

2023



AP[®] European History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Question 1: Short Answer Secondary Source**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

(A) Describe an argument made in the excerpt. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Growing popularity of medical knowledge among men and women in early modern England who were enthusiastic about finding medicinal recipes.
- Knowledge of medicinal recipes was an expectation for men and women in wealthier households.
- Even though there was some commercial medicine, the majority of healthcare in the period described took place at home.

(B) Explain how the approach to knowledge described in the passage reflects developments of the 1500s and early 1600s. **1 point**

(Note: A single development is sufficient.)

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- During the Scientific Revolution, experimentation and the use of logic and reason became more important as a source of knowledge, as shown by the example of Dering.
- Knowledge was passed along by tradition and word of mouth, such as the trading of medicinal recipes described in the passage.
- Most everyday useful knowledge was local and not systematized and was passed within and between local households.
- During the Renaissance, there was an emphasis on humanism and a secular focus on knowledge, resulting in less emphasis on religious reasoning.
- The widespread use of the printing press helped spread literacy and factual knowledge in printed material.

(C) Explain one effect of the changes in European medicine during the late 1700s and 1800s. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Vaccine inoculation for smallpox significantly reduced the death rate from the disease.
- Urban areas began to implement more public health measures, such as the creation of sewer systems and curbs on pollution.
- Advances in medicine reduced the death rate for Europeans in tropical areas, enabling the vast expansion of European empires in Africa and Asia in the 1800s.
- Medicine became a discipline in universities, resulting in qualified doctors and a hospital system, which became the usual way people received medical care.
- Sterilization and sanitation, and later an understanding of germs and bacteria, resulted in far fewer deaths from infection and an increased life expectancy.

Total for question 1 3 points

- a. Changes in medicine throughout the 16th and 17th centuries were seen largely within the confines of households, with natural remedies and easy-to-obtain medicines becoming more available as new discoveries in the world of medicine progressed.
- b. The shift in treatment of ailments from religious backgrounds to a more scientific basis can be seen in the excerpt with the rising use of homemade remedies and medicinal care at home in general. Along with new discoveries of the human body with scientists such as William Harvey, the treatment of illness would no longer be based on religious practice and prayer, and instead would be based on the knowledge of the individual on what could be used to remedy certain illnesses.
- c. One effect of the changes in medicine during the 18th leading into the 19th century was the longer lifespan of individuals. As plagues and mass illnesses were not as influencing as they were in the past with the Bubonic Plague and other ailments, more and more people were living for longer periods of time. The invention of many new vaccinations, such as the vaccine for smallpox in the 18th century, also allowed for greater immunity from these ailments as well.

The excerpt postulates that medicinal testing and creation of physical remedies became increasingly important knowledge which spread throughout England. The 1500s and early 1600s saw a shift from religious means of curing individuals to more secular approaches to addressing ailments and other conflicts, especially since knowledge was easily spread by the printing press and encouraged during the era. During the 1700s and 1800s, changes in European medicine led to greater discoveries by pioneers of the Scientific Revolution in the world of medicine inspired by their predecessors, and the life spans in Western Europe significantly increased as a result of these colossal developments in the world of medicine and safer means of curing individuals.

- a. One argument made in the article was that the household was considered the first resource for dealing with many healthcare problems. This was shown in the article when Sir Edward Dering spent most of his time making and trying different types of medicines in his home over the summer. This argument is also shown in the article when it talks about how many gentlemen and gentlewomen used these at-home medicines, not just Dering.
- b. The approach to knowledge described in the excerpt reflects development of the 1500s and early 1600s because during these times people did not really know much about medicine so they would experiment and take notes to hopefully find a cure for some diseases. This is shown in the excerpt because Dering did this same thing. He started to experiment and while he was doing that he took notes in his journal and kept records of his trials that he took. A lot of the developments during the 1500s and the 1600s were from trial and error.
- c. One effect of the changes in European medicine during the late 1700s and 1800s is that people living during these times started to live longer and healthier lives. This was because before people started experimenting with medicines there was no cure for diseases like the black plague. But now since these people are starting to make these at-home remedies they now have at least an idea of what they could use to get better and not die of these sicknesses. Most of these things did not work though but it was better than having nothing like they had before the 1700s.

Short Answer Question 1

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

Responses to this short excerpt from a historian on the common use of medicine in early modern English households were expected to demonstrate an understanding from the curriculum framework of how everyday life experiences of medicine were being shaped by new understandings involving experimentation and observation of the human body's workings.

Responses were expected to explain how these new understandings were both part of the broader context of the Scientific Revolution and Renaissance era, and also demonstrate understanding of an effect of later changes in European medicine in the late 1700s and 1800s, which included, for example, the effects of inoculation against diseases such as smallpox resulting in reduced mortality.

Sample: 1A

Score: 3

The response earned the point for part (a) by describing in basic terms the argument that medicines were made in the home.

The response earned the point for part (b) by explaining how a religious view of dealing with illness gave way to a more systematic, scientific approach to the human body and illness.

The response earned the point for part (c) by explaining the effect of vaccination for smallpox in the 1700s on the lifespan of Europeans.

Sample: 1B

Score: 2

The response earned the point for part (a) by describing in basic terms the argument that the testing of medicine and remedies was popular throughout England.

The response earned the point for part (b) by explaining in the second sentence the development of a secular approach to illness, with the printing press spreading that knowledge.

The response did not earn the point for part (c) because it does not explain an effect of the changes in medicine. The mention of increased life spans, while accurate, is not detailed enough to qualify as an explanation.

Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

The response earned the point for part (a) by describing the argument that gentlemen and gentlewomen made medicines in their homes.

The response did not earn the point for part (b) because it does not explain a broader development, but rather the response repeats the information in the excerpt.

The response did not earn the point for part (c) because it does not explain an effect of changes in medicine in the 1700s or 1800s. The discussion of experimentation essentially repeats the information provided by the prompt and the specific mention of the Black Plague does not advance an explanation.