

# **Grade 9 1 GCSE History AQA Topic Guide Britain: Health And The People: C1000 Present Day: Perfect For Catch Up And The 2024 And 2024 Exams (CGP GCSE History 9 1 Revision)**

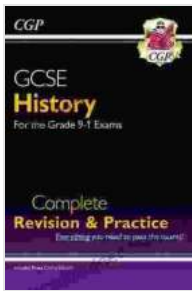
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The history of healthcare in Britain is a complex and fascinating one. From the early days of medieval medicine to the development of the modern National Health Service (NHS), the way in which we have cared for the sick and injured has undergone a profound transformation.

This topic guide will provide you with an overview of some of the key themes and events in the history of British healthcare. It will cover the following topics:

- The development of medieval medicine
- The Black Death and its impact on British society
- The rise of the hospital system
- The development of modern medicine
- The establishment of the NHS

## **The Development of Medieval Medicine**



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The origins of British healthcare can be traced back to the medieval period. During this time, the majority of medical care was provided by the Church. Monasteries and nunneries often had their own infirmaries, where the sick and injured could be treated.

Medieval medicine was based on a combination of ancient Greek and Roman knowledge, as well as Christian beliefs. Doctors believed that the human body was made up of four humours: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile. Imbalances in these humours were thought to cause disease.

Treatment for illness often involved bloodletting, purging, and the use of herbs. Surgery was also practiced, but it was often dangerous and could lead to infection.

### **The Black Death and its Impact on British Society**

The Black Death was a devastating plague that swept through Europe in the 14th century. It is estimated that the plague killed between 30 and 60%

of the population of Britain.

The Black Death had a profound impact on British society. It led to a decline in population, which in turn caused a shortage of labour. This led to an increase in wages for workers and a rise in the standard of living for many people.

The Black Death also led to a decline in the power of the Church. Many people began to question the efficacy of traditional medical practices, and some turned to alternative forms of healing, such as astrology and alchemy.

## **The Rise of the Hospital System**

The first hospitals in Britain were founded in the 12th century. These hospitals were often established by religious orders, and they provided care for the poor and sick.

By the 16th century, there were over 500 hospitals in Britain. These hospitals were often overcrowded and unsanitary, but they did provide a vital service to the community.

The 18th century saw the development of new hospitals, which were designed to be more efficient and hygienic. These hospitals were often funded by wealthy philanthropists, and they provided care for a wider range of patients.

## **The Development of Modern Medicine**

The 19th century saw the development of modern medicine. This was due in part to the work of scientists such as Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch, who discovered the role of bacteria in disease.

New medical technologies were also developed during this time, such as the stethoscope and the X-ray machine. These technologies made it possible to diagnose and treat diseases more effectively.

The 20th century saw the development of new drugs and vaccines, which helped to prevent and treat a wide range of diseases. The discovery of penicillin in 1928 was a major breakthrough in the fight against infection.

## **The Establishment of the NHS**

The NHS was established in 1948. It is a publicly funded healthcare system that provides free care to all British citizens. The NHS is one of the most comprehensive healthcare systems in the world, and it has played a vital role in improving the health and well-being of the British people.

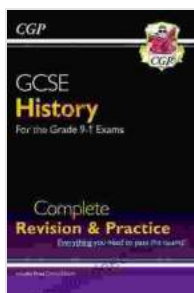
The NHS has faced a number of challenges in recent years, including rising costs and an aging population. However, it remains a vital part of British society, and it is likely to continue to play a major role in the healthcare of the British people for many years to come.

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The history of healthcare in Britain is a long and complex one. It has been shaped by a wide range of factors, including the development of medieval

medicine, the Black Death, the rise of the hospital system, the development of modern medicine, and the establishment of the NHS.

The healthcare system in Britain today is one of the most comprehensive and advanced in the world. It provides free care to all British citizens, and it has played a vital role in improving the health and well-being of the British people.



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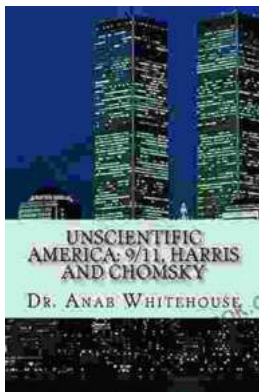
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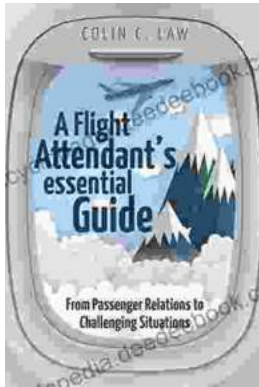
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