

NST2BBS

Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Paper 65: Early Medicine

Also Paper 11 in HST2 & HSP2 Historical Tripos Part II

You should answer three questions. All questions carry equal weighting.

You should spend no more than three hours on answering all the questions, and a word limit is set of no more than 1,500 words per answer.

All your answers for this paper should be submitted in one DOC, DOCX or PDF document. Each answer should be clearly headed with the question number and the question.

Put your Blind Grade Number (BGN) at the start of the document. Do not put your name anywhere in the document.

1. What was the difference between a “rational physician” and a “quack” in early modern Europe?
2. Is it possible to write histories of the experiences of health and healing of people in the past who did not write things down? Provide at least three examples.
3. “Images and objects made medicine more ‘objective’.” How true is this of early modern medical knowledge in Europe?
4. How did specific substances, for example theriac, asafetida, or snakestones, reflect foreign influences on Chinese medicine in the imperial period?
5. Why are the emotions part of the history of pre-modern medicine?
6. What was the Black Death, and how has the way in which scholars have studied it changed over the past three decades?
7. Why did Europeans seek out drugs from distant lands?
8. “Early modern collections were reflections of how their owners sought to appear.” Discuss.
9. How did changes in the publishing industry in the Ming and Qing dynasties affect the history of medicine in imperial China?

10. How did chemical knowledge transform medical practice in early modern Europe?
11. How did images shape European perceptions of distant natural worlds in the early modern period?
12. Why did early modern medical practitioners keep written records of their cases?

END OF PAPER