

Homework—The 19th century Improvements to Surgery

Where to Look:

Revision Guide

Exercise book and folder

School Website> Faculty> Humanities> Revision

GCSE Bitesize—SHP course Medicine through Time course

Lots of other online revision sites



- 1) What were the two anaesthetics used before Simpson's discovery? What drawbacks did they both have?
- 2) Describe how James Simpson discovered the properties of chloroform.
- 3) What were some of the main objections people had to the use of chloroform and anaesthetics generally? Try to name at least four.
- 4) Whose seal of approval helped make the use of anaesthetics more acceptable from the 1850s?
- 5) What aspects of surgery did Simpson's discovery help with? Why was surgery still not safer overall as a result of his work though?
- 7) Whose work had Lister read that got him thinking about a way to reduce infection rates in surgery?
- 8) What did Lister start to use in his operations and how did he use it initially and then later?
- 9) What were some of the objections to Lister's ideas and methods?
- 10) Explain the difference between antiseptic surgery (Lister's methods) and Aseptic surgery that had developed by the 1890s.
- 11) Why was blood loss still a problem by the end of the 19th century? What progress had been made but was still to be discovered?
- 12) What were hospital wards and standards of nursing like before the 1850s?
- 13) Describe Florence Nightingale's contribution to nursing. Both in the Crimean War and on her return to London.
- 13) Why in your view is Mary Seacole's work less known about than Florence Nightingale's?

Exam Question: 'Simpson is more important than Lister in the History of Medicine.'
How far do you agree with this view? (8 marks)