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 |