

WJEC GCSE HISTORY OF MEDICINE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which Welsh trading port first experienced the Black Death?**
 - A. Swansea
 - B. Haverfordwest
 - C. Cardiff
 - D. Wrexham

- 2. Who was the Minister of Health who set up the NHS?**
 - A. Clement Attlee
 - B. Aneurin Bevan
 - C. Harold Wilson
 - D. James Callaghan

- 3. Who had the first sterilised operating theatre (aseptic surgery)?**
 - A. Robert Koch
 - B. Charles Chamberland
 - C. Berkeley Moynihan
 - D. Gustav Neuber

- 4. Which of the following was NOT among the Beveridge Report's five evil giants?**
 - A. Idleness
 - B. Disease
 - C. Ignorance
 - D. Poverty

- 5. What method, encouraged by Lady Montagu, was used to prevent smallpox before vaccination?**
 - A. Inoculation
 - B. Vaccination
 - C. Quarantine
 - D. Herbal remedies

- 6. What did the Great Stink trigger and who made it?**
- A. Sewage system by Isambard Kingdom Brunel
 - B. Water treatment by Louis Pasteur
 - C. Sewage canal by George Stephenson
 - D. Sewage system by Joseph Bazalgette
- 7. Paré is famous for which surgical development?**
- A. Used ligatures to tie wounds
 - B. Invented anesthesia
 - C. Developed antiseptics
 - D. Pioneered blood transfusion
- 8. What was the cottage hospital movement in the 1860s?**
- A. Small hospitals in rural areas
 - B. Large urban hospitals expansion
 - C. Military field hospitals only
 - D. University hospitals
- 9. Medieval doctors sometimes used the alignment of stars and planets to inform the timing of their treatments. What was this called?**
- A. Astronomy
 - B. Astrology
 - C. Alchemy
 - D. Numerology
- 10. The Theory of Opposites posits that treatment uses opposites to counterbalance symptoms.**
- A. Vaccination
 - B. Germ theory
 - C. Using opposites to counterbalance symptoms
 - D. Spiritual healing

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. A
6. D
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. Which Welsh trading port first experienced the Black Death?

- A. Swansea
- B. Haverfordwest**
- C. Cardiff
- D. Wrexham

The spread of the Black Death followed medieval trade routes, so the disease reached new areas first through port towns where ships from infected regions docked and rats with fleas could disembark. Haverfordwest, a busy Welsh trading port on the coast, is recorded as the first Welsh town hit by the plague, which fits this pattern of maritime entry. Because coastal ports were the initial entry points, inland or differently positioned towns like Wrexham, and other coastal towns such as Swansea or Cardiff, were affected later as the disease moved along trade networks. So choosing Haverfordwest reflects the logic that the plague first arrived in Welsh maritime hubs before spreading further inland.

2. Who was the Minister of Health who set up the NHS?

- A. Clement Attlee
- B. Aneurin Bevan**
- C. Harold Wilson
- D. James Callaghan

The key idea is identifying who led the creation of the NHS within the postwar Labour government. Aneurin Bevan, as Secretary of State for Health, drove the plan to unite hospitals and provide care funded by taxation and free at the point of use. He pushed this through under Prime Minister Clement Attlee, and the NHS began in 1948. The other figures listed were Prime Ministers in different periods, not the Health Minister responsible for setting up the NHS. That association is why the name most closely linked to founding the NHS is Aneurin Bevan.

3. Who had the first sterilised operating theatre (aseptic surgery)?

- A. Robert Koch
- B. Charles Chamberland
- C. Berkeley Moynihan
- D. Gustav Neuber**

The idea being tested is how a true sterile operating environment was first created to prevent infection during surgery. Gustav Neuber is the person who established the first sterilised operating theatre in the 1880s, in Hamburg. He showed that not only the instruments and the surgeon's technique mattered, but the entire room and setup did too. His approach included a dedicated sterile theatre, careful preparation, and methods to keep the environment free from germs, which laid the foundations for modern aseptic surgery. The other figures contributed important advances—germ theory, filtration and sterilization techniques, and later improvements in surgical hygiene—but they did not inaugurate the first sterilised operating theatre.

4. Which of the following was NOT among the Beveridge Report's five evil giants?

- A. Idleness
- B. Disease
- C. Ignorance
- D. Poverty**

The question tests your recall of the Beveridge Report's five "giant evils." Beveridge identified Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor, and Idleness as the main threats to welfare. Poverty isn't listed as one of the five; it's what Want represents. So the option that denotes Poverty isn't one of the giants, while the others (Disease, Ignorance, Idleness) are. Want is the term used in the report to describe the deprivation poverty implies, which is why Poverty is the correct choice for not being among the five.

5. What method, encouraged by Lady Montagu, was used to prevent smallpox before vaccination?

- A. Inoculation**
- B. Vaccination
- C. Quarantine
- D. Herbal remedies

The method is inoculation, also known as variolation. It involved taking material from a smallpox case and introducing it into a healthy person, usually by a small scratch on the arm. This caused a mild infection that trained the immune system to resist future smallpox, offering protection with a lower risk than catching the disease naturally. Lady Montagu popularised this approach in Britain after seeing it in the Ottoman Empire and having her own children inoculated, which helped persuade others to try it. It wasn't without risk—some people could still develop serious smallpox or transmit it to others—but it laid the groundwork for immunity before the later, safer vaccination using cowpox. Quarantine and herbal remedies don't produce immunity, making inoculation the best fit for the question.

6. What did the Great Stink trigger and who made it?

- A. Sewage system by Isambard Kingdom Brunel
- B. Water treatment by Louis Pasteur
- C. Sewage canal by George Stephenson
- D. Sewage system by Joseph Bazalgette**

The main idea is how a public health crisis can drive a major urban sanitation project. The Great Stink in 1858, driven by a hot summer and a Thames polluted with sewage, was so overpowering that Parliament could hardly meet. That pressure pushed authorities to reform London's drains, leading to the construction of a comprehensive sewer system designed by Joseph Bazalgette. His plan created intercepting sewers and long-distance routes that carried waste away from the city to treatment works along the river, dramatically improving public health and laying the foundations for modern urban sanitation. The other figures are associated with different innovations: Brunel with railways and bridges, Pasteur with germ theory and pasteurization, and Stephenson with early steam locomotives, not sewer design.

7. Paré is famous for which surgical development?

A. Used ligatures to tie wounds

B. Invented anesthesia

C. Developed antiseptics

D. Pioneered blood transfusion

Paré's fame comes from introducing ligatures to tie bleeding vessels during surgery. He showed that securing arteries with sutures stopped bleeding more reliably than the older method of cauterizing wounds with a hot instrument. This approach to controlling bleeding dramatically improved wound survival and surgical outcomes, marking a major shift in operative technique. The other developments—in anesthesia, antiseptics, and blood transfusion—came later in history, by different pioneers, so they aren't what Paré is known for.

8. What was the cottage hospital movement in the 1860s?

A. Small hospitals in rural areas

B. Large urban hospitals expansion

C. Military field hospitals only

D. University hospitals

The main idea behind the cottage hospital movement is that it created small, locally located hospitals to serve people in rural areas. In the 1860s, reformers and philanthropists pushed for hospitals that could be built in villages or near rural districts, funded by subscriptions and local communities rather than by a central city hospital system. These cottages provided basic medical and some surgical care close to where people lived, reducing the need to travel long distances to urban hospitals. They were modest in size, often with only a few beds, and staffed by doctors and nurses trained in hospital methods, aiming to improve rural access to treatment and relieve overcrowding in larger urban institutions. This focus on small, community-based care in the countryside is what makes the description of cottage hospitals as small hospitals in rural areas the best fit.

9. Medieval doctors sometimes used the alignment of stars and planets to inform the timing of their treatments. What was this called?

A. Astronomy

B. Astrology

C. Alchemy

D. Numerology

The main idea here is that medieval physicians often believed that the heavens could influence human health and the timing of medical actions. Using the alignment of stars and planets to decide when to treat a patient is astrology, specifically a form called medical astrology. It wasn't about naming astronomical objects or studying their motions scientifically; it was the idea that cosmic arrangements could guide when to bleed, purify, or administer remedies. This differs from astronomy, which is the science of observing and understanding celestial bodies. Alchemy is about transforming substances and seeking magical purification or transmutation, and numerology is about numbers having mystical significance. So the practice of timing medical interventions based on celestial positions fits astrology, not the other fields.

10. The Theory of Opposites posits that treatment uses opposites to counterbalance symptoms.

- A. Vaccination
- B. Germ theory
- C. Using opposites to counterbalance symptoms**
- D. Spiritual healing

The main idea here is balancing the body by using the opposite quality to counteract a symptom. In ancient and medieval medical thinking, illness was seen as an excess of a particular quality (like hot or dry), and remedies aimed to restore harmony by applying the opposite quality (cooling for heat, moisture for dryness, and so on). This underpins the Theory of Opposites: treatments are chosen to counterbalance what's out of balance, with practices such as diet, regimens, and procedures like purging or bleeding used to reestablish equilibrium. The other options describe different ideas about disease—vaccination develops immunity, germ theory explains causes, and spiritual healing relies on non-physical remedies—so they don't fit the concept of balancing qualities with opposites.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

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We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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