

NST2BBS

Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Paper 45: Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine

You should answer four questions in total; at least one from Section A and at least one from Section B. 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, so no more than 6,000 words for the whole paper.

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.

SECTION A: Philosophy of Medicine

1. The WHO says that health is “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. Do you agree?
2. What kind of evidence is needed to infer reliably whether a drug is effective or not?
3. Under what conditions is some physical state a disease?
4. Should medical interventions be protected by patent law?
5. Do Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs) and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) measure health?
6. Does taking the perspectives of people with disabilities undermine the utility of measures such as the QALY and DALY?

SECTION B: Ethics of Medicine

7. Is there anything wrong, morally speaking, with interfering in the human germline?
8. What form of value, if any, attaches to human embryos?
9. What is the therapeutic misconception, and does it pose problems for the ethics of consent?
10. Would it be paternalistic to ban the advertising of alcohol?
11. Can social interactions guarantee objectivity?
12. Can scientific justification be “value-free”? Does this matter?

END OF PAPER

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, so no more than 4,500 words for the whole paper.

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. How useful are visual sources in understanding early medical knowledge and practice?
2. How and why were the non-naturals important in early medicine?
3. Account for the longevity of astrology as a guiding principle of healing.
4. Were hospitals or households the most important places for healing in early medicine?
5. How did optical instruments challenge the medical and scientific ideas of the Renaissance?
6. "Blood-letting was the most common and widespread form of medical intervention in early medicine." Discuss.
7. What, if anything, is wrong with the notion of the early modern medical marketplace?
8. How did the Black Death change attitudes to health and medicine?

9. Was infertility a disease in early modern Europe?
10. To what extent is it possible to write a history of patient experiences of illness and healing in medieval and early modern Europe? What methods and sources would you use to do so?
11. If you lived in London in 1600, whom would you consult if your daughter had a fever and why?
12. Discuss the relative importance of value, taste and order in natural history collections between 1550 to 1750.
13. What role did the Jesuits play in the history of Chinese medicine?
14. What part did medicinal drugs have in practices of healing around 1700?
15. According to European physicians, how did the tropics affect the human body?

END OF PAPER

NST2BBS

Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Paper 66: Modern Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

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, so no more than 4,500 words for the whole paper.

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. How much of the innovation that has traditionally been credited to the hospitals of post-revolutionary Paris had in fact already happened elsewhere?
2. Some physiologists maintained that physiology is nothing other than physics applied to the living body. Why was that a controversial view in the 1850s?
3. Why did surgeons promote anaesthesia as “an enduring symbol of Victorian civilisation”?
4. Do you agree with the historian of bacteriology Christoph Gradmann that laboratory scientists around 1900 “assumed tropical nature to provide exemplary insights into the relationships of men and microbes”?
5. Using the example of EITHER diphtheria antitoxin OR salvarsan, explain how the first industrial therapeutics were made.
6. Did sight become the doctor’s most important sense in the nineteenth century? Assess the evidence for this claim.

7. “Gentlemen, the most valuable knowledge we possess is that which we have acquired by long continued observation and experience. It cannot to any great extent be communicated to others either orally or by writing” (W. Fuller, *Advice to Medical Students*, 1857). Would physicians in the early twentieth century agree?
8. How did randomized controlled trials become the “gold standard” of clinical knowledge?
9. How and to what extent did World War II change medicine?
10. Was the Nuremberg Code “a good code for barbarians but an unnecessary code for ordinary physicians”?
11. How important was the concept of primary health care to international and global health in the late twentieth century?
12. How did the relationship between the medical profession and enslaved peoples in the United States change over the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries?
13. How does the history of sickle-cell anaemia reflect broader transformations in the relationship between race and medicine over the course of the twentieth century?
14. Was the oral contraceptive pill foisted on women for the benefit of men?
15. Account for the achievement of human in vitro fertilization and the advent of reproductive biomedicine.

END OF PAPER