

NST2BBS

Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Paper 45: Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine

You should answer three 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.

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: Ethics of Medicine

1. Are there any important ethical differences between Pronuclear Transfer (PNT) and Maternal Spindle Transfer (MST)?
2. Are there any good reasons to refrain from modifying the human germline?
3. Who should get scarce vaccines first?
4. Can we compel people to get vaccinated? Should we?
5. Does diversity guarantee objectivity?
6. Can science be "value free"?

SECTION B: Philosophy of Medicine

7. If a condition does not cause harmful symptoms in a particular patient, is that condition a disease?
8. If someone has permanently lost their capacity for consciousness, are they dead?

9. Can we make reliable inferences regarding the effectiveness and harmfulness of medical interventions with animal research?
10. Does intellectual property protection create incentives for innovative medical research?
11. In what ways, if any, are mental disorders different from physical disorders?
12. Can neuroscience replace psychiatry?

END OF PAPER

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Paper 65: Early Medicine

Also Paper 11 in HST2 & HSP2 Historical Tripos Part II

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

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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

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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.

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. Assess the case for *and* against the view that the French Revolution marks a sharp break in medical history.
2. Some historians have written about “the laboratory revolution in medicine”. How would you describe and explain the changing status of laboratories in the nineteenth century?
3. Why did some medical practitioners in the nineteenth century remain unconvinced that bacteria caused disease?
4. Some historians argue that medical science in the decades around 1900 was an essentially imperial project. Do you agree?
5. How and why did hospitals in Europe and the United States change around 1900?
6. Why did some elite English physicians reject science in the early twentieth century?
7. What, if anything, changed in the production of medicines in the United States between the start of World War I and the end of World War II?

8. How do the different legal, medical and psychological meanings of “trial” help make sense of the history of cancer research and treatment in the twentieth century?
9. Describe the role played by medicine in processes of decolonization after World War II.
10. In what ways, if at all, did plantation economies in the Atlantic world accentuate racial difference as an important subject for modern medical theory and practice?
11. What does the history of eugenics tell us about the history of early twentieth-century medicine?
12. Why has so much reproductive technology been directed at women’s bodies rather than men’s bodies?

END OF PAPER