

## Thematic studies Course Outline

### 2A Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day



This thematic study will enable you to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. It considers the causes, scale, nature and consequences of short and long term developments, their impact on British society and how they were related to the key features and characteristics of the periods during which they took place.

You will have the opportunity to see how some ideas and events in the wider world affected Britain and will promote the idea that key themes did not develop in isolation, but linked to other events happening at the time

You will study the importance of the following factors:

- war
- superstition and religion
- chance
- government
- communication
- science and technology
- the role of the individual in encouraging or inhibiting change.

You will develop an understanding of the varying rate of change, why change happened when it did, whether change brought progress, and the significance of the change(s). They should also be able to distinguish between different types of causes and consequences, such as short/long-term causes, intended/unintended consequences.

This option focuses on the following questions:

- Why has there been progress in the health of the British people?
- How and why has the pace and scale of medical development varied at different times?
- What impact has medical progress had on people and society?
- How and why have different factors been more important than others for individual medical developments?
  - What is the significance of key individuals or events in the history of medical development?

#### Part one: Medicine stands still

- Medieval medicine: approaches including natural, supernatural, ideas of Hippocratic and Galenic methods and treatments; the medieval doctor; training, beliefs about cause of illness.
- Medical progress: the contribution of Christianity to medical progress and treatment; hospitals; the nature and importance of Islamic medicine and surgery; surgery in medieval times, ideas and techniques.
- Public health in the Middle Ages: towns and monasteries; the Black Death in Britain, beliefs about its causes, treatment and prevention.

#### Part two: The beginnings of change

- The impact of the Renaissance on Britain: challenge to medical authority in anatomy, physiology and surgery; the work of Vesalius, Paré, William Harvey; opposition to change.
- Dealing with disease: traditional and new methods of treatments; quackery; methods of treating disease; plague; the growth of hospitals; changes to the training and status of surgeons and physicians; the work of John Hunter.
- Prevention of disease: inoculation; Edward Jenner, vaccination and opposition to change.

### Part three: A revolution in medicine

- The development of Germ Theory and its impact on the treatment of disease in Britain: the importance of Pasteur, Robert Koch and microbe hunting; Pasteur and vaccination; Paul Ehrlich and magic bullets; everyday medical treatments and remedies.
- A revolution in surgery: anaesthetics, including Simpson and chloroform; antiseptics, including Lister and carbolic acid; surgical procedures; aseptic surgery.
- Improvements in public health: public health problems in industrial Britain; cholera epidemics;
- the role of public health reformers; local and national government involvement in public health improvement, including the 1848 and 1875 Public Health Acts.

### Part four: Modern medicine

- Modern treatment of disease: the development of the pharmaceutical industry; penicillin, its discovery by Fleming, its development; new diseases and treatments, antibiotic resistance; alternative treatments.
- The impact of war and technology on surgery: plastic surgery; blood transfusions; X-rays; transplantsurgery; modern surgical methods, including lasers, radiation therapy and keyhole surgery.
- Modern public health: the importance of Booth, Rowntree, and the Boer War; the Liberal social reforms; the impact of two world wars on public health, poverty and housing; the Beveridge Report and the Welfare State; creation and development of the National Health Service; costs, choices and the issues of healthcare in the 21st century.

Revision:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zqtqfrd> - from Medieval history onwards