

AN INTERVIEW WITH GALEN



The year is 175 AD and you have just interviewed the most famous doctor in Ancient Rome. There is a list of questions on this sheet that you could ask him. Respond to as many of these questions as you think Galen would have answered them. Your teacher will show you how to set this out.

- Where and when were you born?
- Where did you do your medical training?
- Why did you want to become a physician?
- Why did you like being doctor to the gladiators?
- What was the important job you got in 169AD?
- What have you learned from doctors such as Hippocrates?
- What do you think of Hippocrates?
- Could you tell me about your “opposites” theory?
- Why didn’t you dissect human bodies?
- As you could not dissect human bodies what did you do instead?
- Can you see any problems with this?
- What have you learned from your dissections?
- Where have you been able to see dead bodies?
- Have you written any books about your medical ideas?
- Do you think your ideas will be important in the future?
- Do you think you are a good doctor?



Here is an example of how Galen might have answered one of the questions asked to him.

Interviewer: Where did you do your medical training?
Galen: An interesting question. I studied for a total of nine years in many of the greatest centres for medicine such as Corinth, Crete and Palestine. It was perhaps at Alexandria that I learned the most.

