



GCSE HISTORY MEDICINE THROUGH TIME TASKS

How did Asian medicine try to keep people healthy?

Throughout all times and places human beings have tried to ward off disease and injury. Usually this has involved practical cures and remedies, as well as theories and beliefs about the causes of illness. Both elements are present in the medical traditions of Asia.

There were, of course, not one but several ancient medical traditions in Asia: Islamic medicine, Ayurvedic medicine

in India, as well as Chinese, Tibetan, Japanese and Thai medicines. Like Greek and Roman medicine, they emphasised the importance of balance. They also tried to describe the 'life-force' as it made its way around the body: this was called *prana* in Ayurvedic medicine, *qi* in China, *ki* in Japan and *rlung* in Tibet.

TASK 1

Use Sources A, B and C.

As you look at these examples of various Asian medical practices, compare them with what you know of medicine in western Europe.

- In what ways were Asian and European medicine the same – can you think of any medical practices in Europe that parallel those shown?
- What differences were there?

TASK 2

Use Sources D, E and F.

Here are three medical practices used in Asia before they were used in western Europe. Use your own knowledge, or research, to say when each practice was first used in Europe.

WELLCOME LIBRARY LEARNING RESOURCE

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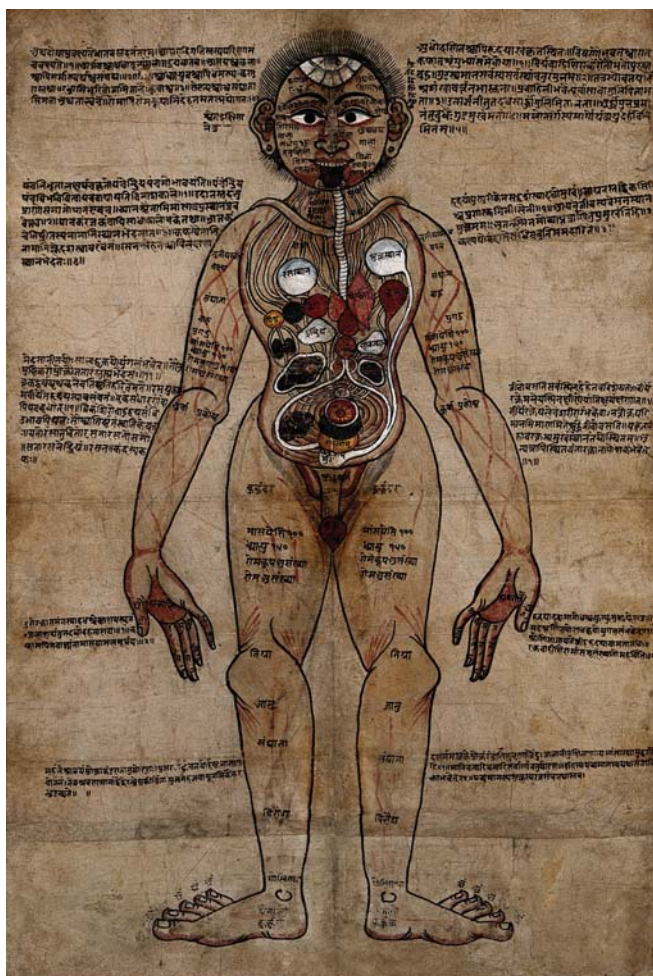


GCSE HISTORY MEDICINE THROUGH TIME SOURCE MATERIALS 1 OF 3

How did Asian medicine try to keep people healthy?

Source A.

Ayurvedic man. A drawing from Nepal, made around 1800. Ayurvedic medicine is 2000 years old. This drawing shows the places in the body where the 'humours' of Ayurvedic medicine are based. V0036133



Source B.

Acupuncture figure. This drawing was made in Japan in about 1750, but based on Chinese ideas about *qi* – the force of life. The lines are the channels that carry *qi* around the body and the dots are pressure-points. L0028466

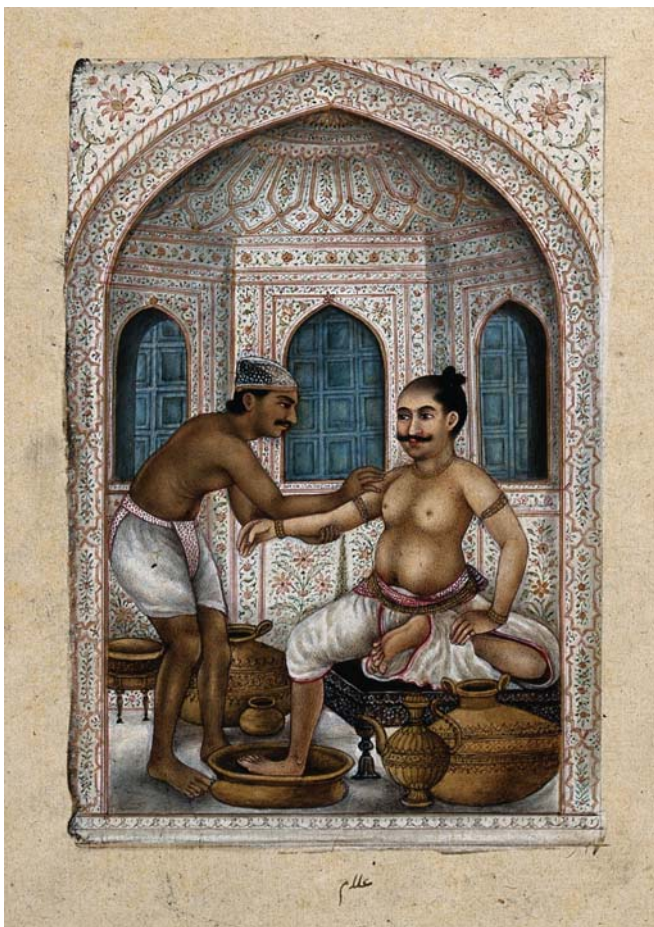


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How did Asian medicine try to keep people healthy?

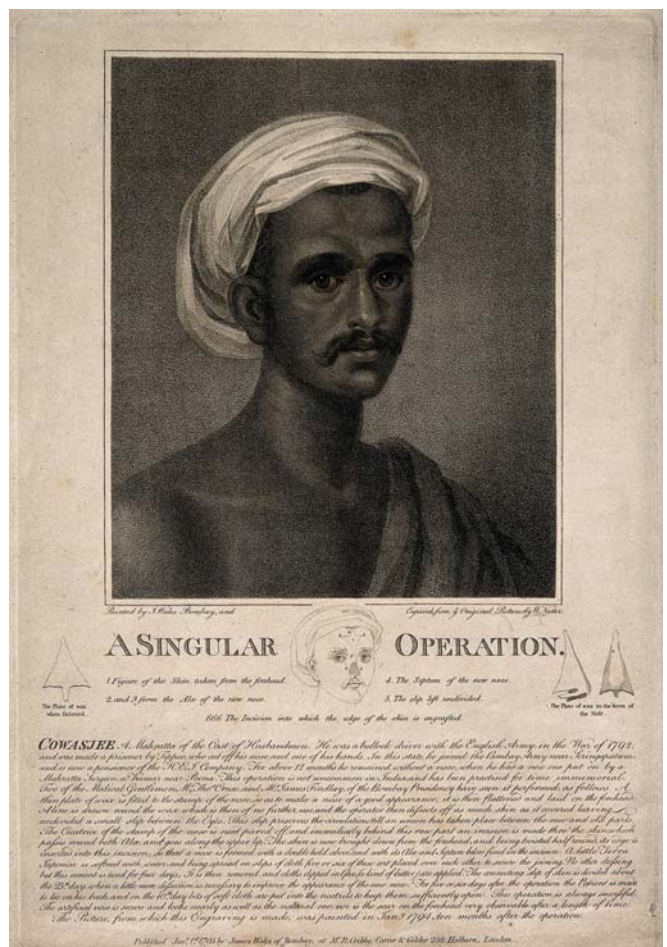
Source C.

Massage and steam-bath in Mughal India. The massage encourages better working of the nerves and the flow of *prana*, the life-force; a steam-bath removes toxins by sweating. This drawing is from 1825. V0045683



Source D.

An operation using a skin graft to rebuild a patient's nose after it had been cut off. This document refers to an operation in October 1794, but Indian surgeons had been doing this kind of thing for a long time. V0016860



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SOURCE MATERIALS 3 OF 3

How did Asian medicine try to keep people healthy?

Source E.

An operation to remove a breast cancer using general anaesthetic, Japan. This practice was first carried out by Hanaoka Seishu, in 1804. *L0031455*



Source F.

A Japanese chiropractor at work, late 19th century. Chiropractic treatment relieves pain in joints and muscles by manipulation and exercises. *L0034587*

