

Knowledge Organiser: Knowledge Organiser: Medieval Medicine (c1250-c1500)

There was little scientific knowledge in medieval England as medicine was dominated by the Church, who used the ancient texts of Hippocrates and Galen to explain why people caught diseases. People believed God could send disease as a punishment for sinful behaviour. Only in times of terrible disease such as during the Black Death, did people start to question the authority of the Church on matters of medicine.

Summarise your learning

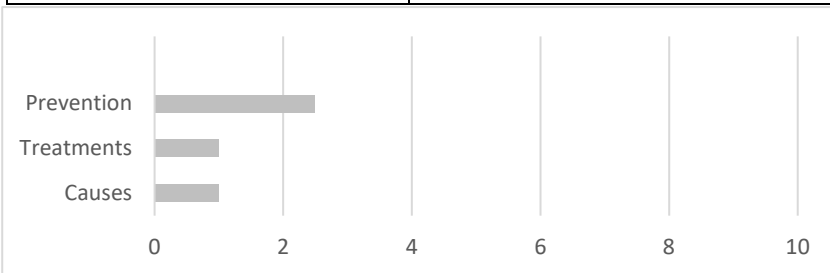
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God • An imbalance of the humours • Astrology • Miasma
Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uroscopy (using urine charts to test for disease) • Astrology charts • Observation
Prevention	<p>Superstitious/religious methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living a good Christian life – prayer, going to church • Flagellation (whipping of the human body as a punishment for committing sins) • Carrying charms or sweet smelling herbs <p>Logical methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood-letting • Cleaning the air/streets • Exercise
Treatments	<p>Superstitious/religious methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer and fasting • Pilgrimage • Superstition – e.g. a magpie's beak around your neck to cure toothache <p>Logical methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood-letting and purging • Barber surgeons • Traditional remedies – e.g. ointments applied to the skin

Chronology: what happened on these dates?	
1348	The Black Death arrives in England and kills 40% of the population.
1400	There were 500 hospitals in Britain.
1440	Johannes Gutenberg creates the world's first printing press.

Who were these people?	
Hippocrates	Ancient Greek physician who created the Theory of the Four Humours (the theory that ill health is caused by an imbalance of the Four Humours in the body (blood, phlegm, black bile and yellow bile).
Galen	Physician in ancient Rome who developed Hippocrates' theories further and wrote more than 350 books about medicine. His teachings were promoted by the Church because they fitted with Christian ideology.



Change and Continuity	
Change	Continuity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was some progress in surgery because it relied on practical experience and was outside the control of the Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of Hippocrates and Galen on the Theory of the Four Humours was still followed, including the Theory of Opposites and blood-letting.



Vocabulary: define these words	
Malnutrition	An illness caused by lack of food.
Famine	Food shortage, usually due to bad harvests
Paralysis	Being unable to move either all or part of your body as a result of illness, poison or injury.
Diagnosing	Deciding what is wrong with a patient by considering different symptoms. Physicians could also consider star charts to diagnose an illness.
Physician	Someone who practices medicine. A medieval physician did not have to have the same level of training as a modern physician.
Vivisection	Criminals sentenced to death by vivisection had their bodies cut open (dissected) and examined by physicians and medical students.
Barber Surgeon	Barbers worked with sharp knives, so as well as cutting hair, they also carried out medical procedures such as blood-letting. Over time, they took on smaller surgeries.
Mass	Roman Catholic service where bread and wine is given, Catholics believe that this involves a miracle: the bread and wine is turned into the body and blood of Christ
Pilgrimage	A journey to an important religious monument, shrine or place.
Humoural	Based on the idea that every individual has humours. Illness occurs when these humours are out of balance because of diet, lifestyle or environment
Dysentery	Very severe diarrhoea.
Penance	A punishment inflicted on yourself to show that you are sorry for your sins.
Scourge	A whip or lash used to inflict severe corporal punishment.
Quarantine	A period of isolation to control the spread of infectious disease.

