

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

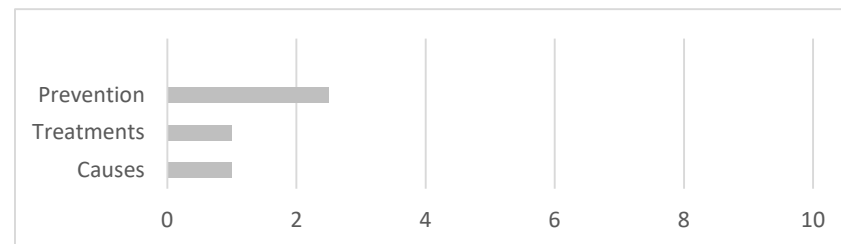
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God's punishment for sin An imbalance of the four humours Astrology - - the movement of the stars and planets Miasma – bad air
Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uroscopy (using urine charts to test for disease) Astrology charts to diagnose and time treatments. Observation – relating to the four humours
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 – visiting a holy place 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 like foods to rebalance humours, or 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	
Apothecary	A pharmacist or chemist.
Astrology	The study of planets and how they might influence the lives of people.
Superstitious	Unreasonable belief based on ignorance and sometimes fear.
Flagellants	People who whip themselves to show God they had repented their sins and asked God to be merciful.
Miasma	Smells from decomposing material were believed to cause disease.
Uroscopy	Study of urine samples to diagnose disease.
Purging	Vomiting or using laxatives to re-balance the four humours.
Bloodletting	Opening a vein or applying leeches to draw blood from a patient.
Plague	Killer disease which became a pandemic throughout Europe.
Four Humours	Based on the idea that every individual has humours (blood, phlegm, yellow bile, black bile). Illness occurs when these humours are out of balance because of diet, lifestyle or environment