

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**General Certificate of Secondary Education**

**HISTORY A (SCHOOLS HISTORY PROJECT)**

**1935/21**

**PAPER 2 (Medicine Through Time)**

Thursday

**15 JUNE 2006**

Morning

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional material:

8-page answer booklet

**TIME** 1 hour 30 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Write your name, Centre number and candidate number on the answer booklet.
- Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Write your answers, in blue or black ink, in the answer booklet.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what to do before you start your answer.
- Write the numbers of the questions you answer in the box on the front of the answer booklet.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

- The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part-question.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **50**.

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**This question paper consists of 6 printed pages.**

**FOLD OUT THIS PAGE**

**Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.**

**In answering the questions, you will need to use your knowledge of the topic to interpret and evaluate the sources. When you are asked to use specific sources you must do so, but you may also use any of the other sources if they are relevant.**

**Answer ALL the questions.**

**1** Study Source A.

How useful is this source to an historian studying nineteenth-century cholera? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

**2** Study Sources A and B.

How different are these two sources? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [6]

**3** Study Sources A, B and C.

How far does Source C prove that what Source A says about the spread of cholera is correct and what Source B says is incorrect? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [10]

**4** Study Source D.

Why do you think this cartoon was published in 1866? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

**5** Study Sources E and F.

Are you surprised by what these sources say? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

**6** Study **all** the sources.

'In the nineteenth century people accepted that cholera was spread by drinking contaminated water.'

How far do the sources on this paper support that view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. Remember to identify the sources you use. [10]

**MEDICINE IN THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES: PUBLIC HEALTH****JOHN SNOW AND THE CAUSES OF CHOLERA****Background Information**

In the nineteenth century there were four major cholera epidemics in Britain. The first arrived in 1831 and resulted in 32 000 deaths. In 1848/9 a second epidemic killed 62 000 people, with a further 20 000 dying in the third outbreak in 1853/4. The final epidemic in 1866/7 resulted in 14 000 deaths.

There were many different ideas of the cause of cholera. One man who understood that cholera spread through drinking contaminated water was John Snow. However, not everyone agreed with what he said.

**SOURCE A**

If cholera could spread only in the ways we have been considering, it would mostly affect the poor. But there is another way for it to spread. This is by cholera-infected sewage mixing with drinking water. This happens either by the sewage soaking through the ground and getting into wells or by running into the rivers which supply towns with water.

The most terrible outbreak of cholera was in Broad Street, London, where five hundred people died of cholera in 10 days. On going to the spot I discovered that nearly all the deaths had taken place within a short distance of the much-used pump in Broad St. There had been no serious outbreak of cholera in this part of London, except among the people who drank water from this pump.

*From a book written by John Snow in 1855. Snow was a doctor whose surgery was in Broad Street. He had investigated the causes of cholera and first suggested that it was a water-borne disease in 1849.*

**SOURCE B**

If the Broad Street pump did actually become a source of disease to persons dwelling nearby, we believe that this may have been simply because the impure waters infected the air in that district. On the evidence, it seems likely that when cholera broke out in London it was more to do with the air than water.

*From the report of the Committee for the Scientific Enquiry into the Recent Cholera Epidemic, published in 1855.*

## SOURCE C

Company supplying water	Where the company got its water from	Number of deaths per 1000 customers in 1854
Southwark Water Company	River Thames in London, close to an outflowing sewer	130
Lambeth Water Company	River Thames, up-river from the London sewers.	37

*The results of a survey carried out by John Simon, Medical Officer of Health to the City of London. Simon's survey covered 500 000 people living in south London and was published in 1856. Lambeth and Southwark are both in south London.*

## SOURCE D



*A cartoon from a magazine published in 1866. The caption of the cartoon reads 'Death's Dispensary – Open to the poor for free'.*

## SOURCE E

I am sorry to say that religion has become neglected these last three years. But this cholera is sent to stir the people up. It appears to me that the Lord is punishing us as a nation for our sins. It ravages more especially the drunkards and the Sabbath breakers.

From a letter written by a Leeds merchant in 1832.

## SOURCE F

Before the cholera two-thirds of the people in the town never went to church. Now the congregation is so numerous that they can scarcely find standing room in the Church.

A comment by a vicar in York in 1832.

## SOURCE G

It is now almost certain that a contaminated water supply is the main cause of the most terrible epidemic outbreaks of cholera and other diseases.

Dr Snow identified this cause some years ago, but was not able to provide proof of his theory. However, since then, a number of experiments and much new evidence has established as almost certain that his bold theory was substantially correct.

From the annual report of the government Chief Medical Officer of Health, John Simon,  
written in 1870.