

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION HISTORY A (SCHOOLS HISTORY PROJECT)

A952/21

Developments in British Medicine, 1200–1945



Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

• 8 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required: None Tuesday 15 June 2010 Afternoon

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet.
- Use black ink.
- Read each question carefully and make sure you know what to do before starting your answer.
- Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You are advised to spend at least ten minutes doing this.
- Answer all the questions.
- Write the numbers of the questions you have answered in the box on the front of the answer booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

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**.
- This document consists of **10** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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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 evaluate 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.

What can we learn about quack doctors from this source? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [6]

2 Study Source B.

Are you surprised by what this patient said to Dr Strachan? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

3 Study Source C.

How useful is this source as evidence about quack doctors? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

4 Study Sources D and E.

How similar are these two sources? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [9]

5 Study Source F.

Does this source prove that quack doctors were unpopular in the eighteenth century? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [9]

6 Study all the sources, A to G.

'Quack doctors made little contribution to caring for the sick in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.'

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

Quack Doctors

What contribution did quack doctors make to caring for the sick?

Background Information

The period from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century was a successful time for quack doctors in Britain. They could be found in large towns, fairs and markets across the country selling potions and cures. They put on travelling shows, designed to entertain their audiences and, at the same time, advertise their products. They were despised by many regular doctors. People used quacks as experienced doctors had little idea of what caused diseases. In spite of their ineffectiveness, quacks survived because people who were desperately ill would try anything to save themselves.

So what contribution did quack doctors make to caring for the sick?

SOURCE A



A painting of a travelling quack doctor from around 1800.

The man who came to see Dr Strachan of Clackmannan, Scotland, in 1861 was one of many poor patients who were suffering from leg ulcers. The doctor recorded that his patient had seen many doctors, and had tried all Holloway's ointments. [Holloway's ointments were 'cure-all' medicines advertised and sold widely by quack doctors.] Dr Strachan examined him and with great difficulty got him a larger allowance from the poor fund. Some of his friends assisted him and gradually improved his diet and hygiene. As soon as the man's system got into good condition the ulcers began to heal and the poor man was restored to health and fit for work.

When the man next met Dr Strachan he informed him that he was getting on very well. 'Well, doctor, I tell you what it was that cured my legs, and it will be useful to other folk. It was just spiders' webs. Jenny Donald [a local quack doctor] advised me to try them, and they cured my legs at once.'

From a history book published in 1971.

SOURCE C

Quack:

- 1. A boastful pretender to skills which he does not understand.
- 2. A vain boastful pretender to medicine, one who advertises his own medical abilities in public places.
- 3. A sly, tricking practitioner in medicine.

Definitions of the word 'quack' from a dictionary published in 1755.

Quacks sell poisons and not cures. Worse still, they trick the public by keeping their ingredients secret, so people cannot even tell what dross they are swallowing. In claiming spectacular cures, quacks make a great fuss reporting the miraculous recovery of their patients, such as Lady A and Lord B; but all these stories are false. It is lucky for quacks that dead men tell no tales.

From a book written by a doctor in 1790.

SOURCE E

SEE SIRS, see here! A doctor rare, Who travels much at home! Here take my bills, I cure all ills, Past, present and to come; I soon remove The pains of love, And cure the love-sick maid: The hot, the cold, The young, the old, The living and the dead. This with a kick Will do your work And cure you o'er and o'er. Read, judge and try, And if you die Never believe me more.

From a song in a show in London, first performed in 1705. It was a long running show and the songs were printed and sold separately.



A cartoon from 1798. A travelling medicine seller and his assistants are being pelted with stones by the audience.

SOURCE G

By 1800 people continued to use remedies bought from shops, 'patent' medicines or 'curealls'. These made little or no contribution to the improvement of health but were cheaper than prescriptions from regular doctors. People also continued to visit quacks. One reason for this was that qualified doctors could not cure many illnesses. In the 1850s James Ward [a quack doctor] set up in Leeds as a 'cancer curer' using herbal remedies. He was criticised by local doctors but challenged them to a contest, each to treat twenty patients. No doctor took up his challenge. Even though they thought Ward's remedies were useless they knew that their own more scientific methods were no better.

From a school textbook published in 1996.

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