How to answer Paper 2, Britain: Health and the People

1. This will always be a **source** question. There will only be **ONE** source. This source will be a **cartoon**. It is worth **8 marks**.

The question stem will always be ***How useful is Source A to an historian studying……***

To get full marks you need to consider the **CONTENT** of the source, and its **PROVENANCE**.

By provenance we mean **one** of:

* Purpose: why the author would have had this purpose at this time
* The audience of the source
* The type of source
* Circumstances of writing/ access to information.

**You only need TWO paragraphs**. You should start with: ‘The source is useful in terms of content because….’

Then your second paragraph: ‘The source is also useful because…. (of its purpose, audience etc).

1. The question stem will always be ***Explain the significance of X.***

It is worth ***8 marks.***

You could be asked to explain the significance of a person ***or*** an event, eg Joseph Lister or the smallpox vaccination.

You need to have 2 ways that the person/event was significant. This will probably be:

-**significance at the time** (this ***does not have to be positive***, eg the significance of Simpson’s discovery of anaesthetics was a rise in the death rate in surgery).

-**significance in the longer term** (once Lister had demonstrated the effectiveness of carbolic acid, Simpson’s discovery had much more positive impacts!)

Separate your answer into TWO separate paragraphs, again using P.E.E. Start each paragraph with ‘X was (very significant, limited significance) in the (short term, long term) because….

1. The question stem will always be ‘***Compare X to Y. In what ways were they similar? Explain your answer with reference to both X and Y’.***

It is worth **8 marks.**

The question could ask you to compare events, themes (eg surgery) or individuals, eg Vesalius and Hunter.

P.E.E is crucial for this question, eg: ‘They are similar because (POINT). In (X) they did…. and in Y they did this.’

**To get full marks you need to have a broader/ more ‘big picture’ similarity or explanation**. For example, if you were comparing the Black Death to the Plague you could say that they were similar in that people at both times believed that the diseases were sent by God as a punishment for sins. Then you could include a couple of examples. Those ‘big’ marks will come from explaining that they was because neither society knew about germs so there was a reliance on supernatural ideas for things that they could not explain rationally.

**You need to do this TWICE for the full 8 marks**.

1. The question stem will always be ‘***Have/ has X been the main factor in the development of Y (an aspect of medicine) in Britain?***

It is worth **16 marks.**

**‘X’** will be a factor such as war; government, science and technology, religion or chance.

**‘Y’** could be surgery, public health, the treatment of illness or the prevention of disease.

You **MUST** write about the factor given in the question **FIRST** (or you cannot get more than 8 marks).

**Try to choose examples from across the course**: don’t just concentrate on a certain time period. For example if you were writing about the government and public health you could write about local council rules during the Black Death, quarantine rules during the plague in 1665, sewers in the nineteenth century and the NHS in the twentieth century. **Don’t worry too much about having breadth for each factor – it simply might not be possible.**

 You **MUST** then write about one/ two more factors (time dependent).

To get into **L3 (9-12 marks)** you should be starting to say that one factor was more important than another. You might argue that different factors were more important than different times.

By this stage you are probably already arguing that the factors were **linked,** eg without the development of technology Bazalgatte could not have built the London sewers in 1858 – but he also needed permission and money from the government.

**L4 (13-16 marks**): you will have shown clear links between the factors. You will probably have had a clear line of argument from the start and a clear conclusion.