

GCSE Paper 1 - Renaissance Medicine, c1500 - c1700 Knowledge Organiser

Rationale: Medicine in Britain, c1250 - present will be examined on Paper 1. The topic is divided into four sections, the second of which is medicine in the Renaissance period. You will learn about the extent to which ideas about the causes of disease and illness were beginning to change, how disease and illness was treated and how people tried to prevent disease and illness. There will be a focus on the reasons for progress in medicine during this period and areas of change and continuity.

Key concepts		Key vocabulary	
1. Progress	When something improves over a period of time	20. The Church	This meant the Roman Catholic Church. The idea that illness was a punishment for sin was less popular idea in this period.
2. Change	Differences between different periods of the past	21. Reformation	New Protestant ideas challenged the Catholic Church which led to the Church having less influence on medicine.
3. Continuity	Things that stay the same in different periods of the past	22. Purging	Emetics were given to make you vomit, and laxatives to empty your bowels. This was meant to 'flush out' the body.
4. Similarity	Something that is the same or similar to something else	23. Bloodletting	A treatment to balance the humours. It could be done by leeching, cupping or cutting a vein
5. Difference	Something that is different to something else	24. Herbal remedy	Medicines made from plants. New ingredients were used.
Key people		25. Transference	An illness or disease could be transferred to something else e.g. rubbing warts with an onion to get rid of them.
6. Andreas Vesalius	Published <i>On the Fabric of the Human Body</i> in 1543. Promoted dissection and the study of anatomy.	26. Iatrochemistry	The use of chemicals to cure disease e.g. antimony which promotes sweating.
7. William Harvey	Published <i>An Anatomical Account of the Motion of the Heart and Blood in Animals</i> in 1628. Discovered that the heart pumped blood around the body.	27. Regimen Sanitatis	A list of instructions given by a physician that gave advice about hygiene and diet.
8. Thomas Sydenham	Promoted more scientific methods of diagnosis. Published <i>Observationes Medicae</i> in 1676.	28. Pest House	Hospitals that specialised in one disease e.g. the plague.
9. Leeuwenhoek	Discovered "animalcules" through a microscope in 1683. He was looking at bacteria.	29. Physician	A medically trained doctor
Key events		30. Apothecary	Someone who mixed and sold herbal remedies
10. The Great Plague, 1666	An epidemic of the bubonic plague	31. Surgeon	Carried out simple operations but now needed a licence to do so.
Key vocabulary		32. Wise woman	A female healer, who used herbal remedies to cure illnesses.
11. Renaissance	A period when new ideas were beginning to influence medicine.	33. Dissection	To cut open a human body and examine the insides
12. Cause (of illness)	The reason why someone becomes ill	34. Anatomy	The study of the human body
13. Treatment	Methods used to make a sick person well again	35. Microscope	A new invention that allowed things to be magnified and so more easily seen.
14. Prevention	Methods used to stop people becoming ill	36. Royal Society	An important group of scientists who met to discuss ideas and carry out experiments. It was founded in 1660.
15. Diagnosis	Methods used to find out what illness a person has.	37. Printing press	A machine for printing text or pictures.
16. Symptoms	A problem that indicates a person has a disease or illness	38. Fugitive sheets	Copies of pictures from medical books for students who could not afford the whole book
17. The Four Humours	The belief that unbalanced humours made a person ill was becoming less popular in this period.	39. Epidemic	When an infectious disease is widespread in an area at a particular time
18. Miasma	Bad air filled with harmful fumes that made people ill was still a popular idea.	40. Plague doctor	Treated plague victims, wore special costumes to avoid catching the plague
19. Supernatural	The belief that the alignment of planets could make you ill was becoming less popular in this period.	41. Quarantine	Separating the sick from the healthy to stop the spread of disease