Britain: Health and the People, c1000-present

Causes of Disease

Treatments of disease

Surgery

**Public Health**

Draw me like one of your French girls

**Thematic Review**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme** | **Medieval period**c.1000 - 1500 | **Renaissance period**1500 - 1800 | **19th century**1800 - 1900 | **20th century**1900 to present |
| War | * Common in medieval times
* Cauterisation of wounds
* Wine used as an antiseptic to clean wounds
* Army surgeons became very adept at carrying out amputations
* New tools, e.g. the arrow cup (designed to remove an arrow-head form the body without causing further damage)
 | * Battle of Milan (1536) – Paré acted as a surgeon. Pare uses his own ointments to treat wounds (oil, egg white, rose oil and turpentine) rather than hot oil.
 | * Crimean War – role of Florence Nightingale who later had an impact on the sanitation of hospitals.
* Franco-Prussian war – Pasteur and Koch funded by French and German governments to develop germ theory and vaccinations as part of a competition between the two countries.
 | * Boer War – army were alarmed by 4/10 young men who volunteered were unfit
* First World War – treatment for shell shock, blood transfusions carried out, plastic surgery to reconstruct disfigurements, techniques used to repair broken bones
* Second World War – heart surgery, drug development (penicillin), NHS followed
 |
| Superstition and religion | * Ideas of the Four Humours
* Bloodletting
* Christian ideas of pilgrimage and treating the sick with rest and prayers
* Crusades – led to the sharing of ideas (Ibn Sina, Al Razi and Avicenna)
* **Monasteries – their design promoted better health and hygiene**
* Black Death – many thought it was sent as a punishment from God. Some churchmen deserted their villages which damaged the reputation of the church
* Idea of miasma causing illness
* The Church controlled the universities where doctors were trained.
 | * Great Plague (1665) – still seen as a punishment from God
* Quackery – increased in the 17th and 18th centuries
 |  | * Use of holistic medicine to treat illnesses – hydrotherapy, aromatherapy, hypnotherapy and acupuncture
 |
| Chance |  | * Discovery of rose oil, egg white and turpentine which was used on cauterised wounds by Parè
 | * 1879 – Pasteur investigated chicken cholera which led to the discovery of how vaccines worked
* ‘**The Great Stink’ 1858 – prompted the government to take action against disease in London -> sewer system introduced**
 | * Discovery of penicillin by Fleming in 1928
 |
| Government | * **Town councils introduced laws encouraging people to keep the streets in front of their houses clean and to remove rubbish**
* **Parliament passed a law (1388) which fined people £20 for throwing ‘dung, garbage and entrails’ into ditches, rivers and ponds.**
* **Black Death – introduced quarantine measures**
* **Some towns e.g. Coventry established waste disposal sites**
 | * Great Plague – more organised approach by the government to deal with the problems e.g. quarantine, stopping trade between infected towns
 | * **Chadwick Report**
* **Boards of Health set up**
* **1848 – First Public Health Act**
* **1867 – working class men were given the vote**
* **1875 – Second Public Health Act**
* **Bazalgette was given £3 million (£1 billion today) to build sewers in London**
 | * **1906 – School Meals Act – poor children got a free meal**
* **National Insurance Act – unemployment benefit**
* **Old Age pension introduced**
* **NHS introduced 1948**
* **Reports written by Booth and Rowntree to advise the government**
* **Beveridge Report 1942**
* **Increased spending on research and care e.g. breast and cervical screening programmes**
 |
| Communication | * Crusades – led to the sharing of ideas particularly from Islamic doctors
* Hippocratic collection and works of Galen still used and popular.
 | * Printing press developed
* Improved travel brought new herbs to Britain
 |  | * New ideas spread rapidly due to television, news media and the internet
 |
| Science and technology |  | * Gunpowder developed – injured soldiers got new wounds requiring treatment
* Vaccination vs inoculation – smallpox
* Use of microscopes - 1677
 | * Anaesthetics – nitrous oxide, ether and chloroform
* Microscopes used to challenge the idea of spontaneous generation
* Germ theory – swan neck experiment
* Use of antiseptics – carbolic acid
* Aseptic surgery
* Stethoscope invented in Paris in 1816
* X-ray machine invented in 1895

Invention of the steam steriliser | * Mass production of antibiotics – penicillin
* 1953 – DNA
* 1978 – IVF
* 1980 – smallpox declared eradicated
* Key hole surgery
* Radiation therapy
* Surgery using lasers
 |
| The role of the individual | * Hippocrates – 4 humours. Promoted natural treatments for illness.
* Galen – 4 humours.
* Al-Razi – known as the Galen of Islam.
* Avicenna (aka Ibn Sina) – began to challenge Galen. Due to the crusades, Muslim ideas spread slowly across Western Europe.
 | * Vesalius – human anatomy
* Paré – surgery during war – ligatures
* Harvey – circulation of blood
* Hunter – dissection and anatomical research
* Jenner – vaccination for smallpox
 | * Simpson – chloroform (dosage by Snow)
* Pasteur – Germ theory
* Lister – antiseptics e.g Carbolic Acid.
* Koch – bacteriology
* **John Snow – cholera outbreak**
* Ehrlich – magic bullets – treatment for syphilis
 | * Fleming, Florey and Chain – penicillin
* Crick and Watson - DNA
 |