

The beginning of Change: Renaissance

KEY WORDS

- Monastery:** A closed religious community where monks live.
- Field Surgeon:** A surgeon who works on the battlefield.
- Anatomy:** The knowledge of the body and how it works.
- Dissection:** Cutting up the body in order to find out or explain how it works.
- Anaesthetics:** Something which makes a patient unconscious or causes insensitivity to pain.
- Antiseptics:** Something which destroys germs.
- Investigative dissection:** Dissecting the body in order to make new discoveries, rather than to just prove Galen right.
- Realism:** A style of art, popular in the Renaissance, which tried to make art close to real life.
- Ligature:** A thread which is used to tie a blood vessel closed.
- Cauterisation:** Burning a wound in order to close it and stop blood loss. In the Renaissance this was done with a hot iron.
- Prosthetic limb:** A fake limb.
- Exile:** When a person is banned from a town or country.
- Mercury:** A metal which is poisonous to humans, often causing insanity and death.
- Syphilis:** A sexually transmitted disease which can cause painful rashes and sores.
- The scientific method:** A way of making discoveries where someone has an idea, tests it, and then comes to a conclusion based on the results, rather than personal opinion.
- Blood letting:** Removing blood from the body to balance the four humours.
- Epidemic:** A widespread outbreak of one disease.
- Pomander:** A ball, sometimes worn around the neck, which contained sweet smelling herbs.
- Miasma:** The belief that bad smells cause disease.
- Bills of Mortality:** Documents which show how many people died from which causes within a certain time period.
- Leeches:** A bloodsucking worm which was used to balance the four humours.
- Quarantine:** When people are isolated to make sure they can't spread diseases.

Factors Question (16 marks + 4 SPaG)

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

- 1) Has the role of communication been the main factor in the development of medicine in Britain during the Renaissance period?

KEY INDIVIDUALS

- Galen:** Physician in ancient Rome who developed Hippocrates' theories further (e.g. The Theory of Opposites) and wrote more than 350 books about medicine. Many of his ideas were disproved during the Renaissance.
- Vesalius:** The most famous anatomist of this period: disproved many of Galen's ideas and encouraged doctors to base their work on dissection rather than believing old books.
- Pare:** Battlefield surgeon who ran out of boiling oil so moved away from cauterization of wounds.
- Harvey:** Responsible for discovering the theory of circulation of blood around the body.
- Paracelsus:** Swiss scientist who rejected the Theory of the Four Humours and saw disease as something separate from the body, which needed to be attacked.
- Sydenham:** Known as 'The English Hippocrates'. Sydenham refused to rely on medical books when diagnosing a patient's illness and made a point of closely observing their symptoms and treating the disease causing them. Sydenham laid the foundation for a more scientific approach to medicine from the 18th century onwards.

- Source Type
Author
Date
Purpose



Source A: The front cover of Vesalius' book 'The Fabric of the Human Body' published in 1543. It was published with high quality illustrations. Medical students used his book to teach them about the anatomy of the human body.

Comparison Question (8 marks)

- 1) Compare Medieval anatomy with Renaissance anatomy. In what ways were they different?

Source Usefulness Question (8 marks)

- 1) How useful is Source A to a historian studying the impact of Versailles on Medicine?

Significance Question (8 marks)

- 1) Explain the significance of the work of William Harvey for the development of surgery.

Key Events Timeline

KEY:

Surgery

Public Health

Disease

Factors



War



Religion



Chance



Communication



Government



Science and Technology



Individual Genius

Military technology

New military technology, such as gunpowder and canons meant that soldiers got new wounds. Field surgeons had to develop new techniques to treat them.



The Printing Press was invented (1440)



Pare (1537)

Creates his antiseptic ointment of egg whites, turpentine and rose oil whilst on the battlefield.



Harvey (1632)

Publishes his book 'On the motion of the heart in blood and animals', about the circulatory system.



King Charles II (2nd – 6th February 1685)

The King fell ill from syphilis, he was given 58 drugs, and was purged, bled, blistered and cauterized. He still died as they didn't know how to treat him.



The Great Plague (June – November 1665)

The epidemic spread across London because of filthy conditions and fleas on rats. 100,000 Londoners died (1 in 5 people).
Causes: Religion and the Supernatural (less believed than the Black Death), Punishment from God, Miasma, Cats, Jews



1400

Columbus 'discovers' the New World ,the Americas (1429)

Explorers and voyages of discovery brought back new natural medicines.



Realism in Art

Realism was a movement which tried to make art as realistic as possible. This allowed for the creation of accurate anatomical diagrams, allowing people to learn about the human body without as much dissection.



Paracelsus (1538)

He is expelled from Basil for openly disagreeing with Galen and Sina and publically burning their books.



Vesalius (1543)

Publishes his book 'On the Fabric of the Human Body' which explains his surgical discoveries that disprove some of Galen's theories.



The Reformation (1517 onward)

As many countries and people broke from the Catholic Church, people became willing to question traditional ideas and to experiment. The scientific method developed as people tested new ideas.



1600

The Great Plague (June – November 1665)

Treatments : Theory of Transference, Lancing Buboes, Herbal Remedies, Blood-letting.
Prevention:
Physicians' advice: Pray, repent, quarantine family members, carry a pomander to drive away miasma, various diets and special costumes for plague doctors.
Advice from other healers: Many people turned to local healers to help ward off the plague. Recipes for 'plague water' were popular, as were traditional herbal recipes.
Government action: The government did more this time! They made people fast, banned public meetings and large funerals, closed theatres, killed cats and dogs, appointed searchers and wardens, stopped trade, had fires on street corners.



Sydenham (1676)

Publishes his book 'Medical Observations', in which he criticised quack medicine and stressed the importance of observation of symptoms.

