Instructions

• Use black ink or ball-point pen.
• Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
• Answer all questions.
• Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

Information

• The total mark for this paper is 53.
• The marks for each question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.
• Questions labelled with an asterisk (*) are ones where the quality of your written communication will be assessed – you should take particular care on these questions with your spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression.
• The marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar are clearly indicated.

Advice

• Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
• Try to answer every question.
• Check your answers if you have time at the end.
Answer ALL questions.

Look carefully at Sources A to F in the Sources Booklet and then answer Questions 1 to 5 which follow.

1 Study Source A.

What can you learn from Source A about the use of ether?
2 Study Source B and use your own knowledge.
What was the purpose of this representation?
Explain your answer, using Source B and your own knowledge.

(8)
3 Study Source C and use your own knowledge.

Why was there so much opposition to the use of anaesthetics during surgery in 1847?

Explain your answer, using Source C and your own knowledge. (10)
4 Study Sources D and E and use your own knowledge.

How reliable are Sources D and E as evidence of the success of Simpson’s use of chloroform?

Explain your answer, using Sources D and E and your own knowledge.
*5 Study Sources B, C and F and use your own knowledge.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in this question.

Source F suggests that anaesthetics did not solve the main problems of surgery.

How far do you agree with this interpretation? Explain your answer, using your own knowledge, Sources B, C and F and any other sources you find helpful.

(16)
Historical Enquiry: Dealing with pain and the problems of surgery.

Source A: From the diary of H C Andersen 17 August 1847. Here he is describing a dinner party at the house of James Simpson.

It is awful to see the effect of the ether that Simpson gave to his guests to inhale. Especially the effect on ladies who became very drowsy. They laughed with open, lifeless eyes; there was something unpleasant about it and I said so. I recognised, however, it was a wonderful invention to use in painful operations. But it was wrong to play with it.

Source B: A mid-nineteenth century drawing from an article on surgical methods. It is a representation of surgeons using an anaesthetic during an operation.

Source C: From an account written in 1847 by Dr H Cree, a surgeon.

While I was at Edinburgh Infirmary I saw some operations where ether was used. It was a new method of making patients feel no pain. It is a great blessing, but Professor Syme (a famous surgeon) opposes the use of ether because it slows operations down. However, the method is still very new and there is doubt over how effective it is.
Source D: From Account of a New Anaesthetic in Surgery and Midwifery by James Simpson November 15, 1847. Here he describes the first use of chloroform during childbirth.

Three hours into labour I used chloroform. I did it by moistening a pocket handkerchief rolled up into a funnel. This was placed over her mouth and nose. The rapid evaporation of the chloroform soon made her unconscious. The child, when born, was taken into an adjoining room by a nurse. The mother awoke and said she had a very comfortable sleep. When the child was given to her it was difficult to convince her that the child was hers and her labour was over.

Source E: From a letter to James Simpson by one of Queen Victoria's doctors in 1853. The queen had just given birth to her child.

The Queen had chloroform given to her during her recent childbirth. It worked perfectly. Her Majesty was greatly pleased with the effect and she certainly has had a better recovery than in earlier childbirths. I know this information will please you and I have little doubt that it will lead to an increased use of chloroform.


The use of anaesthetics became accepted but sometimes could be dangerous. Anaesthetics were very valuable for preventing pain but they did not solve the main problems of surgery. Surgeons often operated in old, blood-covered coats. They certainly washed their pus-coated hands after an operation but not always before one. The problems seemed impossible to solve. Simpson admitted that patients in hospital for surgery were more at risk of dying than an English soldier on a battlefield.
Source F: From an article in the London Medical Gazette in 1848. It is a description by the person who administered chloroform to Hannah Greener in an operation to remove a toenail.

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