

NST2BBS  
Natural Sciences Tripos Part II: Biological and Biomedical Sciences

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Saturday 25 May      9.00 am to 12.00 pm

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### **Paper 45**

#### **History and Ethics of Medicine**

*Students should answer **FOUR** questions, at least one from each section. All questions carry equal weighting.*

*Begin each answer on a separate sheet.*

*Write legibly and on only **one** side of the paper.*

*Answers must be tied up in separate bundles, marked 1, 2,3, etc. according to the number of the question.*

*Attach a completed coversheet to each bundle and complete a master coversheet listing all questions attempted. It is essential that you write your examination number and **not** your name on the coversheet and on **each** bundle.*

**You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so by the invigilator.**

## SECTION A

1. How did Christians interpret illness and epidemics in the medieval and early-modern periods, and what practical responses did they make?
2. How did René Descartes explain the functioning of the human body, and what kind of mechanical models did he use to do this?
3. Explain how the use of dead bodies has contributed to changes in medical theory or practice from c.1500 to c.1850.
4. “Read little, see much, do much” (Fourcroy). How well does this advice to medical students describe the change in medical education between 1750 and 1850?
5. What was Chadwick’s “Sanitary Vision”, and why was it so successful?
6. Explain how changes in modern medicine have affected the experience and definition of disease, using at least two of the following as examples: tuberculosis, diabetes, homosexuality, sickle cell anaemia.

## SECTION B

7. When is abortion permissible?
8. Does “informed consent” play the same ethical role in treatment and research contexts?
9. Should we change the global medical research agenda in light of the global burden of disease? If so, why and how?
10. What does the non-identity problem tell us about the ethics of genetic screening?
11. Is the distinction between health and disease biological or evaluative?
12. Are there any ethical reasons to oppose financial incentives for organ donation?

**END OF PAPER**