

Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine SAMPLE PAPER

Please answer four questions, at least one from each section

Ethics of Medicine

1. Is there any justification for causing terminally ill patients to die?
2. Are informed consent procedures necessary to maintain trust in medicine?
3. Which ethical principles are relevant to the distribution of scarce medical resources?
4. Should smokers be treated for lung cancer?
5. Do scientists solve problems of inductive risk?
6. Should we allow patents for new pharmaceuticals?

Philosophy of Medicine

7. "Randomised controlled trials are necessary and sufficient for justifying causal inferences in medicine". Do you agree?
8. Are animal models reliable guides for making inferences about humans?
9. How can we infer causal claims from statistical data?
10. Can medicine ever be "personalised"?
11. Can we ever quantify the quality of healthcare?
12. Should policy makers value health states in terms of preferences?

SPECIMEN PAPER FOR 2017

Biological and Biomedical Sciences Subject 113: Early Medicine

*Answer **three** questions. All questions carry equal weighting.*

1. Was prognosis more important than diagnosis for medieval practitioners and patients?
2. Were sites of learning or sites of practice more important to medieval science and medicine?
3. How and to what extent did institutional change drive change in medicine in medieval and/or early modern Europe?
4. Was humanism the primary driver of medical innovation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?
5. How far did new ingredients and the rise of advertising change the practice of medicine in early modern Europe?
6. Could early modern people understand the structure of the human body through the study of printed images?
7. Do available sources give us more information about the experiences of early modern patients or of practitioners?
8. What was the relevance of astronomical books and instruments for medical practitioners?

SPECIMEN PAPER FOR 2017

Biological and Biomedical Sciences Subject 114: Modern Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Answer **three** questions. All questions carry equal weighting.

1. “The innovations credited to the post-revolutionary Paris clinical school were not nearly so revolutionary as historians have claimed.” Do you agree?
2. “The rise of medicine as a profession in the mid-nineteenth century sounded the death knell for women’s participation in healing practices.” Assess this claim.
3. To what extent did the rise of experimental physiology depend on institutions outside the laboratory?
4. X-rays and cinema were invented in the same year: 1895. Outline and explain their divergent careers in medicine and in public culture.
5. How and with what consequences did methods of assessing the safety and effectiveness of pharmaceuticals change in the twentieth century?
6. Why was there so much optimism about the power of medical science to improve health after World War II? When and why did this optimism decline?
7. “The most significant modern interventions in human reproduction were more social than technical.” Assess this claim.
8. How did decolonization in the twentieth century affect medicine and public health in former European colonies?