

What factors influenced Roman development?

With a large empire came the acquisition of the knowledge and expertise of the conquered peoples and cultures they inherited. Sometimes this was exploited, sometimes it was disregarded.

The Romans believed in the theory of the four humours

Julius Caesar granted Roman citizenship to doctors living in Rome in 46BC

Military hospitals, known as *valetudinaria*, were built to treat Roman soldiers

Good water, sewage disposal and healthy sites were provided for military bases around the Empire

Galen was Greek. He studied and trained in Greece. He was born in 129AD and did not get to Rome until 161 AD

Permanent military bases, such as those along Hadrian's wall, often had bath houses

Imported materials such as tin, granite, lead and silver could be used to create new surgical instruments

Initially, Roman doctors were mainly Greek slaves who were not well respected. Roman writers used to warn against using them!

The Romans built aqueducts, roads, forts, sewers, public toilets, public baths, defensive walls, stadia and government buildings. Slaves and Roman soldiers, when they were not fighting, tended to build these mass projects.

The Romans had remarkable building skills. They were "do-ers" and not thinkers and acted to solve a problem without knowing why there was a problem. This observation is known as empirical observation.

The Roman army built roads to quickly travel around their empire

Military hospitals proved so popular that others were set up for the civil servants who governed the empire and then more to treat the poor

The Romans built an Asclepion in Rome in 293BC as a response to the outbreak of plague. Asclepius was the Greek god of healing

The efficient and effective government structure allowed ample taxes to be collected which were spent on mass building projects and to exempt doctors from paying some taxes

Alexandria was absorbed into the Roman Empire. The Romans thus assimilated all medical knowledge and expertise from the city

Special medical troops treated the wounded on the battlefield

Herbs and spices such as incense, foodstuffs such as olive oil and gannum (fish paste), timber, precious stones, materials such as muslin and leather, and metals were transported around the empire via seas, rivers and roads.

Emperors and government needed to maintain a healthy army and be able to recruit healthy people to the army from all sections of society