

# **MEDICINE THROUGH TIME 1800-2000 INTERACTIVE**

## **Sample Answer Written by a Year 10 pupil**

### **Why was there so much progress in medicine between 1850 and 1950? [15 marks]**

Medicine made huge advances in the period 1850-1950. Huge progress was made in curing diseases, surgery and public health. There were many reasons for this including individual brilliance of scientists, new technology, an increased role for government and the impact of war. I will develop these reasons in the next paragraph.

After the Cholera epidemics of 1832 and 1848, the government took the advice of Edwin Chadwick and a series of new acts were passed including the Public Health Acts of 1848 and 1875. The Liberal Reforms between 1906 and 1918 also improved people's lives with the National Insurance Act of 1911 and Old Age Pensions. This was a huge step forwards at the time, however, there were still problems. The amount of money spent was limited and there was still a lot of poverty. At the end of the war a Labour government was voted into power. They set up the National Health Service to which everybody contributed in their taxes and from which everybody could get free treatment. People's health improved dramatically. 1870s Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch establish the germ theory of disease. Doctors now knew that disease was caused by specific germs. This led to the first vaccine for cholera, anthrax and in 1882 rabies.

When Emil von Behring discovered antitoxins this moved medicine even closer to finding cures for infectious diseases. Many new drugs were developed including the first magic bullet Salvarsan 606 by Ehrlich and in 1928 Penicillin which was discovered in 1928 by Alexander Fleming. Prevention of disease became a key reason for the rise in the average life expectancy from 47 to 75 years.

Surgery also made great advances with the use of antiseptics and anaesthetics. Developments in surgery were helped by science and technology. For example the chemical industry supported the work of Ehrlich and Domagk with the discovery of Prontosil. Technological advances led to the development of X-rays in 1895, an improved microscope and new machinery for diagnosing disease and treating it.

War was another factor that led to progress in medicine between 1850 and 1950.

Thanks to World War I, somebody had the idea of separating the plasma from the rest of the blood so that blood could be stored effectively and given to patients who needed it after operations. World War 2 encouraged Florey and Chain to find a way of mass producing Penicillin.

Chance did play a part in the progress in medicine but overall the most important reason for the rapid developments between 1850 and 1950 was the brilliance of individuals like Pasteur, Koch and Fleming who used the support given by governments and the new technologies to make important discoveries that other were able to build on.

## Peer Assessment Sample Answer Mark Grid

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<u>What to look for</u>	✓ ☒	<u>What to look for</u>	✓ ☒	<u>Your overall Assessment</u>
Is there an introduction and conclusion?		Does it reach the word limit of at least 400 words?		<p style="color: red; text-align: center;"><b><u>Study the mark scheme carefully</u></b></p> <p>1. What was good about the answer?</p> <p>2. What level would you award this answer at?</p> <p>3. What mark within the level would you give it?</p> <p>4. Say why you gave it this level and mark?</p> <p>5. How would you improve this answer?</p>
Does it mention a range of factors that contributed to progress in medicine 1850-1950?		Are paragraphs (rather than lists, headings or bullet points) used?		
Does it give reasons why progress was made between 1850 and 1950?		Does it use correct spelling, punctuation and grammar?		
Is there at least one example of explanation?		Does it provide detailed factual evidence (e.g. dates, names of individuals, references to specific events)?		