

Renaissance Health

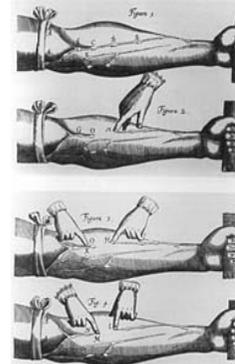
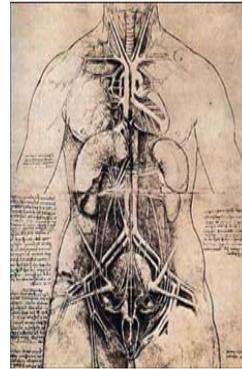
Key Individuals

Andres Vesalius: Italian anatomist who questioned the accuracy of Galen's work because it was largely based on animals. He encouraged medical practitioners to use their own ideas and experience. He insisted on dissections for medical students and published detailed illustrations.

William Harvey: English doctor, who was the personal doctor to the monarchy. He discovered that blood could not be burned up and that it circulates the body. His published works began to end the influence of Galen.

Thomas Sydenham: English doctor who argued that doctors should visit the sick and not the other way around. He also encouraged a more systematic way of approaching disease and that cures must be specific to the disease they are curing.

Edward Jenner: British doctor who improved the prevention of the deadly disease, Smallpox. He replaced the previous treatment of inoculation for smallpox with a much safer and cheaper vaccination.



These three images are good examples of the progress beginning to be made during the early modern period. They show that medical knowledge of the body was improving, though still not perfect, that doctors were beginning to take steps to protect themselves from becoming infected whilst they treated patients and finally they show that the circulation of blood through the body was starting to be understood.

You need to apply your knowledge in order to substantiate explanations to the following key questions:

Describe what the Renaissance was.

Explain how the Renaissance helped contribute to improved medical knowledge and practice.

Assess the impact of key individuals on the development of medicine.

Evaluate: the extent of progress during the Early Modern Period.

Important factors affecting change

Religion: As several individuals began to disprove the works of Galen the influence of religion on medicine began to decrease. The Church still discouraged dissections but many stopped listening towards the end of the period.

Role of the Individual: Individual genius and enquiry became hugely significant to the development of medicine. One after another individuals created better and more effective treatments. They spread their work more effectively than in the medieval period.

War: War continued to give surgeons a chance to develop their understanding of the human body, as well as improve their surgical skills. Though perhaps less important than in the medieval period because doctors were beginning to dissect outside the battlefield.

Communication: The invention of the printing press, highly detailed illustrations and less suppression by the Church all contributed to communication becoming hugely significant in this period.

1000 - 1483

Medieval England

Norman - Angevin - Plantagenet

1500 - 1750

Early Modern England

Renaissance - Tudor - Stuart

1750 - 1900 Modern Britain

Industrial Revolution
Hannovarian

1900 - 2000

20th Century Britain

Great War - WWII - Cold War