

NST2BBS

Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Paper 65: Early Medicine

Also BBS Major Subject Paper 13_1 and Paper 11 in HST2 & HSP2 Historical Tripos Part II and HPOT2 History and Politics 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. Did religious faith affect medical practice in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe?
2. Discuss the relationship between the home as a space of healing and the “medical marketplace”.
3. How did early modern people differentiate between kinds of human bodies?
4. Did knowledge exchanges take a similar shape in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds?
5. How did early modern people characterize the effects of hot climates on health?
6. “Cultural difference was more important than disease in the establishment of *cordons sanitaires* in early modern Europe”. Discuss.
7. Why were local contexts so important in the long-distance drugs trade during the early modern period?

8. How did early modern physicians think about the differences between male and female bodies?
9. "Manuscript sources shed a completely new light on the practice of medicine in the early modern period." Discuss.
10. How did philosophical theories and religious practices shape pre-modern concepts of the body in Chinese and Islamic societies?
11. How far did the pursuit of exotic healing plants transform medical practice in Europe?
12. In what ways did visual cultures shape medicine in the early modern period?

END OF PAPER

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Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Paper 66: Modern Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Also BBS Major Subject Paper 13_2

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

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1. Why have historians of medicine given so much attention to the post-revolutionary Paris clinic?
2. "In the nineteenth century arguments about the constitution of medical knowledge were arguments about the organization of society." Explain this statement.
3. Explain the "seed and soil" concept of disease and its significance to medicine and public health in the nineteenth century.
4. To what extent, and with what consequences, had diseases come to be regarded as "specific processes, defined by laboratory work" by the early twentieth century?
5. Who might have voiced opposition to changes in the management of hospitals in the first half of the twentieth century and why?
6. Assess the roles of state and industrial actors in bringing new pharmaceuticals to the market since around 1900.

7. Assess the claim that the invention of penicillin marks a watershed in the history of medicine.
8. The history of public health is sometimes portrayed as a history of interventions into the lives of others. Does your knowledge of the history of global health support this assessment?
9. How, and with what consequences, did new social movements challenge the authority of medicine after World War II?
10. What historical events and patterns are most important in understanding the health and environmental problems associated with farming and food production in the twenty-first century?
11. Who gained and who lost by the introduction of farming practices with potentially harmful consequences for health?
12. Does the concept of “race” play the same role in contemporary genomic medicine as it did for eighteenth-century medicine?

END OF PAPER

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Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

BBS Major Subject Paper 13_3: Philosophy of Science and Medicine

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. All sciences make compromises between different values. Discuss.
2. Is there a compelling argument for the anti-psychiatry position?
3. How should the medical research agenda be set?
4. How should death be defined? Why does it matter?
5. Suppose that the result of a very large randomised trial is x. Should we now believe x?
6. Whether a statement is a law depends on how people use it. Discuss.
7. What is the optimal theory of laws of nature?
8. What is the biggest problem affecting the selected effects account of biological function? Can it be overcome?
9. "The biological sciences might now be better served by a new 'reciprocal' conception of causation" (Laland et al. 2011). Do you agree?
10. What is the strongest criticism of the idea of neurodiversity, and is it convincing?

11. What, if anything, can be done to overcome anthropomorphic bias in cognitive science?
12. Is it a mistake to attribute mental states to anything other than biological organisms?

END OF PAPER

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Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

BBS Major Subject Paper 13_4: Ethics of Medicine

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. Does the germline have a special moral status?
2. “Although the perception of the personal and social relationships created by egg or embryo reconstruction would be essentially a matter for the individuals concerned, it is the view of the Working Group that mitochondrial donation does not indicate, either biologically or legally, any notion of the child having either a ‘third parent’, or ‘second mother’.” (Nuffield Council on Bioethics) Is the Working Group’s view a sensible one?
3. “If you consent to being screened for cancer, then you can’t complain if you are overtreated for cancer.” Does this make sense?
4. Giving everyone equal access to healthcare doesn’t ensure everyone has equal health outcomes. So, which, if either, should we pursue?
5. Does the argument from inductive risk show that science cannot be objective?
6. What are the advantages of a more diverse biomedical research community?
7. How and why did the relationship between science and activism change between the 1920s and the 2020s?

8. What roles have critical perspectives on science played in political and social campaigns? Have these roles changed over time?
9. What is the black box problem in artificial intelligence? Can it be solved?
10. Stephen Hawking said, "The rise of powerful AI will be either the best, or the worst thing, ever to happen to humanity." Do you agree?
11. In China under Mao, how, if at all, did science "serve the people"?
12. How useful is the concept of the Iron Curtain for describing the history of science in Cold War Europe?

END OF PAPER

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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 1,000 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. Does the germline have a special moral status?
2. “Although the perception of the personal and social relationships created by egg or embryo reconstruction would be essentially a matter for the individuals concerned, it is the view of the Working Group that mitochondrial donation does not indicate, either biologically or legally, any notion of the child having either a ‘third parent’, or ‘second mother’.” (Nuffield Council on Bioethics) Is the Working Group’s view a sensible one?
3. “If you consent to being screened for cancer, then you can’t complain if you are overtreated for cancer.” Does this inference make sense?
4. Giving everyone equal access to healthcare does not ensure everyone has equal health outcomes. So, which, if either, should we pursue?
5. Does the argument from inductive risk show that science cannot be objective?
6. What are the advantages of a more diverse biomedical research community?

SECTION B: Philosophy of Medicine

7. What properties constitute a disease?
8. If a person has lost their higher brain functioning but not their whole brain functioning, should that person be deemed dead in the eyes of medicine and the law?
9. Is evidence from randomised trials necessary and/or sufficient to justify a causal hypothesis?
10. What is the best justification for intellectual property protection of the products of medical research? Is this justification ultimately compelling?
11. Should mental disorders be considered universal?
12. Is the extreme male brain theory a plausible account of autism?

END OF PAPER