

## Paper 2 - Britain: Health and the People c1000 – Present Day (Medicine)

In this 'How To' guide, I'll briefly run through how we should approach each question in the America paper. I've included some model answers so you can see what a good one looks like.

### Question 1

How useful is Source A to an historian studying \_\_\_\_\_? [8 marks]

How to answer:

- 8 marks = 10 minutes
- Two paragraphs using COOP;
  - Content: Why the source is useful for what it says/shows
  - Own knowledge: x2 facts that support the content of the source
  - Origin: Why the source is useful because of who made it and when
  - Purpose: Why the source is useful because of why it was made
- Overall: This source is useful because...

Example answer:

**Question: How useful is Source A to an historian studying medieval understanding about the causes of illness and disease?**

Source A is useful as it shows us that medieval understanding about the causes of disease was basic. The source shows a urine chart that was used by doctors to diagnose illness. Doctors examined, smelt and even tasted patient's urine and then compared this to the images and text on the outside of the chart to determine which humour was out of balance in their patient. In the Middle Ages people believed the body was made up of 4 humours, blood, black bile, yellow bile and phlegm, and if these humours were imbalanced then a person would fall ill. This theory was first created by Hippocrates in ancient Greece and was developed by Galen in ancient Rome. The theory was beneficial as it argued for a natural cause of disease, but at the same time it was damaging as it was believed by people for thousands even though it was incorrect.

The source was created in 1400s, which is useful as it shows us people continued to believe in the 4 humours at this time. Additionally, it was published in a book used to train doctors. This is useful as it shows even the most qualified medical professionals during the Middle Ages only had a limited understanding of disease. Overall the source is useful for an historian studying the understating of about disease in the Middle Ages as it shows us a method used to determine illness and highlights the key belief that explains this method.



#### **Source A**

Source A is a medieval urine chart. The sources comes from a book that published in the 1400s and was used to train doctor's how to determine what disease a patient may have.

### Question 2:

**Explain the significance of \_\_\_\_\_. [8 marks]**

**How to answer:**

- 2 PEEL paragraphs – 10 mins
  - Paragraph 1 – significance at the time (Short term)
  - Paragraph 2 – long term significance + judgement of overall significance
- This could be about an individual, event or even an idea.
- Ensure your work uses the wording of the question.

**Levels of significance**

- Essential
- Hugely
- Greatly
- Very
- Moderately
- Somewhat
- Not very
- Insignificant

**Example answer:**

**Question: Explain the significance of Harvey's discoveries for the development of surgery.**

One-way Harvey was significant during his lifetime was that he challenged the views of Galen. Galen believed that blood was burned up as energy and was created in the liver. Harvey used his scientific approach of observation and experimentation in order to prove his own theory that blood was circulated around the body driven by the heart. For example, by dissecting humans and performing vivisections on animals. This was significant at the time as it revolutionised understanding about the importance of the heart, and within 50 years his ideas were taught at universities. However, the significance of his work at the time is limited by the fact that many famous doctors around Europe rejected his ideas because they still believed Galen's theory was correct.

Harvey's discovery was important in the long term for improving diagnosis and treatment. Blood tests are an essential means for us to diagnose illness today and this would not be possible unless we understood that blood circulated around the body. Treatments such as blood transfusion and heart transplants are only possible now because Harvey was able to prove the role of the heart in pumping blood around the body. Overall, Harvey's work is hugely significant to the development of surgery. Whilst in the short term his theories weren't accept by all, it wasn't long before the medical profession accepted them and they became central for diagnosis and treatment as scientists built on Harvey's work.

### Question 3:

Compare \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ in what ways were they similar? [8 marks]

#### How to answer:

- 2 PEEL paragraphs – 10 minutes.
- You need to compare the events or people on TWO issues.
  - 1 paragraph on each issue.
- DO NOT just describe what happened in each event/what each person did.
- The best answers will have a few concluding sentences on how similar/different they are overall.
- Use phrases that directly compare the time periods e.g. “In the Renaissance they believed...this is similar to...”, “In modern times we still use...”, “This is just like medieval times when...”

#### Example answer:

**Question: Compare the Black Death in the Middle Ages with the cholera epidemics in the 19th century. In what ways were they similar?**

The cities in both the 19th Century cholera epidemic and Medieval Black Death were extremely dirty. This dirt was the prime cause of both epidemics – dirty water being the cause of cholera and dirty streets attracting the rats that were infested with Black Death carrying fleas. However, with both diseases people didn't know the true cause (not until John Snow made the link between cholera and dirty water). Instead for both diseases they believed in causes such as miasmas and God punishing people. This caused thousands of people to die in both epidemics.

Even though both epidemics caused a huge loss of life, there were some positive outcomes that improved people's living and working conditions. Following the Black Death, surviving peasants were able to demand better rights and higher wages from the lords. This was because their labour was in demand due to so many peasants being killed by the Black Death, particularly in farming where peasants knew that the lords were desperate to get their harvests in. Similarly, following the cholera outbreak, the Government passed the first Public Health Act of 1848 which was then followed up by the improved 1875 Public Health Act. Both acts worked to improve the conditions of the poor, though everybody benefitted in the long run because they ended laissez-faire thinking and encouraged the government to act in public health, leading to later developments like the founding of the NHS.

#### Question 4:

Has \_\_\_\_\_ been the main factor in the development of \_\_\_\_\_ in Britain since Medieval times?  
Explain your answer with reference to \_\_\_\_\_ and other factors. [16 marks + 4 SPAG marks]

#### How to answer:

- The factor could be any of;
  - Government
  - Attitudes
  - Religion
  - Luck
  - Individuals
  - Communication
  - Science and Technology
  - War
- The theme will be either;
  - Medicine
  - Surgery
  - Public Health
  - Treatment of Disease.
- **You must discuss all four time periods at least once throughout your essay.**

#### The structure should be;

- Short intro – 2 sentences stating your judgement.
- E.g. “individual was the most important as without the discoveries of individuals, governments would not have had the knowledge to base their reforms on”
- 3 extended PEEL paragraphs are needed.
- Finally, a conclusion evaluating the factors you have explained
- E.g. “Government was an important factor in the development of public health, however the factor of the individual was more important

**Example answer (you would need to do at least 1 other paragraph of the standard below + a conclusion in the exam):**

**Question: Has the factor of the individual been the main factor in the development of Public Health in Britain since Medieval times?**

Whilst the individual was hugely important in progressing Public Health, the most important factor in developing better Public health was government.

Individuals were important in the development of public health as their discoveries allowed us to make improvements. In the Middle Ages, individuals damaged public health by dumping waste in rivers and in the streets as they lacked understanding of what caused disease. This created a breeding ground for disease and is part of the reason the Black death 1348 was so deadly. During the Renaissance, this changed as individuals helped Public Health by setting up Hospitals e.g. Guy’s in London, which had fully trained doctors who distributed free medicines. This helped reduce the spread of disease but the biggest action of individuals was in the 19th century when individuals made discoveries that revolutionized our knowledge on public health. Chadwick’s 1842 report showed that poor living conditions were the reason for life expectancy being so low in cities (15 in Liverpool) and Snow’s mapping of cholera deaths in Broad Street showed the link between dirty water and cholera. This connection was finally proven by Pasteur’s germ theory 1861 as his experiments in the alcohol industry proved that it was germs that caused disease. This majorly improved public health as thanks to these discoveries people understood the need to avoid waste and act in a more hygienic manner.