. Physician	A medically trained doctor
10. Diagnosis	Methods used to find out what illness a person has.	29. Apothecary	Someone who mixed and sold herbal remedies
11. The Four Humours	Black Bile, Yellow Bile, Blood and Phlegm. Hippocrates believed that if these humours became unbalanced you would get ill.	30. Barber Surgeon	An untrained surgeon who performed small surgeries such as pulling teeth and bleeding
12. Miasma	Bad air filled with harmful fumes. It came from swamps, corpses and other rotting things and breathing it in made people ill.	31. Wise woman	A female healer, who used herbal remedies to cure illnesses.
13. Astrology	The study of the planets and their effect on humans	32. Epidemic	When an infectious disease is widespread in an area at a particular time
14. Supernatural	A belief, not based on knowledge, e.g. witchcraft or astrology	33. Flagellant	People who whipped themselves to show God how sorry they were in an attempt to prevent the plague
15. The Church	In medieval times this meant the Roman Catholic Church. It taught that illness was a punishment for sin.	34. Quarantine	Separating the sick from the healthy to stop the spread of disease
16. Leprosy	A disease that was included in the Bible as an example of punishment for sin. This was a painful skin disease for which there was no cure.		