

History of Medicine Revision Checklist

This is a basic guide to the knowledge you need for your History of Medicine exam. You should supplement it with the resources shared by your teacher. Try and build up with firstly a few facts or ideas for each bullet point, and then add more later. When you have revised a topic, tick it off, but make sure you revisit it before the exam.

Medieval c.1250-c.1500

1. Medieval ideas about causes of illness: natural, supernatural. Classical thinking and influences on ideas about causes.
2. Medieval approaches to prevention and treatment: religious, humoral. Medieval medics.
3. Case study: Dealing with the Black Death.

Renaissance c.1500-c.1700

1. Ideas about the causes of illness: change and continuity with Medieval.

Humanism, Thomas Sydenham, improved communications

The Royal Society

2. Approaches to prevention and treatment: change and continuity with Medieval. Chemical cures.
3. Medical care: change and continuity.
4. Andreas Vesalius
5. William Harvey
6. Dealing with the Great Plague in London 1665

18th and 19th Century Britain

1. Causes of disease and illness: Continuity and change with Renaissance.

Germ Theory, Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch

Factors affecting understanding of causes of illness

2. Approaches to prevention and treatment. Improvements in hospitals and Florence Nightingale.
3. Improvements in surgical treatment. James Simpson, Joseph Lister
4. Case study: Jenner and smallpox
5. Vaccination after smallpox
6. Public Health Acts
7. Fighting Cholera in London and John Snow 1854

c1900-present: Medicine in Modern Britain

1. Ideas about causes of illness and disease: genetics, Crick and Watson.

Lifestyle and health

Improvements in technology in diagnosis

2. Approaches to prevention and treatment. Magic Bullets, development of antibiotics. Impact of science and technology on medicines.
3. Impact of the NHS on Medical care. High-tech treatments in hospitals.

Improved extent and access of care.

Prevention: new methods including public health campaigns, mass vaccinations.

4. Fleming, Florey & Chain and Penicillin.
5. The fight against lung cancer

The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918; Injuries, treatments and the trenches.

1. Medical context: use of aseptic surgery and X-Rays, blood transfusion,
2. Context of the Western Front, trenches and battles.

Difficulties of transport, communications

3. Conditions requiring treatment on the Western Front: rifle wounds, shrapnel, gas.
4. The RAMC and FANY and the stages of treatment.
5. Significance of the Western Front for experiments in surgery and treatment.