**Medieval Medicine – The Rediscovery of Hippocrates & Galen**

**Medicine Through Time**

**MEDIEVAL**

*The Return of Hippocrates and Galen*

- Galen’s ideas were rediscovered. Church leaders looked carefully at Galen’s works and decided that they fitted in with Christian ideas.
- Doctors in the Middle Ages believed his ideas were correct and it was nearly impossible to improve his work.
- Galen had great influence on the doctors in the Arabic world and in Medieval Christian Europe.
- Medical schools began to appear in Western Europe, starting with one in Salerno. Translations of Galen’s and Hippocrates’ work were accepted as the absolute truth here.

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**Medicine Through Time**

**MEDIEVAL**

*How did Islamic medicine improve western medicine?*

- Islamic scholars picked up and developed ideas from the Ancient Greeks whom they greatly admired.
- Aristotle’s four humours, Hippocrates’ clinical method of observation and Galen’s treatment by opposites lived on.
- Books were written that brought together the ideas of Aristotle, Hippocrates and Galen. These books were important means by which these ideas got back to Western Europe.

**However...**

- The attitude of Muslims towards the Koran meant that they were unwilling to criticise the works of Galen.

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**Medicine Through Time**

**MEDIEVAL**

*Do you know your stuff?*

1. How did Galen’s work fit in with Christian ideas?
   - He referred to “the creator”

2. What attitude did people have towards the work of Galen?
   - Nearly impossible to improve his work, accepted as the absolute truth.

3. How did Ancient ideas of Aristotle, Hippocrates and Galen manage to get back to Western Europe?
   - Arap wrote books combining these ideas.

4. Give a reason why the knowledge of Islamic scholars was limited.
   - Attitude towards the Koran meant they didn’t challenge classical science.

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