

# Y9 AUT1 Knowledge Organiser – Topic One: Medieval Medicine 1250-1500



## Medieval Britain

Medieval Britain is the period between **1250-1500** also known as the 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century or the Middle Ages.

## Key events

**1123** Britain's first hospital, St Bartholomew's was set up in London

**1350** Average life expectancy is 35 years of age

**1348-49** The Black Death kills 1/3 of England's population

**1388** Parliament passes the first law requiring streets and rivers to be kept clean by the people

## Key Concepts

**The Medieval Church** –The official religion of medieval Britain was Roman Catholic. Daily life and power was dominated by the Church, they controlled education and many people feared God.

**The Four Humours.** First suggested by Greek doctor Hippocrates. **Black Bile, Yellow Bile, Blood and Phlegm.** These humours linked to elements and seasons. Hippocrates believed that if these humours became unbalanced you would get ill. To get better, you needed to balance them. Galen, a Greek doctor working in Rome continued the theory and added his own ideas. His '**Theory of Opposites**' to heal illness suggested using hot to cure cold.

**Medieval Power** The emphasis in Medieval Britain was on authority. The King had total power, but the Church had considerable control. People followed authority and would not question the views of King/Church as it would mean risking their lives.

## Tier Three Key Words

<b>Superstition</b>	A belief, not based on knowledge, but on the supernatural. For example witchcraft or astrology
<b>Purging</b>	To rid the body of an 'excess' like blood or vomit
<b>Leeching</b>	The use of leeches for bloodletting
<b>Cupping</b>	Using glass cups to draw blood to the surface
<b>Fasting</b>	To avoid eating or drinking
<b>Pilgrimage</b>	A journey to a religious shrine and relics to show your love of God and to cure an illness
<b>Mass</b>	Public worship in the Roman Catholic Church
<b>Astrology</b>	Study of the planets and their effect on humans
<b>Miasma</b>	Bad air which was blamed for spreading disease
<b>Apothecary</b>	A medieval pharmacist or chemist
<b>Wise Woman</b>	A female healer, who used folk medicine and herbal remedies to cure illnesses.
<b>Vademecum</b>	A medieval medical book carried by doctors
<b>Urine Chart</b>	Used to examine urine to define an illness
<b>Physician</b>	A male medically trained doctor
<b>Barber Surgeon</b>	Untrained surgeon, who practiced basic surgery
<b>Dissection</b>	To cut open a human and examine the insides
<b>Epidemic</b>	A widespread outbreak of a disease
<b>Trepanning</b>	Cutting a hole in the skull
<b>Amulet</b>	A charm that bought protection from disease
<b>Black Death</b>	A term to describe the bubonic plague
<b>Monastery</b>	A building where monks live, eat and pray

