

KEY WORDS

Apothecaries: People who mixed herbal remedies and had good knowledge of the healing powers of plants.

Astrology: The study of the alignment of the planets and stars, used for diagnosing illness. Many people believed the Black Death was caused by a bad alignment of the planets.

Barber surgeon: Barbers worked with sharp knives and, as well as cutting hair, they often performed surgical procedures. Barbers would do surgery and not physicians.

The Black Death: An outbreak of the bubonic plague, spread by fleas on rats. Usually fatal within 3-5 days.

The four humours: The theory that ill health is caused by an imbalance of the four humours in the body. These are blood, phlegm (what is coughed up or sneezed out of the nose), black bile (excrement) and yellow bile (pus or vomit).

Mass: Roman Catholic service where bread and wine is given.

Miasma: Smells from decaying matter that were believed to cause disease.

Phlebotomy or bloodletting: A common treatment for imbalance of the humours. This was done by cutting a vein, using leeches or cupping (piercing the skin with a knife).

Purging: Inducing people to vomit or giving them a laxative to clear out their digestive system; used to balance out the humours.

Regimen Sanitatis: A set of instructions by physicians to help a patient maintain good health. This would have included bathing, not over-eating and taking moderate exercise.

Supernatural cures: Religious cures such as healing prayers, paying for a mass, fasting and going on pilgrimages.

Urine charts: Physicians would examine people's urine, checking colour, thickness, smell (and even taste) to diagnose illness.

Trephination/Trepanning: Cutting a hole in the skull to release evil spirits/pressure.

Amputation: Cutting off a limb.

Cauterisation: Burning a wound shut, often with a hot iron.

Gongfermer: A person who was hired to empty cesspits.

Infirmary: An area in a monastery where monks would care for the sick.

Leprosy: A disease which can cause damage to the skin and limbs.

Bubo: A swelling in the armpit or groin.

Epidemic: A widespread outbreak of one disease.

Pneumonic: Something which affects the lungs.

Factors Question

Factors: War, Communication, Individual Genius, Religion, Government, Chance, Science and Technology

1) Was the wealth of the monastery the main factor in keeping monks healthy in Medieval England?

Medicine stands still: Medieval

KEY INDIVIDUALS

De Chauliac: Wrote Great Surgery. Criticised Theodoric of Lucca's ideas about pus. Ideas were influential.

Frugardi: Wrote The Practice of Surgery. Argued against trepanning.

Theodoric of Lucca: Disagreed with Galen's ideas about pus. Argued that it was not needed for a wound to heal. Used wine as an early antiseptic. Ideas not influential (due to criticising Galen and de Chauliac's book).

John of Arderne: Wrote Practica. Army surgeon during Hundred Years War. Used opium as an early anaesthetic. Created Guild of Surgeons, 1348.

Mondino: Wrote Anathomia (about anatomy) after a public dissection in Bologna.

Roger Bacon: Was an English Franciscan friar, philosopher, scientist and scholar of the 13th century who suggested that doctors should do their own research instead of accepting what Galen had said, church leaders put him in prison for heresy.

Source Type

Author

Date

Purpose



Source B: A medieval woodcut (c. 1480) showing two men performing flagellants on themselves during the Black Death.



Significance Question (8 marks)

- 1) Explain the significance of the work of John Arderne on the development of medicine.
- 2) Explain the significance of the Black Death on Public Health.

Comparison Question (8 marks)

- 1) Compare public health in a Medieval town with public health in a Medieval Monastery. In what ways are they different?

Source Usefulness Question (8 marks)

- 1) How useful is Source B to a historian studying how people tried to treat or prevent themselves for getting the plague during the Black Death?

Key Events Timeline

KEY:

Surgery

Public Health

Disease

Factors



War



Religion



Chance



Communication



Government



Science and Technology



Individual Genius

Dealing with Pain

Some herbal anaesthetics, such as mandrake, opium and hemlock were used. However, dosages were difficult to get right, making their use dangerous. Usually the patient was held down and operations were performed as quickly as possible.

Hugh and Theodoric of Lucca's (1267)

Father and son's book criticising encouraging the formation of pus in wounds was published.

De Chauliac (1363)

His famous textbook '*Great Surgery*' dominated English and French surgical knowledge for 200 years.

The Black Death in England (1348-1350)

The Black Death was an epidemic which killed 1.5 million people in Britain between 1348 and 1350. It is actually two diseases, the pneumonic plague and the bubonic plague.

What people thought caused it:

People at the time were completely wrong about what caused the Black Death. Most of their explanations focused on supernatural causes. People thought causes included: The position of stars and the planets (astrology). Jews poisoning wells. God punishing people for their sins. Bad air (miasma)

John of Arderne (1363)

Published his surgical manual '*Practica*' which contained illustrations of his operations and instruments. And in 1368 created the Guild of Surgeons within the city of London.

(1066)

The Norman Invasion of Britain. (and an increase in the building of monasteries.)

Urine Charts (1250)

Doctors use urine charts, they believed the colour of urine and their pulse to determine patients illnesses.

1000

1200

1400

Surgical Training

Barber surgeons were surgeons who learned through apprenticeships and who didn't go to university. Many surgeons gained experience on the battlefield as field surgeons.

1100

Frugardi (1180)

Wrote a textbook on surgery called '*The Practice of Surgery*'.

Dealing with Blood Loss

Most major wounds were closed using cauterisation which was extremely painful

Eagle (1230)

'*Compendium Medicine*' is written by Gilbert Eagle – a comprehensive English medical textbook blending European and Arab knowledge of medicine.

1300

Mondino (1316)

Mondino's dissection manual '*Anathomia*' was published.

The Black Death in England (1348-1350)

Individual people:

'Cures' for the Black Death were ineffective. They included: drinking mercury, self-flagellation (not popular in England), popping buboes, praying, avoiding sin, attacking Jews (not in Britain), fleeing to the countryside.

Government:

Local councils tried to quarantine infected areas. King Edward III ordered church services and prayers every day where people would ask forgiveness from God. King Edward III tried to have streets in London cleaned to remove bad smells.

Available Treatment

Trephination was sometimes used as a treatment for epilepsy. Most ordinary people avoided surgery as much as possible. Battlefield surgery usually involved amputation..

The Church and Roger Bacon (1200's)

The Church was willing to take steps to silence people who challenged Galen: Roger Bacon was imprisoned in the 1200s for suggesting that doctors should do their own research.

(1250-1530)

Saw the growth of towns and cities in England as the population in England grew. Towns became overcrowded and disease spread quickly.