

Medicine on the Western Front-Personal Learning Checklist

**If you can answer all of these questions your knowledge of this topic is really good.
Practice answering the questions and get someone to test you.**

Highlight the questions red, amber or green depending on whether you can answer them. You can then use the Quizlet sets for each one to look up the answers.

Medicine in the Early C20th

1. What three medical breakthroughs were made in the early C20th which led to medical advancements in the British sector of the Western Front?
2. What did Lister's use of carbolic spray lay the foundations for?
3. Outline the key features of early C20th aseptic surgery.
4. What did Wilhelm Roentgen develop in 1895?
5. Describe how Roentgen made his accidental discovery.
6. What were the problems that emerged with the early use of x-rays?
7. Describe the work of James Blundell.
8. What were the main problems with blood transfusions in the early C20th and how did they try to solve them?

The British Sector of the Western Front

1. What happened after Britain declared war on Germany on 4th August 1914?
2. Why could battles during World War One not follow along the same lines as in previous wars?
3. How deep were the trenches?
4. Were trenches easier to defend or to attack? Why?
5. Describe the features of the trench system using Figure 5.3.
6. Draw and label a basic cross section of a trench using Figure 5.4.
7. Name 6 key battles in the British sector of the Western Front.
8. Write down 3 key facts about each of the 6 battles.
9. What was the problem with horse-drawn ambulances?
10. When were the first motor ambulances sent to the Western Front? What were the problems with the motor ambulances?
11. What other types of ambulance were used in the British sector of the Western Front?

Medical conditions on the Western Front

1. Describe the conditions in the trenches.
2. What were the symptoms and attempted solutions for each of the following medical conditions on the Western Front:
 - a. Trench foot
 - b. Trench fever
 - c. Shellshock
3. What percentage of wounds were caused by rifles and explosives? Describe the wounds caused by these weapons (refer to tetanus and gas gangrene in your answer).
4. What was developed to protect soldiers from head injuries? Why was it effective?
5. Describe the 3 types of gas attack on the Western Front.
6. Were gas attacks a major cause of death on the Western Front?

The Work of the RAMC and FANY

1. What were the RAMC and the FANY?
2. How many medical officers were there in 1914? How many were there by 1918?
3. What was the chain of evacuation?
4. What were the main stages in the chain of evacuation?
5. Give three facts about each of the following stages in the chain of evacuation:
 - a. Regimental Aid Post (RAP)
 - b. Dressing Stations (ADS and MDS)
 - c. Casualty Clearing Stations (CCS)
6. When did the first six FANYs arrive in France? Who did they help and why?
7. When did the British army allow FANYs to start driving ambulances?
8. Where were the Base Hospitals on the Western Front? What were the two types of Base Hospital?
9. Why did Casualty Clearing Stations play an increasingly important role in dealing with wounds instead of Base Hospitals?
10. What other important roles emerged for Base Hospitals?
11. Why did Base Hospitals once again start performing much of the surgery that was required for the wounded from the spring of 1918?
12. Describe the underground hospital at Arras.

Experiments in surgery and medicine on the Western Front

1. What problems did the RAMC face at the start of the war on the Western Front?
2. Describe the three main techniques used to prevent infections from spreading.

3. Why did men with gunshot or shrapnel wounds to the leg only have a 20% chance of survival in 1914 and 1915?
4. What came into use in 1916 which increased survival rates for this type of wound from 20% to 82% (give specific detail)?
5. What role did Marie Curie play in medicine during World War One?
6. What were the problems with the use of x-rays for medical practitioners on the Western Front?
7. Describe the use of mobile x-ray units.
8. Who pioneered the use of blood transfusions from 1915? What method did he use and what was the purpose of it?
9. Describe the work of Geoffrey Keynes.
10. What advances were made in the storage of blood?
11. What was the significance of the Battle of Cambrai in the advancement of the storage of blood?
12. Why were injuries to the brain likely to be fatal at the beginning of the war?
13. Describe the work of Harvey Cushing.
14. Who was largely responsible for the development of plastic surgery? Where was plastic surgery carried out? How many operations were carried out there?

Practice exam questions

Please highlight all of the exam questions that you have completed in another colour

4-mark 'describe two features' questions

Describe two features of aseptic surgery in the early 20th century

Describe two features of a trench system

Describe two features of the First Battle of Ypres

Describe two features of the Second Battle of Ypres

Describe two features of the Battle of the Somme

Describe two features of the Battle of Arras

Describe two features of the Third Battle of Ypres

Describe two features of the Battle of Cambrai

Describe two features of ambulance trains and barges

Describe two features of shrapnel and bullet wounds

Describe two features of gas attacks

Describe two features of FANY

Describe two features of a Regimental Aid Post

Describe two features of a Dressing Station

Describe two features of a Casualty Clearing Station

Describe two features of a Base Hospital

Describe two features of the underground hospital at Arras

Describe two features of brain surgery during World War One

Describe two features of plastic surgery during World War One

8-mark usefulness questions/4-mark source questions

Source set 1

Source A

A British trench during the Battle of the Somme, July 1916.



Source B

From Edward Munro's Diaries of a Stretcher Bearer. This entry comes from 7 November 1916, when Munro was in the Somme.

"We commenced to carry down the wounded of whom there were a considerable number. The 7th Brigade had made an attack on the German line the previous night and had suffered many casualties. This country over which we have to carry is most difficult to traverse [walk across], being pitted with shell holes, mostly waterlogged. Fritz [a reference to the Germans] keeps up a fairly constant shelling. Yesterday he caught some of the 6th Ambulance bearers, killing two. In this area was started the system of carrying the stretchers shoulder high – four to a stretcher, this being much less fatiguing than the old method of two carrying with slings ... The carrying at night is very trying as there are no clearly defined tracks. The landmarks that serve to guide one in the daytime are not visible at night."

How useful are Sources A and B for an enquiry into the problems involved in transporting the wounded on the Western Front?

Explain your answer, using Sources A and B and your knowledge of the historical content. (8 marks)

How could you follow up Source A to find out more about the problems involved in transporting the wounded on the Western Front? In your answer, you must give the question you would ask and the type of source you could use. (4 marks)

Source set 2

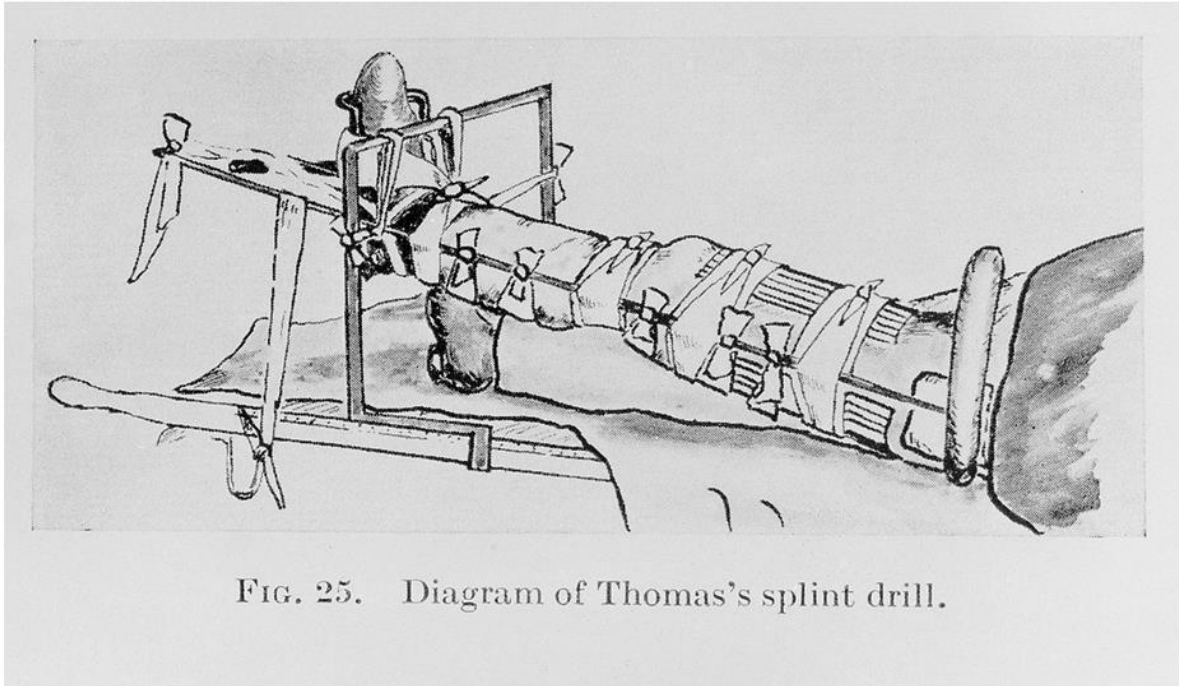
Source A

From A Surgeon's Journal 1915-18, by Harvey Cushing, published in 1936. Here he is describing the conditions under which he is working during the Battle of Passchendaele on 19 August, 1917.

“My prize patient, Baker, with the shrapnel ball removed from his brain, after doing well for three days suddenly shot up a temperature to 104 last night about midnight. I took him to the operating theatre, reopened the perfectly healed external wound, and found to my dismay a massive gas infection of the brain. I bribed two orderlies to stay up with him in the operating room, where he could have constant thorough irrigation over the brain and through the track of the missile [passing a warm saline solution along the path taken by the shrapnel to prevent infection]. No light except candles was permitted last night.”

Source B

Diagram of a Thomas Splint



How useful are Sources A and B for an enquiry into the treatments that were available for wounded soldiers on the Western Front?

Explain your answer, using Sources A and B and your knowledge of the historical content. (8 marks)

How could you follow up Source A to find out more about the treatments available for wounded soldiers on the Western Front? In your answer, you must give the question you would ask and the type of source you could use. (4 marks)

Source set 3

Source A

Private W. Hay, Royal Scots Regiment, recalling in a later interview his experience in 1915.

“We started to march towards Ypres but we couldn’t get past on the road with refugees coming down the road. We went along the railway line to Ypres and there were people, civilians and soldiers, lying along the roadside in a terrible state. We heard them say it was gas. We didn’t know what the Hell gas was. When we got to Ypres we found a lot of Canadians lying there dead from gas the day before, poor devils, and it was quite a horrible sight for us young men.”

Source B

A captured British tank in German hands at Cambrai in 1917



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-534400
Foto: a. Ang. 1. November 1917

How useful are Sources A and B for an enquiry into the fighting conditions on the Western Front?

Explain your answer, using Sources A and B and your knowledge of the historical content. (8 marks)

How could you follow up Source A to find out more about the fighting conditions on the Western Front? In your answer, you must give the question you would ask and the type of source you could use. (4 marks)