

# Public Health in Britain 1800 – 1914



Paper 2: How to  
answer exam  
questions

## Paper 2: Exam Practice

### TOP TIP:

Many sources about conditions at this time were produced as part of the campaigns to improve public health OR as reactions to it.

### Study Source A.

Why was this source published at that time? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. (8)



It was dedicated to the London water companies. Its caption read 'MONSTER SOUP' commonly called THAMES WATER, being a correct representation of that precious stuff doled out to us'.

Cartoon published in 1828.

### How do I answer this question?

- Read the question carefully. Note the date: 1828.
- Use your **own knowledge**. What was happening at this time?
- Read the caption. What clue does it give us about the message of the source?
- Study the detail of the source. What does it show? Remember to include specific detail from the source.

### Things to include in your answer:

What is the message of the source?

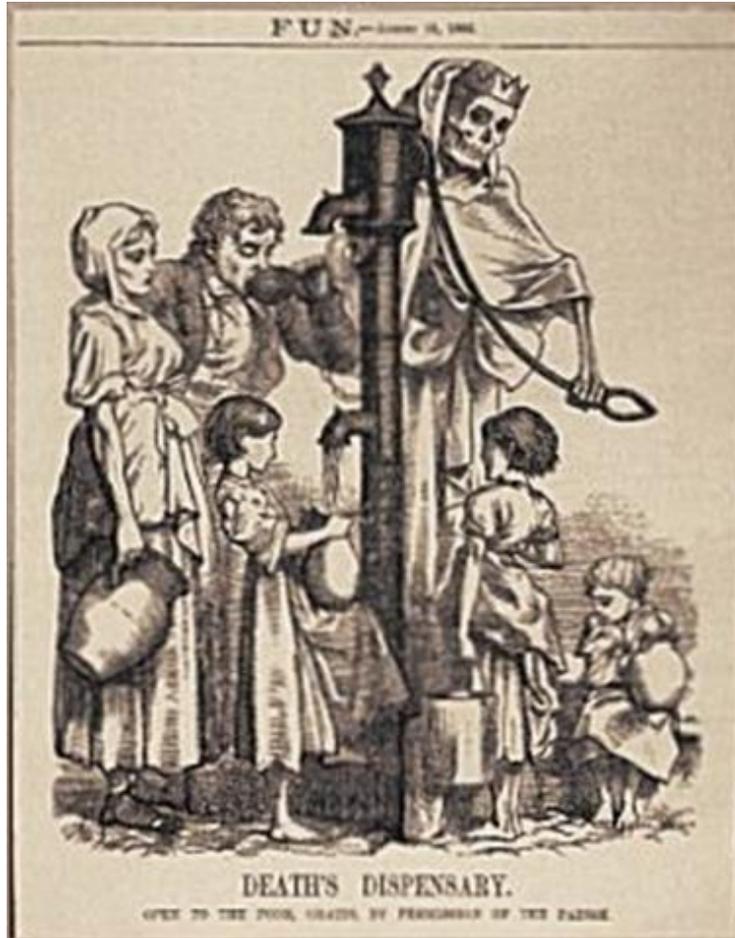
What is the purpose of the source? (Is it trying to force change?)

At least three facts about what public health was like at the time the source was published.

# Paper 2: Exam Practice

## Study Source A.

How typical of the time are the conditions portrayed in this source? Use the source & your knowledge to explain your answer.



### Source A:

This cartoon is called Death's Dispensary. It was published in 1860.

### How do I answer this question?

**Step 1: Annotate the source to show the key messages.**

**Step 2: Place the source in context. Use your knowledge of the period to explore why a historian might argue the source is not typical of public health conditions at the time.**

- Does the source give too negative a picture?
- Remember improvements had been made.

**Step 3: Consider the other side. Look at when the source was published. Why might we argue that the source is typical?**

- How did people react to Chadwick's work?
- What impact did the 1848 Public Health Act have?
- Did Snow's work change beliefs about what caused disease?

**Step 4: Reach a judgement.**

### Things to include in your answer:

- **Why is the source typical of the time: Use the source & own knowledge.**
- **Why the source is not typical of the time: Use the source & own knowledge.**
- **Judgement: Overall how typical is the source?**

### **REMEMBER:**

**If you are asked 'How useful...' a source is – Answer the question using this formula.**

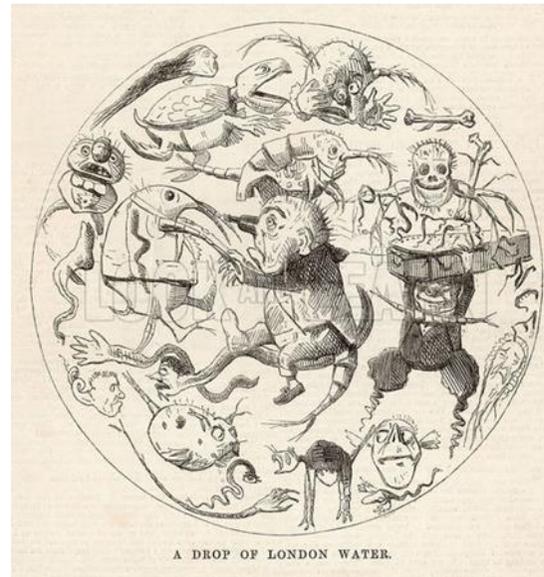
### Exam Tip: Compare Sources...

The examiner will never ask you to compare two random sources. There will always be a reason to compare the two. Can you see why the examiner has asked you to compare these sources & not two others?

### How to answer this question:

'Compare' questions require you to use both your source evaluation skills & own knowledge to explain the differences.

- 1) Look at the content of the two sources.
  - What is different? (One is dirty & unhygienic, the other clean & ordered etc.
  - Remember to use specific detail from both sources to show the examiner you are using them.
- 2) Look at the provenance of the source.
  - What kind of source, when made & why?
  - Use your contextual knowledge to explain why they differ. (One obvious thing – One is from the beginning of the period & one from the end)
- 3) For this particular question – You know that Bournville was a model village set up by the Cadbury family in Birmingham who believed that they should make conditions better because that would help people to keep healthy.



Source A: Published by Punch magazine on 11 May 1850.

Source B: Inside a cottage in Bournville village c.1890



### Exam Practice:

Compare Source A & Source B. Why are these two sources different? Use the sources & your own knowledge to answer the question. (9)

## Exam Practice: The BIG Question

**‘In the period 1800 – 1914 there was little improvement in public health until the reforms of the Liberal government of 1906-1914’. How far do you agree with this statement? Use your knowledge and the sources to explain your answer.**

**(16) + (3)**

### Step 1:

Start by considering the evidence that challenges the quotation.

- What do you know from your own knowledge?
- What evidence goes against the statement in the sources?

### Step 2:

Look for evidence that supports the quote:

- What evidence shows progress was slow in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? (Own knowledge & Source evidence)
- Evidence of progress under the Liberal government 1906-1914. (Own knowledge & Source evidence)

### Step 3:

Reach a judgement – **DO NOT SIT ON THE FENCE!** How far do you agree with the interpretation.

**REMEMBER:** Refer to the sources by letter. Directly quote or describe an aspect of the source. Don't forget that there are 3 marks for spelling, punctuation & grammar!

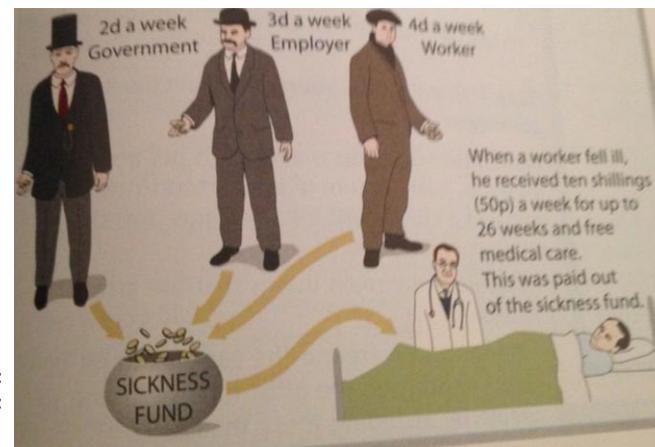
## PAPER 2 THE BIG QUESTION PRACTICE

How much progress had been made in public health before the Liberal government 1906-1914?



**SOURCE A:** Sir Joseph Bazalgette is seen standing top right, viewing the Northern Outfall Sewer, 1858

**SOURCE C:** A diagram showing the 1911 National Insurance Act, which said that workers, employers & the government must all pay money into a sickness fund.



'The Board of Health has fallen. We prefer to take our chance with cholera than be bullied into health. Everywhere the board's inspectors were bullying, insulting and expensive. They entered houses and factories insisting on changes revolting to the habits or pride of the masters and occupants. There is nothing a man hates so much as being cleaned against his will, having his floors swept, his walls whitewashed, his pet dung heaps cleared away, all at the command of a sort of sanitary bumbaliff. Mr Chadwick set to work everywhere, washing and splashing, and Master John Bull was scrubbed and rubbed till the tears came to his eyes and his fists clenched themselves with worry and pain.'

**SOURCE B:** A letter in *The Times* newspaper, 1 August 1854

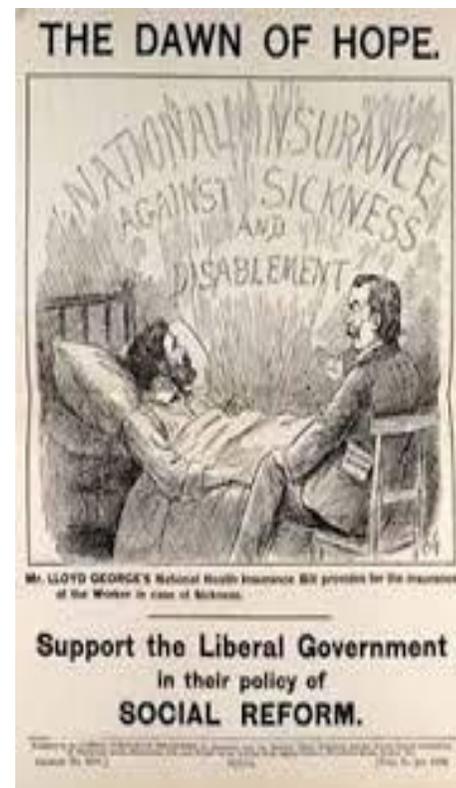
On proceeding to the spot, I found that nearly all the deaths had taken place within a short distance of the Broad street pump. There were only ten deaths in houses situated decidedly nearer to another street-pump. In five of these cases the families of the deceased persons informed me that they were always sent to the pump in Broad street, as they preferred the water to that of the pumps which were nearer, In three other cases, the deceased were children who went to school near the pump in Broad Street.

### QUESTION

'In the period 1800 – 1914 there was little improvement in public health until the reforms of the Liberal government of 1906-1914'. How far do you agree with this statement? Use your knowledge and the sources to explain your answer.

(16) + (3)

**SOURCE D:** Written by John Snow in 1854 proving that cholera is in the water



**SOURCE E:** A poster produced by the Liberal government, 1911