MEDICAL MIRACLES

1 Penicillin…

Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming was cleaning his laboratory in 1928 when he noticed some mould on a bacteria sample that he should have covered. He realised that the mould must have killed the bacteria. The mould contained a substance called penicillin. Ten years later, scientists managed to isolate it and produce it in large quantities. As a result, doctors were able to use penicillin as an antibiotic to treat thousands of soldiers during the Second World War. Since then, penicillin has saved millions of lives.

2 The structure of DNA …

In 1953, Englishman Francis Crick and American James Watson made an incredible discovery. Scientists already knew that DNA is present in the cells of our bodies. They also knew that DNA contains our genetic data, and that each person’s DNA is unique. Crick and Watson managed to calculate the “double helix” structure of DNA, so they could finally see how genetic data carries on from generation to generation. Because of this discovery, doctors are now able to treat millions of people with serious illnesses, and the police can solve numerous crimes.

3 Hear transplants…

In 1967, Christian Barnard, a surgeon from South Africa, managed to transplant a heart into a man with heart disease. Barnard had previously experimented on dogs, but this was the first human heart transplant. The operation was a success, although unfortunately the man died a few weeks later. Survival times gradually increased over the years, however, and now surgeons can carry out heart, kidney, liver, lung and even face transplants!

4 The first test-tube baby…

Louise Brown was born on 25th July 1978. She wasn’t an ordinary child – she was the world’s first “test tube” baby. Dr Patrick Steptoe was a doctor at a hospital near Manchester, who wanted to help people that couldn’t have children. He took an egg from Louise’s mother, and managed to fertilise it in a test tube. He was then able to put the fertilised egg in the mother. Since Louise’s birth, the treatment has been developed and millions of couples have been able to have children in this way.

**Read the text and answer the questions**

Where did Alexander Fleming make his discovery?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why was penicillin important in the 1940s?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What information is in our DNA?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What did Crick and Watson help us understand?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Why did Barnard’s patient need a transplant?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What was unusual about Louise Brown?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the questions based on your opinion**

Which medical development in the text do you think was the most important? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have any important medical developments happened in your country? What are they?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What other important medical developments can you think of? When did they happen?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What effect have they had on our lives?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Should there be restrictions on medical research?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Match the words in the text writing them down right next to their meaning**

Hongo (1st paragraph)

Darse cuenta (1st paragraph)

WHEN ALL EXERCISES ARE DONE, YOU MUST WRITE A TEXT (200-250) WORDS ABOUT AN IMPORTANT MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT

Aislar (1st paragraph)

Cantidades (1st paragraph)

Descubrir (2nd paragraph)

Único (2nd paragraph)

Enfermedades (2nd paragraph)

Enfermedad (3rd paragraph)

Éxito (3rd paragraph)

Incrementó (3rd paragraph)

Sin embargo (3rd paragraph)

Tratamiento (4th paragraph)