

**EDEXCEL
ENTRY LEVEL IN HISTORY**

CORE TASK

Cholera

Edexcel
Success through qualifications

Introduction

In the early nineteenth century Cholera epidemics began to break out in Britain. At the time people did not know what caused cholera, but they soon began to realise that it was something to do with dirty conditions in towns.

You have three tasks to complete. You should first read the sources. You should also use any textbooks or notes that you have. If you use both the sources and your textbooks you will get more marks.

You should write down what you can find out. Try to keep your work in order. You will get more marks if you do.

Task One

This task is asking you to find out about something.

You must try to find out what towns were like in Britain in the first half of the nineteenth century.

SOURCE A – This is a description of Preston in 1844.

Between the backyards of the two rows of cottages a cesspool extends the whole length of the street, which receives the contents of the lavatories and drains. The contents of the cesspool belong to the landlord and are taken out twice a year.

SOURCE B – This table shows you the average ages at death of people in Liverpool and Wiltshire in 1842.

	Wiltshire	Liverpool
Gentry	50	35
Farmers	48	22
Labourers	33	15

SOURCE C – This is taken from a school textbook.

In the first industrial towns the houses were built by the factory owners. they tried to save as much money as possible. Often the houses had no running water and no drains or sewers. Sometimes several families lived together in one house. It was very difficult to keep the houses clean and disease could easily spread from one person to another.

Task Two

This task is asking you to find out why something happened.

You must try to find out why cholera broke out in towns in Britain in the nineteenth century.

SOURCE A – This is a description of an outbreak of cholera in 1833.

On 26 May the first case of cholera occurred in Blue Bell Fold, a small, dirty cul-de-sac containing about 20 houses inhabited by poor families. It lies between the river and a smelly stream which carries refuse from a number of factories.

The first case occurred in a child, two years of age, in perfect health on the preceding day, who became suddenly ill on the morning of 26 May and died on the same day.

SOURCE B – This is a drawing of the Thames in the middle of the nineteenth century. The river carried away the refuse and also supplied fresh water.



SOURCE C – This is from a school textbook.

Cholera was caused by the water supply becoming contaminated. In city centres the pumps that supplied water were often close to sewers and the two became mixed. People could easily drink sewage without realising what was happening.

Task Three

This task is asking you to explain what changes have taken place.

You must try to find out what changes were made to towns in Britain after the outbreaks of cholera.

SOURCE A – This is from a school textbook.

At first people were against improving city centres because they did not like government interference. But in 1858 there was a long hot summer and the River Thames dried up. It produced the ‘Great Stink’. The smell was so bad that Parliament had to stop sitting. The next year new drains began to be built in London.

SOURCE B – Part of an official report published in the 1840s

The most important measures are drainage, the removal of all refuse from the streets and the roads and the improvement of the supplies of water. The expense of public drainage and supplies of water would save money by cutting the existing charge resulting from sickness and death

SOURCE C – The details of the 1875 Public Health Act

- The Act forced councils to build sewers, drains and pavements. Streets had to be lit and regularly cleaned.
- Councils were given powers to deal with infectious diseases and to deal with food safety by destroying food that was unfit to eat.
- Councils could provide public lavatories and washhouses, parks, fire services and libraries.

MARK SCHEME

Task One - Objective One		
Level 1	Information is collected about industrial towns from either the sources OR a textbook and is presented in an unstructured manner, i.e. with no attempt to arrange material under different headings, e.g. bad houses, dirty water etc.	1-5
Level 2	Information is collected about industrial towns from BOTH the sources and a textbook and is presented in an unstructured manner.	6-10
Level 3	Information is collected about industrial towns from both the sources and a textbook and is presented in a structured manner showing understanding of chronology.	11-15

Task Two - Objective Three		
Level 1	One cause is given for cholera e.g. poor sewerage etc.	1-5
Level 2	Several causes are given for cholera e.g. poor quality housing, people living closely together etc.	6-10
Level 3	A sequence of causes is given for cholera e.g. industrial towns built cheaply and quickly, housing poor quality etc.	11-15

Task Three - Objective Four		
Level 1	One change is given, e.g. sewers were built etc.	1-5
Level 2	Several changes are given, e.g. sewers, clean water etc.	6-10
Level 3	A sequence of changes is given, e.g. sewers, clean water, Public Health Acts gave responsibility to local councils etc.	11-15

Objective Seven		
Level 1	Students are able to show a general sense of chronology, e.g. in terms of before and after.	1-4
Level 2	Students are able to organise events into an accurate sequence.	5-7
Level 3	Students are able to place events accurately in terms of year and date, e.g. showing understanding of the significance of the passage of time etc.	8-10