

Historical Milestones in Human Biology and Medicine

History Of Medicine · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with the earliest known use of trepanation, a surgical intervention involving drilling holes in the cranium?

- A) Ancient Egypt
- B) The Indus Valley Civilization
- C) The Neolithic culture of France**
- D) The Shang Dynasty

2. In the 11th century, the 'Canon of Medicine' was written by which Persian polymath, serving as a standard medical text in European universities until the 17th century?

- A) Al-Razi
- B) Avicenna**
- C) Averroes
- D) Al-Biruni

3. Which significant anatomical discovery was made by William Harvey in 1628, fundamentally changing the understanding of the human cardiovascular system?

- A) The discovery of capillary networks
- B) The systemic circulation of blood**
- C) The existence of red blood cells
- D) The function of the heart valves

4. Before the discovery of germ theory, what 18th-century medical practice was used as a primary treatment for many ailments based on the Greek humoral theory?

- A) Bloodletting**
- B) Trephination
- C) Lobotomy
- D) Hydrotherapy

5. The 'Ebers Papyrus', one of the oldest preserved medical documents in human history, originated from which civilization around 1550 BCE?

- A) Mesopotamia
- B) Ancient Egypt**
- C) Minoan Crete
- D) Hittite Empire

6. Which physician, often referred to as the 'Father of Medicine', established the ethical oath that forms the basis of modern medical practice?

- A) Galen
- B) Hippocrates**
- C) Dioscorides
- D) Asclepius

7. During the 14th century, which medical theory was predominantly used to explain the transmission of the Bubonic Plague?

- A) Miasma theory**
- B) Germ theory
- C) Humoral imbalance
- D) Contagion through touch

8. In 1796, Edward Jenner developed the world's first successful vaccine by using matter from cowpox lesions to provide immunity against which disease?

- A) Measles
- B) Smallpox**
- C) Polio
- D) Tuberculosis

9. The 'Great Plague of London' (1665) prompted the implementation of what public health measure, which had been practiced in Venice since the 14th century?

- A) Mandatory vaccination
- B) Quarantine**
- C) Sewerage chlorination
- D) Universal blood typing

10. Andreas Vesalius, in his 1543 work 'De humani corporis fabrica', revolutionized human anatomy primarily by doing what?

- A) Inventing the microscope
- B) Advocating for human dissection**
- C) Discovering the nervous system
- D) Mapping the human genome

11. Which substance was used as an early anesthetic in 19th-century surgery, first publicly demonstrated by William T.G. Morton in 1846?

- A) Nitrous oxide
- B) Ether**
- C) Chloroform
- D) Cocaine

12. The concept of 'humoral medicine' was based on the belief that human health relied on the balance of four bodily fluids. Which of these is NOT one of those fluids?

- A) Black bile
- B) Phlegm
- C) Synovial fluid**
- D) Yellow bile

13. Ignaz Semmelweis is historically significant for discovering that handwashing drastically reduced mortality rates in maternity wards, a finding that targeted which specific cause of death?

- A) Puerperal fever**
- B) Smallpox
- C) Cholera
- D) Scurvy

14. Which major public health crisis in the 19th century led to the construction of modern sewer systems in cities like London to prevent water-borne disease?

- A) Influenza pandemic
- B) Cholera epidemic**
- C) Typhoid fever
- D) Diphtheria outbreak

15. In 1928, Alexander Fleming discovered the antibacterial properties of *Penicillium notatum*, marking the beginning of the era of which medical advancement?

- A) Antiviral therapy
- B) Antibiotics**
- C) Immunotherapy
- D) Chemotherapy