Health Service in Great Britain

1. **READ THE FOLLOWING TEXT:**

**HEALTH SERVICE IN GREAT BRITAIN**

The National Health Service Act was passed through Parliament in 1946 and in 1948 this Act received the Royal assent and was brought into operation.

Similar services operate in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further administrative changes were introduced by a number of other Health Service Acts.

Most medical treatment in Great Britain is free, but charges are made for drugs, spectacles and dental care. Free emergency medical treatment is given to any visitor from abroad who becomes ill while staying in England. But those who come to England specifically for treatment must pay for it.

The National Health Service provides free medical care both in hospital and in the out-patient clinic. People may use the NHS or they may go to doctors as private patients. In big cities there are some private hospitals which people may use. Many people who have enough money still prefer to be private patients because they think that they can in that way establish a closer relationship with the doctor or because they do not want to be put in a large room with other patients.

A patient can choose between NHS and private treatment at any time. Moreover he can take some of his medical care through the NHS, and some privately. If a patient is dissatisfied with his NHS family doctor or dentist, he may change to another one. In fact, 97 per cent of the population uses the NHS.

The role of the family doctor (General Practitioner) is very important. Not all patients need highly specialized attention and the GP does invaluable work by filtering off 90 per cent or so of the total medical work.

The freedom of choice applies to doctors and dentists too. They can choose whether they want to join the NHS or not, and whether they will have NHS patients or private ones. In fact, the majority work in the NHS.

They have modern hospitals but half of the buildings are over 100 years old. 70 per cent of their hospitals are small, with only about 200 beds. Such hospitals are not economical and cannot provide a full range of service, which requires a district hospital of 800 beds or more. Now they have more than 150 health centers in the U.K. The first Scottish health centre was opened in Edinburgh in 1953. These health centers are an integral part of a unified comprehensive health service. Health centers provide all the special diagnostic and therapeutic services which family doctors may need, such as electrocardiography, X-ray, physiotherapy and good administrative and medical records systems. Family doctors work in close cooperation with the hospital doctors. Health centers are the basis of primary care.

There are centers which provide consultant services in general medicine and surgery, ear-nose-throat diseases, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, psychiatry and orthopedics. All consultations in the centre are by appointment only. The patient is given a definite time at which to attend. This is recorded on a card for him. Each doctor decides for himself how many patients he can examine in one hour. They believe that the patient is the most important person in the health centre and that we should direct all our energy towards helping him as much as possible.

**About the NHS**

Since its launch 60 years ago, the NHS has grown to become the world’s largest publicly funded health service. It is also one of the most efficient, most egalitarian and most comprehensive.

The system was born out of a long-held ideal that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth – and that principle remains at its core. With the exception of charges for some prescriptions and optical and dental services, the NHS remains free at the point of use for anyone who is resident in the UK – more than 60m people. It covers everything from antenatal screening and routine treatments for coughs and colds to open heart surgery, accident and emergency treatment and end-of-life care.

Although funded centrally from national taxation, NHS services in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are managed separately. While some differences have emerged between these systems in recent years, they remain similar in most respects and continue to be talked about as belonging to a single, unified system.

1. **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:**
2. What medical treatment does the NHS provide?
3. What diseases does the NHS cover?
4. What aids does it provide?
5. What does a patient do to obtain benefits of the NHS?
6. Why do several general practitioners join in partnership?
7. What consultant services do health centers provide?
8. Нow many patients does a general practitioner have on his list?
9. **CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER:**
10. THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT WAS BROUGHT INTO OPERATION IN … :

1) 1944;

2) 1946;

3) 1948;

4) 1950;

1. MOST MEDICAL TREATMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN IS FREE, BUT CHARGES ARE MADE FOR DRUGS, …….. AND DENTAL CARE.

1) treatment of mental disorders;

2) treatment of ENT disorders;

3) emergency care;

4) spectacles;

1. THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDES ……MEDICAL CARE.

* free;
* pre-hospital;
* homiciliary;
* private;

1. ALL CONSULTATIONS IN HEALTH CENTRES ARE ………………ONLY.

1) provided by Doctors of Medical Science;

2) for aged population;

3) by appointment;

4) for aged population;

1. FAMILY DOCTOR IS A SYNONYM FOR ….

1) GP;

2) PhD;

3) BM;

4) MS;

1. PROVIDING ALL THE SPECIAL DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES , …. ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF A UNIFIED COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH SERVICE.

1) health centers;

2) in-patient departments;

3) private clinics;

4) out-patient departments;

1. THE ….. DOES INVALUABLE WORK BY FILTERING OFF 90 PER CENT OR SO OF THE TOTAL MEDICAL WORK.

1) clinical resident;

2) pharmacist;

3) general practitioner;

4) house surgeon;

1. ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF BRITISH HOSPITALS …

1) are ill-equipped;

2) are not economical;

3) are modern;

4) are designed for online consultations;

1. **EXPLAIN HOW YOU UNDERSTAND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SAYINGS:**
2. **Prevention is better than cure.**
3. **One man’s meat is another man’s poison.**
4. **Health is not valued till sickness comes.**

***►Use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your argument with examples and relevant evidence.***

***► Use the following expressions to express your agreement or disagreement:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Stating an  opinion | * In my opinion... ● The way I see it... * As far as I'm concerned... ● If you ask me... |
| Expressing  agreement | * I agree 100 percent. * That's for sure. * Absolutely. * That's exactly how I feel. * Exactly. * That’s right. * No doubt about it.   · It appears to me to be true. |
| Expressing  disagreement | * I don't think so. * I'm afraid, I disagree. * I beg to disagree. * No, I'm not so sure about that.   · That’s wrong. |

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