

Historical Milestones in Global Public Health

Public Health History · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which 1854 public health investigation by John Snow is credited with founding modern epidemiology by identifying the source of a London cholera outbreak?

- A) The Soho Broad Street pump
- B) The Thames water filtration system
- C) The Lambeth sewer drainage network
- D) The Southwark cholera containment zone

2. In 1948, the World Health Organization (WHO) constitution officially entered into force, but which previous international organization served as its predecessor under the League of Nations?

- A) The International Sanitary Bureau
- B) The Health Organisation of the League of Nations
- C) The Global Public Health Alliance
- D) The International Epidemiological Committee

3. The 1848 Public Health Act in the United Kingdom, often considered the first modern public health legislation, was largely prompted by the social advocacy and reports of which individual?

- A) Florence Nightingale
- B) Joseph Bazalgette
- C) Edwin Chadwick
- D) John Simon

4. Which US federal act, passed in 1906, was a direct response to public outrage over conditions described in Upton Sinclair's 'The Jungle' and established the foundation for the FDA?

- A) The Meat Inspection Act
- B) The Pure Food and Drug Act
- C) The Federal Food and Cosmetic Act
- D) The Public Health Service Act

5. Before the discovery of germ theory, what was the prevailing public health 'theory' used to explain the spread of diseases like cholera and plague in the 18th and early 19th centuries?

- A) The Miasma theory
- B) The Spontaneous Generation theory
- C) The Humoral imbalance theory
- D) The Contagionist micro-organism theory

6. In 1979, the World Health Organization officially declared the global eradication of which disease, marking a singular achievement in public health history?

- A) Polio
- B) Smallpox
- C) Measles
- D) Guinea worm disease

7. The 'Great Stink' of London in 1858, which led to the overhaul of the city's sewer system, was caused by the overwhelming stench of which substance in the River Thames?

- A) Industrial chemical waste
- B) Raw human sewage
- C) Decomposing livestock
- D) Coal soot and ash

8. Which 19th-century public health pioneer introduced antiseptic surgery techniques in 1867, significantly reducing post-operative mortality rates?

- A) Ignaz Semmelweis
- B) Joseph Lister
- C) Robert Koch
- D) Louis Pasteur

9. The 'Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male' (1932-1972) eventually led to the creation of which major ethical framework in public health and research?

- A) The Nuremberg Code
- B) The Helsinki Declaration
- C) The Belmont Report
- D) The Geneva Declaration

10. During the 1918 influenza pandemic, which city was famously noted for its rapid and effective implementation of social distancing measures, significantly lowering its death rate compared to Philadelphia?

- A) New York City
- B) St. Louis
- C) Chicago
- D) San Francisco

11. In 1955, the Salk polio vaccine was announced as 'safe, effective, and potent' following the largest clinical trial in history, involving approximately how many 'Polio Pioneers' (school children)?

- A) 500,000
- B) 1,000,000
- C) 1,800,000
- D) 2,500,000

12. Which 1962 publication by Rachel Carson is historically credited with shifting public health policy toward the regulation of environmental toxins, specifically DDT?

- A) Silent Spring
- B) The Population Bomb
- C) Our Stolen Future
- D) The Closing Circle

13. What was the primary purpose of the 'Lazarettos' established by Mediterranean port cities during the 14th century in response to the Black Death?

- A) Medical research labs
- B) Quarantine stations for maritime crews
- C) Isolation hospitals for lepers
- D) Public bath houses for sanitization

14. The 1952 'Great Smog of London' was a public health catastrophe that resulted in the government passing which landmark piece of environmental legislation in 1956?

- A) The Clean Air Act
- B) The Environmental Protection Act
- C) The Smoke Abatement Decree
- D) The Public Health Pollution Act

15. Which pioneering female public health advocate founded the Henry Street Settlement in New York City in 1893 to provide nursing care to the immigrant poor?

- A) Clara Barton
- B) Lillian Wald
- C) Mary Breckinridge
- D) Dorothea Dix