

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**