What impact did the NHS have on Medicine in the Modern Period?

FACTORS:

Government
Science & Tech
Attitudes

Phase 1. Improved access to health care FOR EVERYONE:

The NHS was created in 1948 following WW2 by the Labour government. The main aim of the NHS was to **bring health care to the entire nation** regardless of social class or wealth, **for FREE at the point of use**. The creation of the NHS was the biggest **GOVERNMENT** intervention – ever! **Until 1948 8 million people had never seen a doctor.**

It took over existing hospitals and medical services, including doctors and surgeons, paying them a salary meaning the doctors worked for the government now not for themselves…

Why might this cause some opposition from the doctors and surgeons?

SOURCE A

A section from a newspaper advert posted in 1948 explaining the services offered by the new National Health Service

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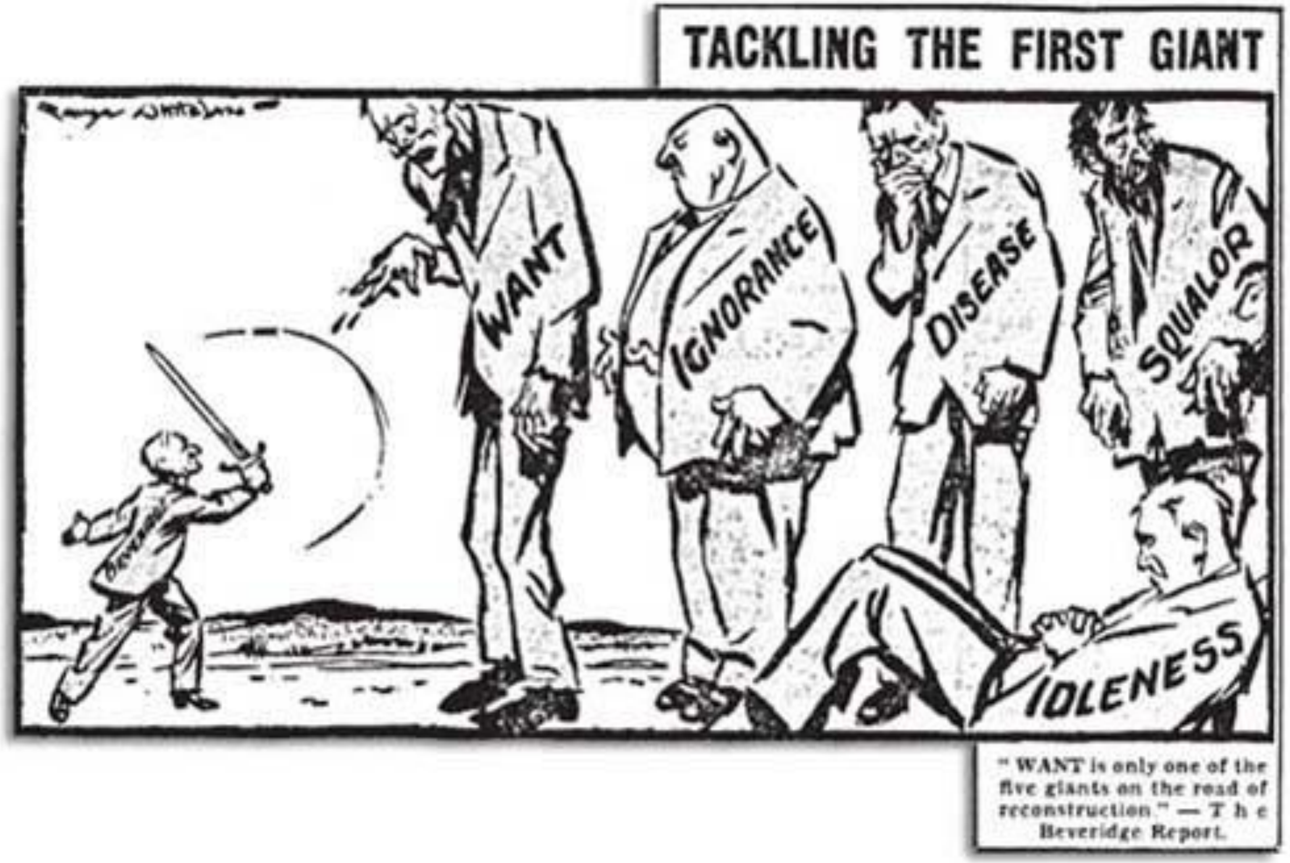
What was health care like before 1948, and what is the main difference since the NHS?

The Beveridge Report 1942

During WWII William Beveridge set out a plan to put an end to what he called the 'five giants' – Want (today we would call it poverty), Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness (unemployment).

It was suggested there should be a national insurance scheme. This would provide sick pay and pensions for those who could not work.

Every one would be eligible, because everyone would have put into the scheme through deductions from their wage packet.



What is the message and tone of this headline?
Is it positive about the new NHS? Give evidence by quoting from the source…

FINAL NIGHT EXTRA

GODFREY DAVIS
SLOANE 0022

Evening Standard

ONE PENNY

The National Health Bill is out. It will cost £152,000,000 a year

STATE TAKE OVER DOCTORS, HOSPITALS AND DENTISTS

'Free for all'—1948

PRIVATE PRACTICE STAYS, BUT NEW DOCTORS DIRECTED

From 1948 everybody's health will be looked after by the State without fee. That is Mr. Aneurin Bevan's new National Health Service, details of which are published to-day. It is estimated to cost £152,000,000 a year.

FIGURES

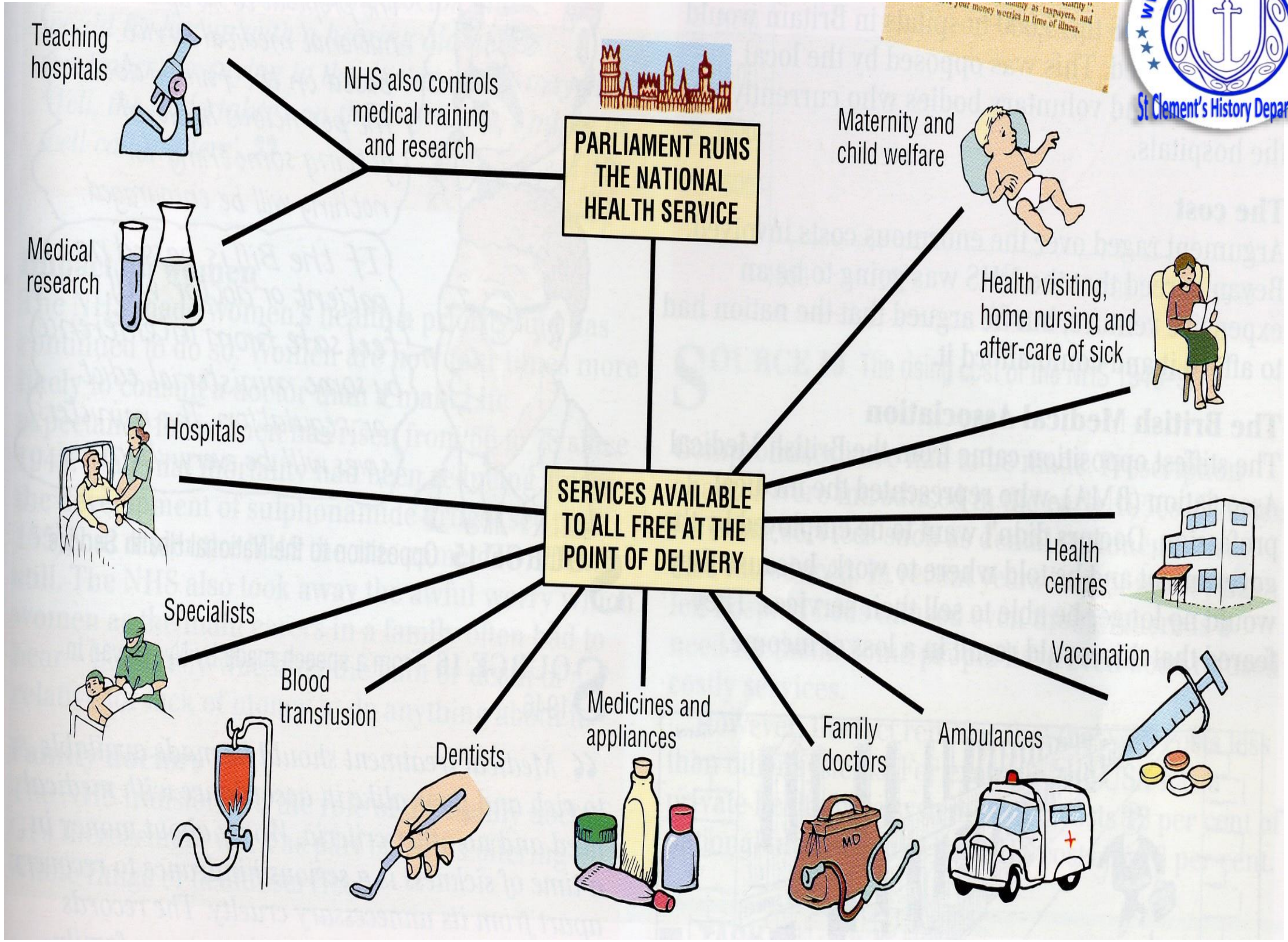
PLANE DIVES ON SCHOOL

200 children at play: All safe

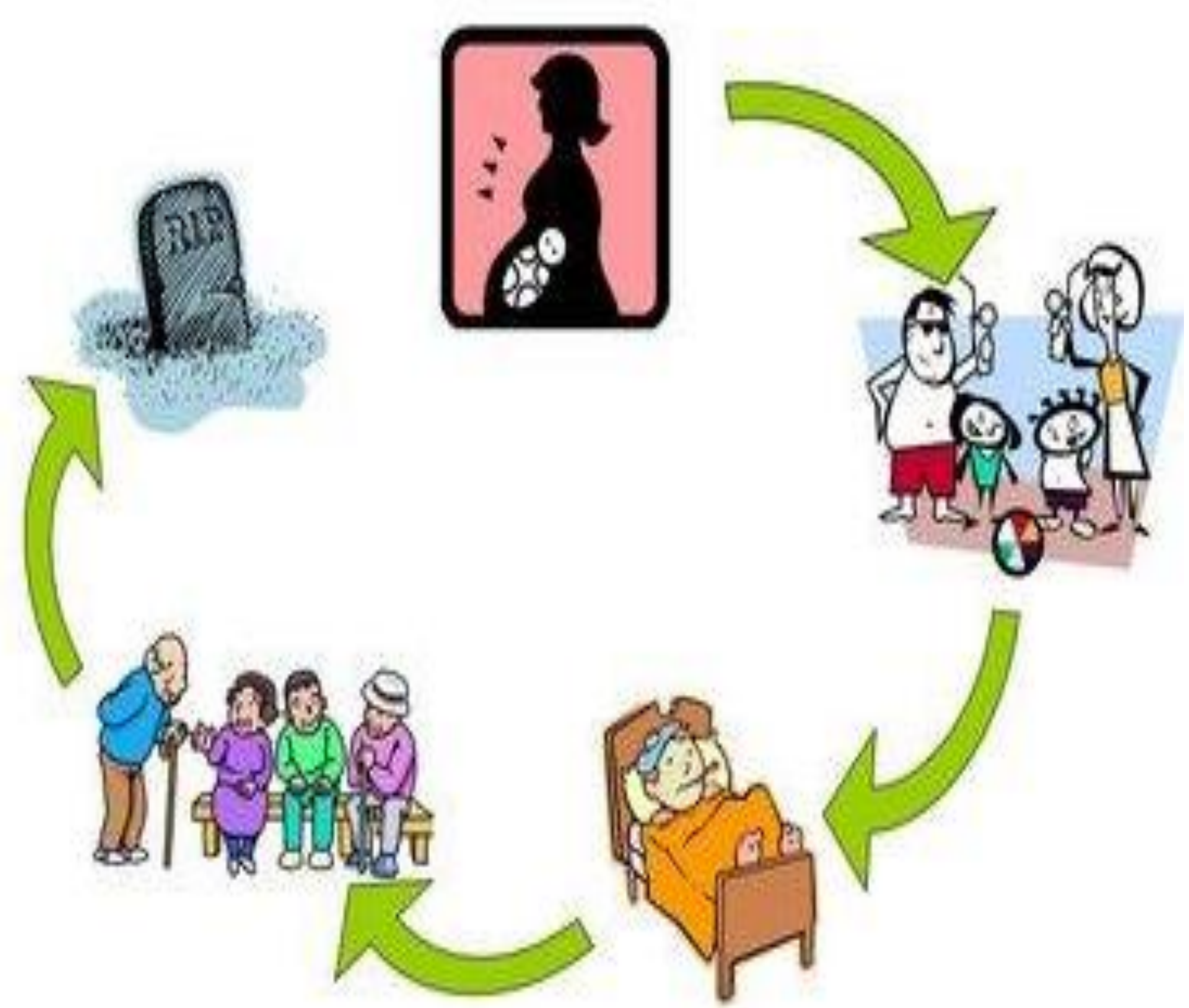
A blazing Mosquito airplane crashed between two buildings of Rusthall girls and infants' schools, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, during the morning break to-day. Two hundred children in the playground escaped serious

HAMBURG

What services does the NHS provide? Make a list in your book:



‘Cradle to Grave’: What do you think this means?



Source 1
Alice Law recalling 5 July 1948, the first day of the NHS

'Mother went and got tested for new glasses. Then she went further down the road to the chiropodist and had her feet done. Then she went back to the doctors because she'd been having trouble with her ears and the doctor said he would fit her up with a hearing aid.'

Source 2
Age of death between 1919 and 1992

Life expectancy in 1919:
23% of people died before age 44

Life expectancy in 1992
5% of people die before age 44

What information do these sources tell you?

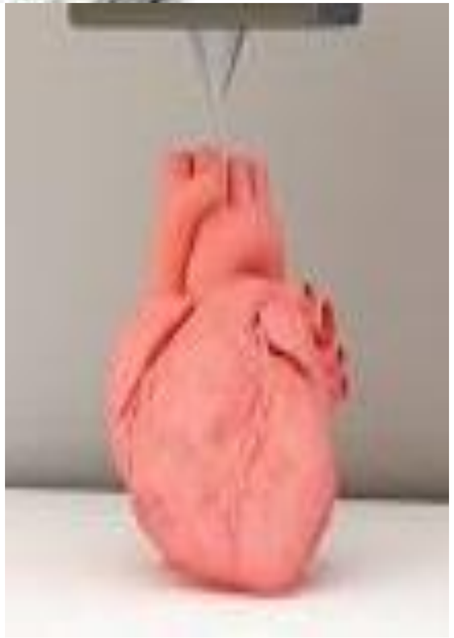
What can you infer (work out something that isn't obviously stated)?

Exam Zone:

BEFORE:	After:
• Access to health was only really for the wealthy who could afford to see a doctor or pay for hospital treatment • There weren't many hospitals, they were voluntary, meaning they decided if they'd see you by invite only! • Health care was based on the National Insurance system, and didn't cater for women and children • Essentially, people died with simple diseases / illnesses.	• Access to health care (NHS) was free for everyone at the point of use. Meaning people were no longer dying of simple illnesses. • Life expectancy as nearly doubled since 1900 to 79 for males and 83 for women • Technological advances mean diagnosis is quicker and therefore not developing into illness that is now untreatable

Phase 2. High tech medical & surgical treatments in hospitals:

What do these pictures represent?



Hospital treatments have changed a lot since 1900. Treatments that we consider routine today, like hip replacements and blood transfusions, did not exist before 1900. Patients benefit from high-tech treatments that would have been unimaginable in previous centuries. Once the three major problems of surgery – **pain, infection and blood loss** – had been solved, doctors were able to carry out more daring and intrusive surgeries than ever before. The development of new machinery to treat the body and even replace parts of it that had stopped working also improved treatment in hospitals.

There are hundreds of examples of new high-tech medical and surgical treatments being carried out.

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Source C

This article was published on the *Medical News Today* website in November 2015. It describes the use of a special type of dressing to help diagnose infection in burn patients.

Infections are the primary cause of complications in burn injuries, especially in children. Even a relatively mild hot water scald can readily become infected. Many deaths from burn injuries are due to sepsis [blood poisoning].

... Researchers at the University of Bath, in conjunction [together] with the Healing Foundation Children's Burns Research Centre and the University of Brighton, have created a ground breaking solution to diagnosing wound infection. The team has developed a prototype dressing that changes colour when a wound becomes infected. The wound dressing on an uninfected area displays a discrete circular design. Within four hours of an infection, the colour and pattern change.

An example of technology

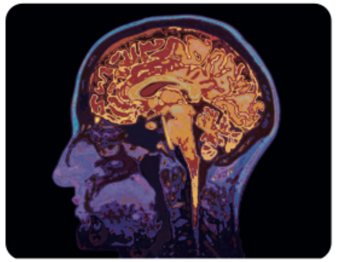
Meanwhile...

For decades, people suffering from serious burns and other skin injuries have been treated using skin grafts. This involves taking healthy skin from another part of their body and attaching it to the site of the injury. However, new technology now means that 'artificial living skin' can be grown in a laboratory and used instead of the patient's skin, reducing the pain of removing healthy skin and lowering the chance of infection.

Imagine how Florence Nightingale, or a Barber Surgeon from the Middle Ages would feel arriving at a modern hospital!

What would the see?

MRI scans



Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body. Unlike X-rays, they create detailed images of soft tissue such as ligaments or the brain.

CT scans

Using X-rays and computers, Computerised Tomography (CT) scans can produce detailed images of many structures inside the body, including the internal organs, blood vessels and bones.

Ultrasound scans

Also known as sonograms, ultrasound scanners use sound waves to create images of the inside of the body. They are used to monitor pregnancies and detect gall and kidney stones.

Blood tests

Analysing blood can inform doctors of all sorts of things. Blood pressure tests help doctors judge a patient's overall health. Blood sugar monitors allow diabetics to keep their sugar at the right levels. Blood can be tested for cholesterol to help judge the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Certain cancers – such as ovarian, prostate and breast cancer – can also be detected by blood tests.

Endoscopes

An endoscope is a tiny camera on the end of a flexible tube. It is inserted inside the body to allow doctors to investigate without cutting the body open.

ECGs

Electrocardiograms (ECGs) track the electrical activity of the heart and give information about the heart's rhythm.

X-rays

X-rays produce images of the inside of the body. They are a form of radiation that passes through skin and muscle without being absorbed but is absorbed by dense things like bones. This means X-rays are ideal for identifying broken bones and locating objects such as bullets.

Create a summary of each diagnostic technology.

Hospital Treatments

Keyhole and robotic surgery

The development of endoscopes and miniaturisation has led to ‘keyhole’ surgery, where operations take place without surgeons having to make large cuts through the skin. Some operations are now robotic assisted, with the robot being controlled by the surgeon who can be standing several metres away from the patient. The increased precision leads to smaller scars, less blood loss and quicker recovery.

Laser surgery

Lasers are now used routinely to improve eyesight, break up kidney stones, and shrink or destroy some tumours.

Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy is commonly used on cancer patients. Often a machine is used to carefully aim beams of radiation at the cancer.

Pacemakers

These small electrical devices are surgically implanted into patients’ chests. They send electrical pulses to the heart to keep it beating regularly.

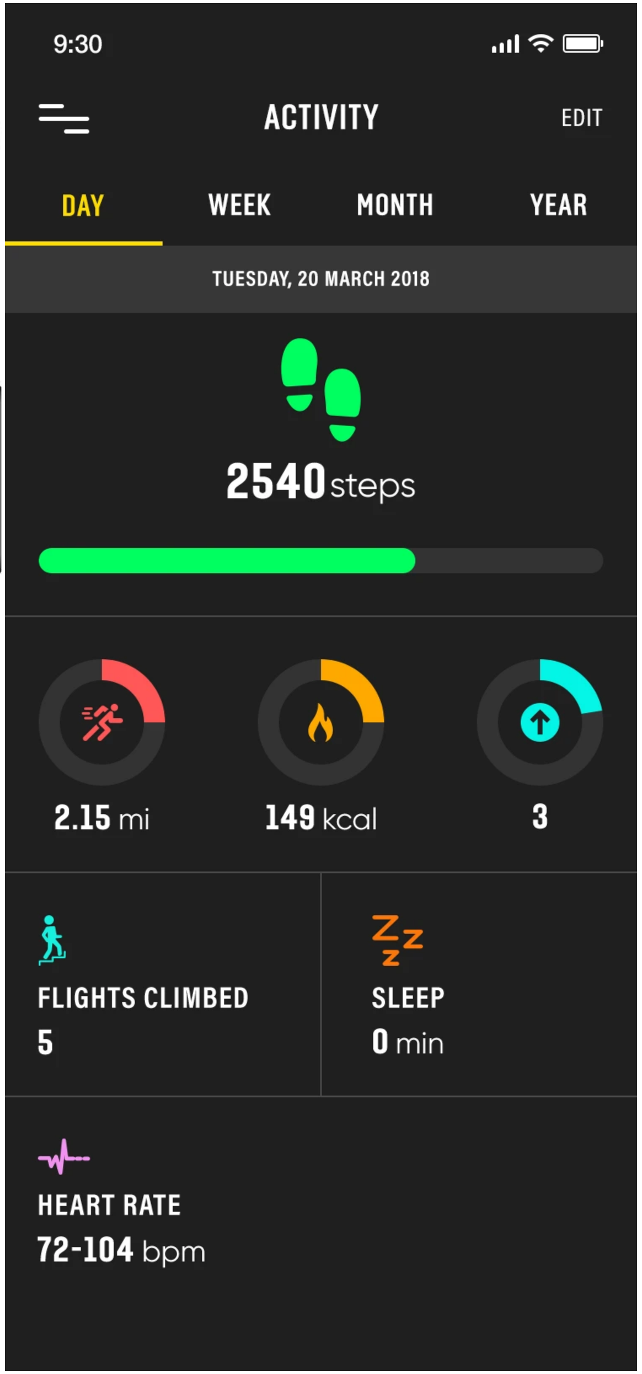
Dialysis machines

Dialysis machines circulate a patient’s blood through various filters to remove waste products. This is done when a patient has a problem with their kidneys.

A hospital in your pocket, and on your wrist!

High-tech health innovations are not limited to hospitals. You can download health apps for your smartphone or smartwatch to help you keep fit and healthy. These include fitness trackers, diet planners, healthy living guides, mental health boosters and workout programmes.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the NHS COVID-19 app aimed to alert people if they had been near anyone who had tested positive for COVID-19.



DIAGNOSIS TECHNOLOGY

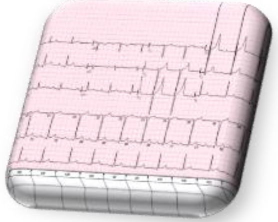
Blood Tests (1930s): Blood samples test for an enormous number of conditions without the need for invasive diagnosis methods

Blood Pressure Monitors (1880s): Diagnose high and low blood pressure

Endoscopes (1900s): Use of a camera on the end of a thin, flexible tube to see inside the body. Most common in digestive issues. They can also be used to carry small surgical instruments into the body

Ultrasound Scans (1940s): Sound waves used to build a picture of inside the body. They can diagnose kidney stones, gall stones, tumours and of course a baby in the womb.

Blood Sugar Monitoring 1960s: Diabetics can check their blood sugar regularly to manage their condition and avoid an attack



ECG's (1900's): Electro cardiograms track heart activity

CT Scanners (1970s): More advanced form of X-Rays. They can diagnose tumours and other growths in the body

MRI Scanners (1970s): Use magnets and radio waves to create an internal image of the body. They diagnose soft tissue injuries such as ligament damage

X-Rays (1890s): Help to see inside the body without cutting. Used to diagnose broken bones

Stick your copy of this table in your book and rank each new technology from best (1) to worst (6). When you've ranked them, explain WHY you've chosen this order…

	New technology	Treatment made possible
Medical treatments	Advanced x-rays	Doctors can now use x-rays to target and shrink tumours growing inside the body, using a treatment known as **radiotherapy**. This helps to treat cancers.
	Smaller, cheaper machines	Processes like **dialysis**, where the blood of patients with kidney failure is 'washed' by a machine, have become more widely available as machines have become smaller and more portable.
	Robotics	Better **prosthetic limbs*** are now produced. This is partly in response to the number of soldiers surviving bomb attacks in recent wars.
Surgical treatments	Microsurgery	The first successful kidney transplant was performed in the USA in 1956. This led to transplants of other organs, including lungs (from 1963), and livers and hearts (from 1967). These were made possible by improved surgical techniques, such as microsurgery which can reattach tiny nerve endings and blood vessels.
	Keyhole surgery	Surgeons use tiny cameras and narrow surgical instruments to operate inside the body through tiny holes made in the patient. This allows for quicker healing and less trauma* to the body.
	Robotic surgery	Surgeons use computers to control instruments inside the body, allowing for more exact surgery with smaller cuts.

Egs of modern surgery

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZM527dC1mcM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rt3SGf7YJT8

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yg6VyT0mbYg&rco=1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjPh3I2zS7E&rco=1

Appendectomy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ja8sdeRouGE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQ_Qa2KXlDo&rco=1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__HelmnvyBs&rco=1

Brain surgery

Interpretation 1

In this interpretation, taken from *Health and Medicine in Britain since 1860* by Anne Hardy (2001), the author challenges the short-term impact of the NHS.

The implementation of the NHS by no means resolved the problem of delivering adequate health care to Britain's people, although it did offer a considerable improvement over the combination of private and insurance medicine that had preceded it. The medical services offered under the 1948 Act were pre-eminently [mainly] providers of treatment for existing illness rather than agents [helpers] for preventing its development.

Interpretation 2

Former Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair wrote this at the start of a document about the modernisation of the NHS. It was published in 1997.

Creating the NHS was the greatest act of modernisation ever achieved by a Labour Government. It banished the fear of becoming ill that had for years blighted [made worse] the lives of millions of people.

What are the views of these interpretations about the NHS and what is the main difference?

The view of interpretations 1 is…. (include a quote that proves your point)

The view of interpretation 2 is … (include a quote that proves your point)

The main difference between the two interpretations is…

Which interpretation do you agree with?

So, where were we and where are we now…

In c.1900, most sick people were still cared for in the home by women and using herbal remedies bought from the chemist. Doctors had to be paid and so were only used for serious illness.

In 1900, 25% of deaths were caused by infectious diseases. By 1990 that was less than 1%

In 1948, the NHS made medical services FREE at the point of service. This gave EVERYBODY *access* to medical care and treatment.

However, the introduction of the NHS made it clear, once and for all, that hospitals were just for treating the sick, in earlier periods, hospitals had been places for the elderly to rest.

We may not be facing the same problems as our ancestors when researching treatments for illness and disease, but we face many new ones. Therefore, herbal remedies, homeopathy and acupuncture are still popular treatments.

Phase 3:

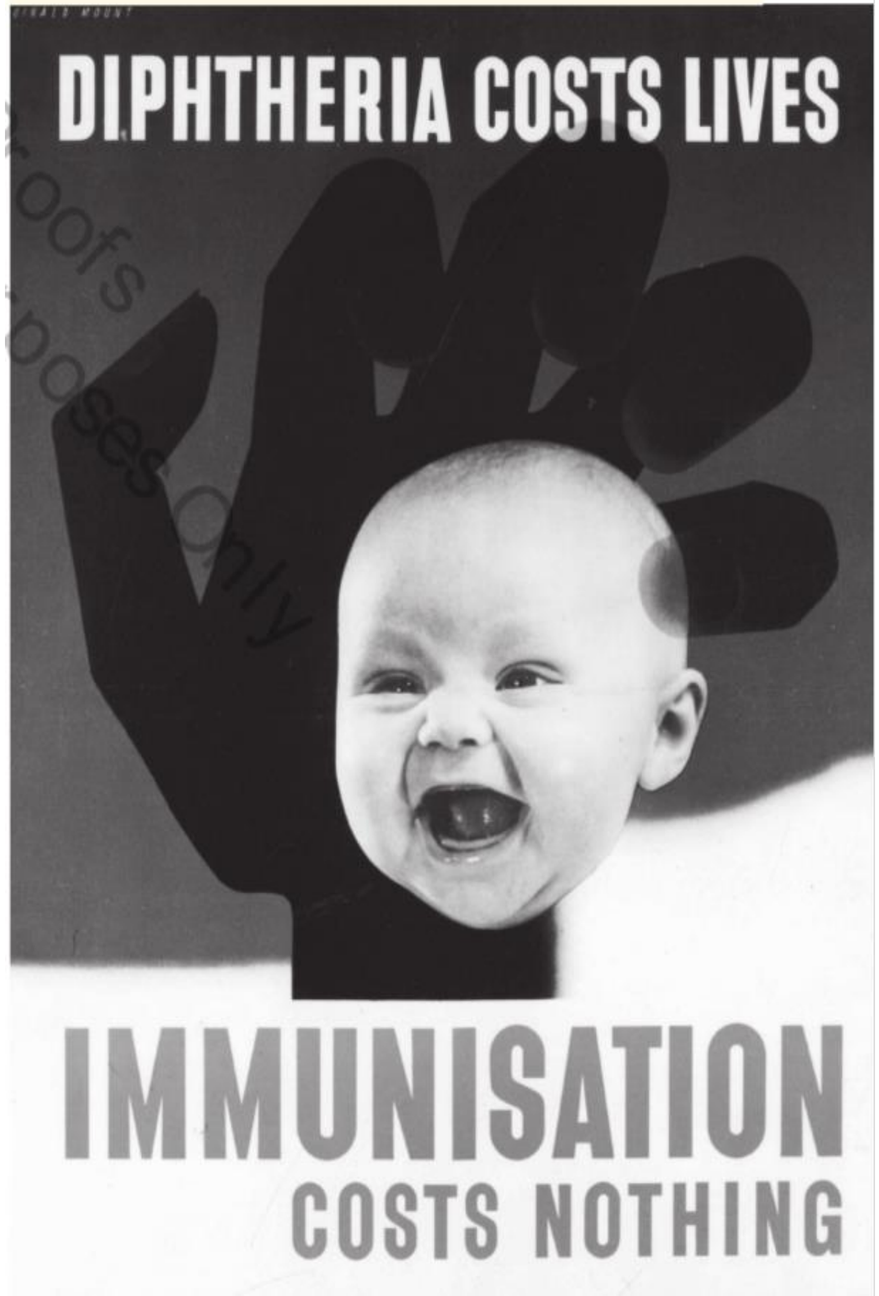
Preventing Disease

Government

- Vaccinations
- Government Laws
- Education Campaigns

HM Government

This poster advertising diphtheria immunisation was published in 1943, one year after the national campaign was launched.



Government introductions:

HM Government

- **Passing laws to provide a healthy environment –** Clean air act, chemical flouride to water supply, smoking ban etc
- **Communicating health risks –** during times of global epidemics (ebola 2014-15), government tracked travellers and put quarantine measures in place. Telling the people of the risks have become key in preventing disease
- **Compulsory Vaccinations -** MMR, Covid, Diphtheria etc
- **Charities –** British Heart Foundation creates adverts encouraging people to protect their heart by giving up smoking, eating less fat and exercising

Timeline

Government introduction of vaccinations

- **1942** Diphtheria
- **1950** Poliomyelitis and whooping cough
- **1961** Tetanus
- **1968** Measles
- **1970** Rubella

The **national** vaccination campaign against diphtheria was launched in 1942 – the first of its kind. Before this, local governments were responsible for vaccination campaigns but were not funded by government so were not widespread. 3000 children died each year as a result of diphtheria.

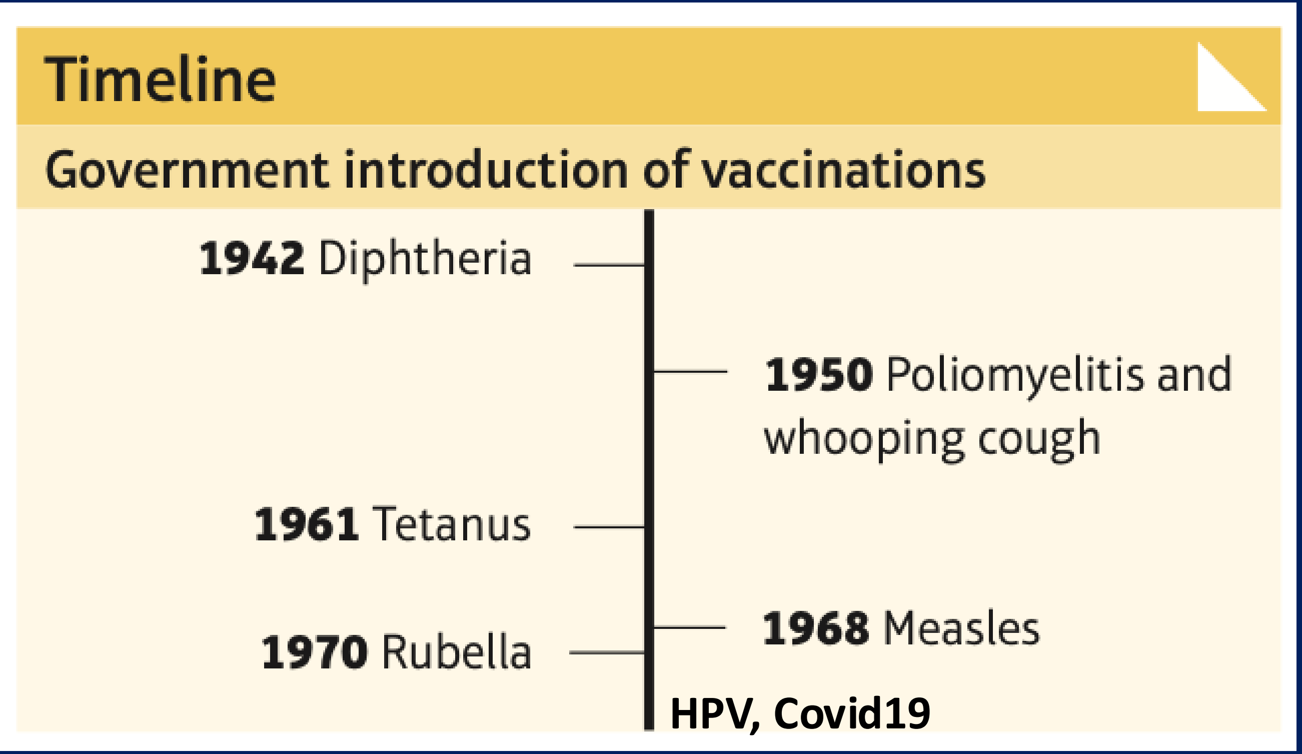
During WW2, the government put in a campaign to immunise every child, because of this infection rates plummeted, and diphtheria was a disease of the past.

Another significant campaign was against Polio, a very contagious disease that causes paralysis. In the 1950s, there were 8000 cases a year. The first vaccine, developed in the USA was introduced in 1956, followed by a better one in 1962.

The last person to get Polio in Britain was in 1984!

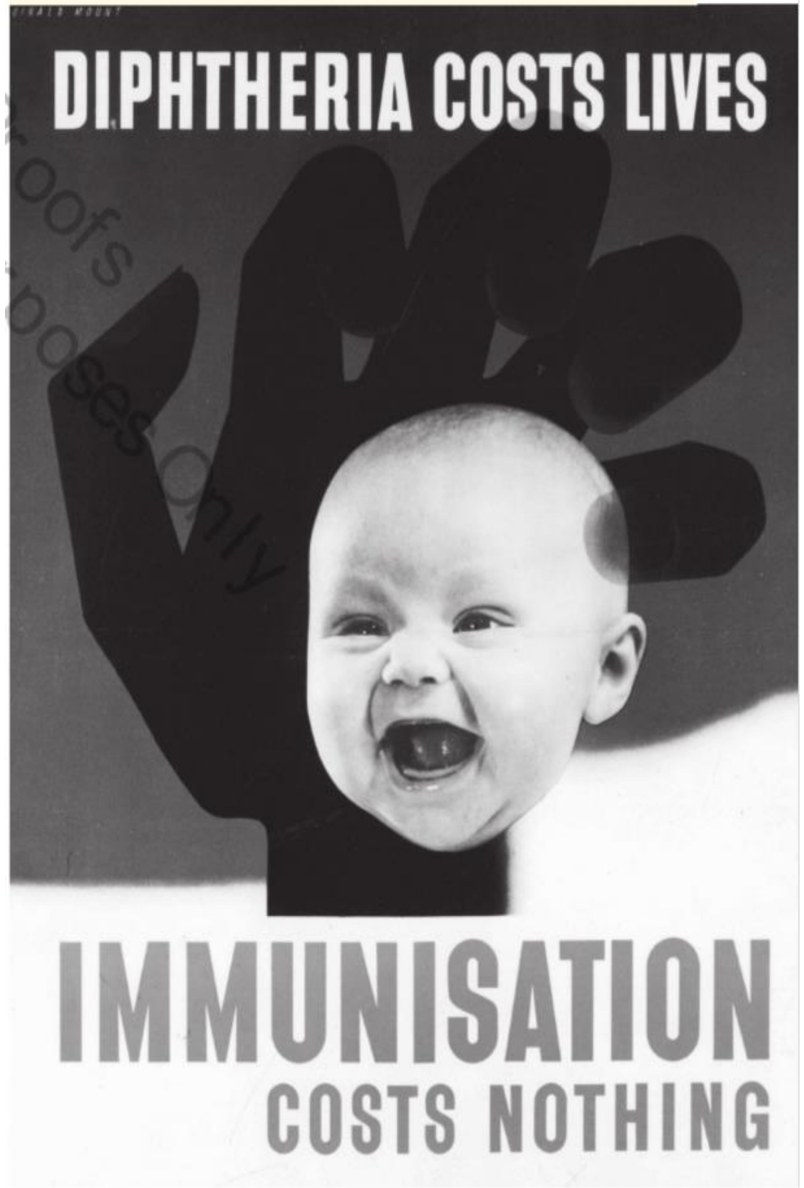
Other vaccines are aimed at protecting future generations, Rubella (German Measles) is not life threatening, but can affect unborn babies.

HPV vaccine protects women against infection from an STD that has been linked to cervical cancer.



Design a poster using this (and / or) previous knowledge to encourage people to get vaccinated

This poster advertising diphtheria immunisation was published in 1943, one year after the national campaign was launched.



HM Government

Government legislation (Passing LAWS)

Lavinia Hand was born in London in 1924. During the Great Smog she lived with her husband, George, and their two-year-old son Peter. Here she remembers what conditions were like.

It was really a very terrible fog. Everybody had coal or wood fires at that time so there was a lot of soot in the air, but it was traffic pollution as well. The air was so dangerous that thousands of people died. We lived in Wood Green and George worked in Finchley. He wore a mask but the smog made our eyes sting as well and the mask didn't help with that. I wouldn't take Peter out in it.

HM Government

A picture of a London policeman wearing a facemask in the last London smog, in 1962. Masks were sold to help people avoid the effects of breathing in the pollution.

Government legislation (Passing LAWS)

- **Clean Air Act of 1956 and 1968** – triggered by particularly bad smog in London caused by air pollution when everybody burned coal to heat their homes. Smog could cover a city for days.
- **Smoking ban inside all public buildings 1 July 2007**
- **Limiting car emissions (taxing dirtier cars more)**
- **Seatbelts must be worn in cars since 1983 (front seats) and 1991 (back seats)**
- **2018 – Sugar Tax and the need to display nutritional info on food products.–** c.67% of people in Britain are obese
- **2018 Scotland and Wales introduced a minimum unit price for alcohol making it more expensive**

HM Government

Government lifestyle campaigns:

As well as providing direct intervention to prevent disease, the government also aims to help people prevent disease themselves by promoting healthier lifestyles

Advertising campaigns – warning against dangers to health such as smoking, binge drinking, drug use and unprotected sex

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otR8V7rlnjA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wv1rKHGeMRk
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7F5o3NSHMoM https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKHY69AFstE
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0s033MjVR7o https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-Ai5AGLgLM
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CERT0xNFGo4

Stoptober – Encourages people to stop smoking for a month

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIyqcST29wQ
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Ul9QIfBno
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bkZyBNnCvo https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQIbIpjWEmc&t=48s

Exercise & Healthy Eating campaigns – Such as the change4Life (5 a day) campaigns https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5T0D_8OwvOk

A poster published by Change4Life in 2015. Change4Life is a Public Health England campaign designed to help families eat well and move more.