



# Castle View Academy

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Subject: history GCSE Medicine - Paper 1

Year: 10

Class: 10H1A

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Wed P2  
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Thursday 24th September 2020

## Medieval medicine - change + continuity

- 1 Religion
- 2 Science
- 3 technology
- 4 war
- 5 communication
- 6 government
- 7 individuals
- 8 chance.

↙ factors that effect change.

GCSE question:

Explain why there was continuity in ideas about the cause of disease during the period. c1250 - c1500

You may use

- the church + Galen

You must use information of your own. 12 marks.

- miasma, astrology, four humours. ✓

There was <sup>a lot of</sup> continuity in the ideas about the cause of disease during c1250 - c1500. From my own knowledge, one factor which contributed to the lack of progress was miasmata (or miasma). Miasma was believed was bad air or smells which many medieval people believed was filled with harmful fumes which caused disease. Both Hippocrates and Galen (respected physicians) wrote about miasmata and suggested it that ~~miasma~~ it could be coming from rotting matter, swamps or corpses. Miasmata was also associated with God and the church as cleanliness and sweet-smelling things were a sign of spiritual cleanliness and purity. Therefore the theory of miasma went unchallenged, although it was completely <sup>inaccurate</sup> wrong. This is just one reason for



## Definitions

**Noun:** a word that names an object, idea, person, place, etc. (e.g. 'Black Death', 'disease', 'town').

**Noun phrase:** a phrase including a noun and any words that modify its meaning (e.g. 'the king of England').

**Verb:** words that describe actions ('Galen developed a theory'), incidents ('The disease spread') and situations ('Galen's theory lasted for centuries').

**Subject-verb construction:** A noun or noun phrase combined with a verb that tells you what the subject did or is doing.

## How can I make sure I am answering the question?

Look at this exam-style question in which key **nouns**, **noun phrases** and **verbs** are highlighted:

Explain why there was continuity in ideas about the cause of disease during the period c1250-c1500. (12 marks)

Now look at the first two sentences from two different responses to this question below.

### Answer A

Although the Church controlled medical learning, Galen's ideas on the cause of disease were accepted. Galen's ideas fitted in with the ideas of the Church.

### Answer B

Galen developed the Theory of Opposites. He also believed in the idea of a soul.

1. a. Which answer signals most clearly that it is going to answer the question?

b. Write a sentence or two explaining your choice.

2. Now look at this exam-style question:

Explain **one** way in which people's reactions to the plague were similar in the 14th and 17th centuries. (4 marks)

a. Which are the key nouns, noun phrases and verbs in this question? Note them down.

b. Write the first two sentences of your response to this question.

c. In your opening sentences highlight any key words from the question. Have you used them all? If not, try rewriting your sentences, including all the words and phrases to signal that your response is answering the question clearly.

continuity during the medieval period.

Another factor which contributed to a lack of progress was the church. For instance one of the most ~~wide~~ widely believed <sup>theories</sup> theory of what caused disease, was ~~that~~ that God sent <sup>illness</sup> disease as a punishment for sin. The church, during this time, was very powerful and nearly everyone was religious which meant everybody believed what the church said. The church also ~~said~~ controlled medical learning and chose which books were copied and distributed. Therefore any theory

theories ~~challenged~~ challenging the church or which didn't fit in with religion were simply not copied. ~~strongly discouraged~~. simply not copied. This meant that no new scientific discoveries were ~~at~~ published, and which ~~was~~ lead to continuity.

The final factor, that I will be discussing, that contributed to a lack of change during <sup>the</sup> medieval period was a physician called Galen. Galen developed the Theory of the Four Humours, written by Hippocrates, even further and invented the theory of opposites. The idea of the theory of opposites was that if you had too much phlegm which linked to ~~wind~~ winter and cold you would need something hot to rebalance the humours and therefore make you better. Although the church controlled medical learning, Galen's ideas of what caused disease were accepted as Galen believed that the body had a soul and because most of his ideas fitted with the ideas of the church. This was the main reason Galen and his theories went unchallenged for a long time as it was seen that if you challenged Galen you were also going against the church. This was another reason that there was a lack of progress during this period.

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Excellent detail + explanation Well done!