

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

A952/21

**HISTORY A
(SCHOOLS HISTORY PROJECT)**

**Historical Source Investigation
Developments in British Medicine, 1200–1945**

SOURCE BOOKLET

TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2011: Afternoon

DURATION: 1 hour 30 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the answer booklet.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

**8 page answer booklet
(sent with general stationery)**

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- **Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.**
- **Use black ink.**
- **Read each question carefully. Make sure you know what you have to do before starting your answer.**
- **Study the Background Information and the sources carefully. You should spend at least ten minutes doing this.**
- **Answer ALL the questions.**

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.**

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOSPITALS AND CARING FOR THE ILL IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS MARY SEACOLE?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mary Seacole was born in 1805 in Jamaica. Her mother ran a boarding house for sick soldiers where Mary helped to care for the patients. In 1854 she went to England and told the British Government she was willing to go to the Crimea as a nurse. She was rejected.

She did not give up and made her own way to the Crimea at her own expense. She set up a medical store and hostel (which she called the 'British Hotel') where soldiers could obtain medicines. She also tended the wounded on the battlefield and the troops called her 'Mother Seacole'. She met Florence Nightingale on several occasions but Florence did not invite her to join her team of nurses.

In 1856 Mary returned to England. She went bankrupt and received some sympathy from The Times newspaper and Punch magazine. A four day festival was organised for her benefit in 1857. In the same year, she published her life story to raise money. She was quite well off when she died, but no-one in the medical profession had made use of her nursing skills since the Crimean War.

How successful was Mary Seacole?

SOURCE A

I was generally up and busy before daybreak. There was plenty to do before the work of the day began. There was the poultry to pluck and prepare for cooking, which had been killed on the previous night; the meat to be cut up and got ready; the medicines to be mixed; the store to be swept and cleaned. By 7 o'clock the morning coffee would be ready. From that time until 9 o'clock officers would look in for breakfast. About half past nine my sick patients began to appear. In the following hour they came thick and fast and sometimes it was past 12 o'clock before I had got through this duty. The cases I most disliked were the frostbitten fingers and feet in winter.

An extract from Mary Seacole's autobiography, 'The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole', published in 1857.

SOURCE B

In the hour of their illness, these men have found a kind and successful nurse, a Mrs Seacole. She is from Kingston (Jamaica) and she treats and cures all kinds of men with extraordinary success. She is always in attendance near the battlefield to aid the wounded and she has earned the thanks of many poor fellows.

From an article in The Times newspaper in September 1855 written by W. H. Russell. He sent regular reports to the newspaper from the Crimea.

SOURCE C

The British Hotel was the setting for private and often riotous parties late into the night – often in the company of Mrs Seacole. Sometimes, I turned up for cigars at half past one in the morning and was always made welcome. The best was saved for those who could afford to pay the most. This was how Mrs Seacole made enough money to be able to pay for the food and drink she gave free to the wounded soldiers in the front line.

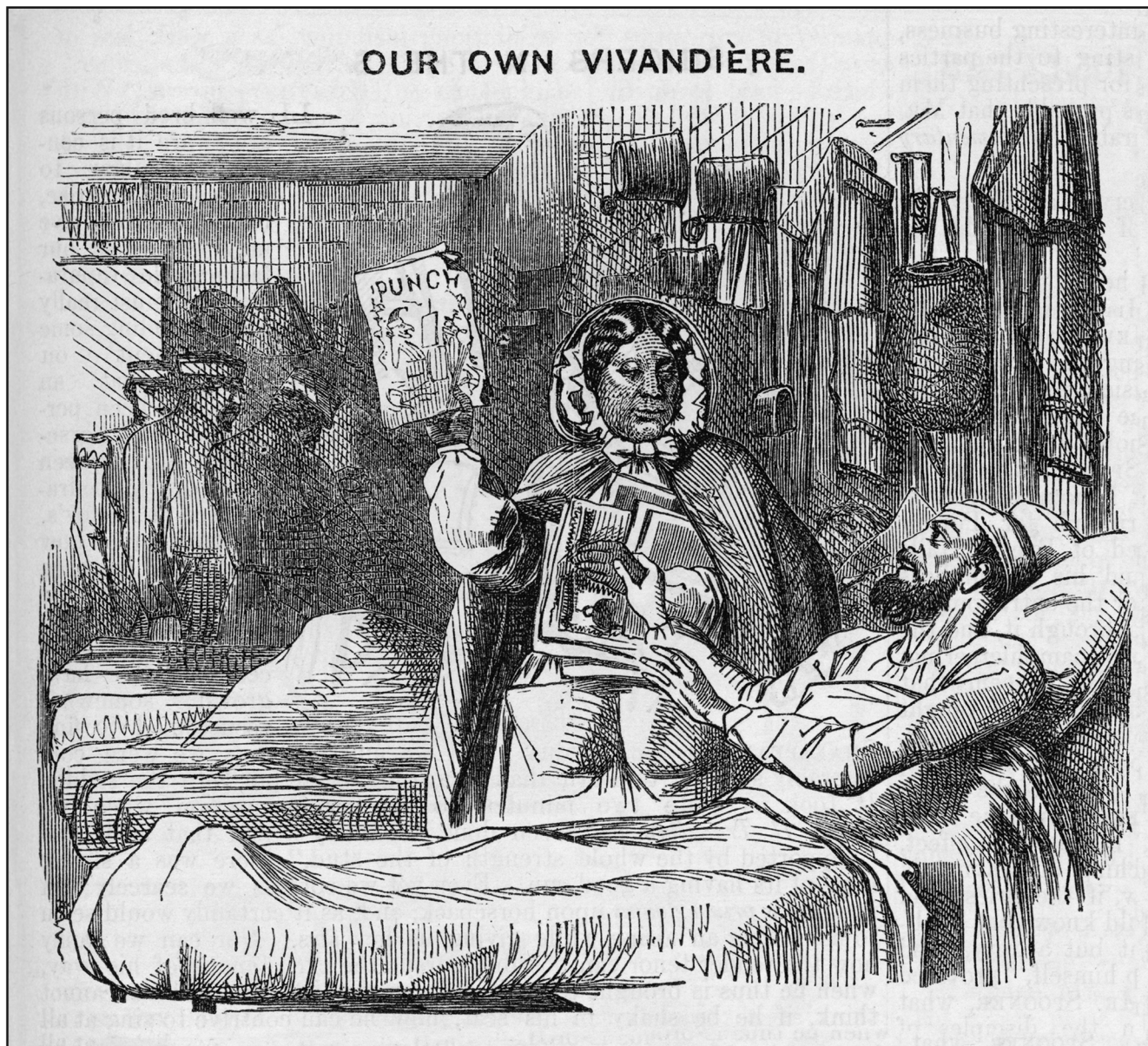
The memories of a British army officer during the Crimean War.

SOURCE D

At eight o'clock the day's labour ended at the British Hotel. Then I could sit down and eat at leisure. We were determined to stick to the rule that nothing should be sold after that hour. Anyone who came after that time came simply as a friend. Drunkenness or excess were discouraged in every way. I did not allow drunkenness among the men or gambling among the officers.

An extract from Mary Seacole's autobiography, 'The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole', published in 1857.

SOURCE E



An illustration from 'Punch' magazine published in 1857. It is titled, 'Our own Vivandière'. It shows a black woman wearing a cloak and an apron and carrying magazines. She is offering a copy of 'Punch' magazine to an injured man who is lying propped up by pillows in a hospital bed. The man has reached out to touch her arm. 'Vivandière' is a name for a woman attached to military regiments who sold wine to the troops and sometimes acted as a nurse on the battlefield.

SOURCE F

BURN

Mrs Seacole

In the Crimea she kept – I will not call it a ‘bad house’ but something very similar to it. She was very kind to the men and, what is more, to the officers – and did some good – but made many drunk. When we established our own hospitals in the Crimea I had the greatest difficulty in preventing any association between her nurses and mine (absolutely out of the question). Anyone who employs Mrs Seacole will introduce much kindness, but also much drunkenness and improper conduct.

From a letter written by Florence Nightingale to her brother-in-law, Sir Harry Verney, in 1870. This part of the letter had ‘Burn’ written at the top because Florence Nightingale wanted her brother-in-law to destroy it after he had read it. A ‘bad house’ was a popular name at that time for a brothel.

SOURCE G

I find our desperation to win the arm wrestle with Florence Nightingale sad. We want heroes and heroines at any cost. We read what we want in Mary Seacole's life and carefully miss some key facts. The championing of Mary Seacole is stupid. Seacole's position in the curriculum is misleading to pupils who now view her as the key figure in nursing from the nineteenth century. This is insulting to Florence Nightingale.

From an article in a magazine published in 2009.



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