Public Health in the Middle Ages

**TASK:** You need to make flash cards from these questions and answers or a mind map or any other way you find it easy to revise and retain knowledge. You must revise this knowledge for **10-15 minutes each day** and it will go into your long-term memory. **You will be tested on this two weeks from when you receive the HW.** If you have completed the task accurately you should be getting between 8-12 correct.

1. Why did public health facilities decay in this era?
   a. Lack of power to maintain them – due to lots of little kingdoms and no central government.
   b. Lack of funds.

2. Why was there poor hygiene in the Middle Ages?
   a. People knew about the link between dirt and disease but they didn’t understand it.
   b. Rubbish, dead animals and excrement were not removed from streets.
   c. Latrines were often built above rivers or streams so water was contaminated.
   d. When ‘gong farmers’ emptied cesspits the contents were sold to farmers for manure.

3. What did most people drink, instead of water in the Middle Ages?
   a. Ale

4. Name 3 ways town councils tried to improve public health in the Middle Ages.
   a. 1281: Local authorities tried to ban pigs from London’s streets.
   b. 1347: Sanitary Act tried to keep streets cleaner; people could be fined for dropping waste.
   c. 1388: Parliament tried to stop people dumping excrement in ditches and rivers. Pipes and conduits were run into towns to try and improve fresh water supplies.

5. List 2 groups of people who lived in better conditions.
   a. Peasants – villages were less crowded.
   b. Rich – could afford better conditions like privies that kept waste away from living areas.
   c. Monasteries – Fresh water piped in and running water to remove waste.
   d. Towns – that had public toilets / baths known as stewes.

6. What 2 factors greatly influenced Medieval public Health?
   a. Government.
   b. War.

7. How did the Government influence public health?
   a. Some kings were better than others at enforcing laws and promoting public health – their power was also shared with the church.

8. How did War influence public health?
   a. Civil wars disrupted improvements.
   b. Conflict did also result in spreading new ideas.

9. Who invented the ‘Water Closet’?

10. Why didn’t it take off?
    a. Many people ridiculed it so it took 200 years before it was widely used.

11. When did the idea to build an artificial river from the River Lee in Hertfordshire to supply fresh water begin and end?
    a. 1602-1613 due to funding problems.

12. Why did this only have a limited impact?
    a. Too expensive to build everywhere.
    b. Couldn’t keep up with demand.