

Part 3

Read the article on Harrogate spas and answer Questions 26 - 45.

Spring Waters in Harrogate

The equivalent of going to gyms and sports halls to boost health in the past was once taking the waters at spas. The popularity of visiting spas for health flourished from the early 17th century until late 1940s. What came along with the establishment of spas was urban growth as it brought more social activities.

One of the most celebrated spa towns in England is Harrogate in Yorkshire. Actually, the English term spa was first used for Harrogate springs where it was once recognized as England's Premier Spa. Still, Yorkshire also offered similar spa facilities in areas such as Scarborough.

The origin of the word spa was derived from a Belgian town and Harrogate's first mineral spring was discovered in 1571. Sulphur found in its water was believed to possess curative properties. In 1626, author Edmund Deane mentioned the medicinal properties of Harrogate waters in his book *The English Spa Fountain*.

The social development of the spa was stimulated by the upper class who were seeking for pleasure and wealthy leisures. As for the approach to medical treatment towards the end of the 17th century, springs in Harrogate were recommended for the treatment of a variety of ailments including scurvy, epilepsy and skin complaints.

Harrogate developed as a spa town in 1770 and 200 acres were reserved as a public common, the Stray. The area was preserved with an intention to make the place accessible to everyone so they could get the healing and leisure benefits from it.

To provide entertainment and accommodation for Harrogate's increasing visitor numbers, facilities were developed during the 18th and early 19th century, including a Theatre in 1788 and Bath Hospital (later the Royal Bath Hospital) in 1826. However, it was not until the Victorian era that the town reached a height in popularity. Thanks to the expansion of the railways, Harrogate received rising numbers of visitors which also meant increased tourism for the town during the Victorian period. Towards the end of the 1830s there were over 10,000 visitors to Harrogate each year. In mid 19th century, the constructions of the Victoria Baths and Montpellier Baths were completed and they were so popular that more than 4,000 baths were given to visitors each season. Social amenities were further enhanced by the opening of the Royal Promenade and Cheltenham Pump Room in 1835. The Cheltenham Pump Room was the largest public building in Harrogate with architectural distinction. It contained a large saloon, a pump room and a library while subscribers had additional access to its six acres of gardens.

By 1860, there were 30,000 people travelling to Harrogate annually. One well known visitor, author Charles Dickens, wrote: 'Harrogate is the queerest place with the strangest people in it, leading the oddest lives of dancing, newspaper reading and dining.'

To illustrate how sumptuous this spa phenomenon had been, many extraordinary spa facilities were added; for example, Valley Gardens where visitors could also choose from a list of options at the many spa rooms including massages and Turkish baths. In the Royal Pump Room, water was served in a glass and visitors could enjoy bands playing while they strolled around the building.

Towards the end of the 19th century, Harrogate became noted for its specialist spa centres. The new Victoria Baths, opening in 1871 and replacing the earlier baths building, provided separate treatment rooms and bathing pools for men and women. There were luxurious baths that offered sulphur baths, for the care of rheumatism or eczema and fango treatment, where mud packs were applied to troublesome joints. There was also deep pool therapy which allowed the patients to exercise whilst in a hydrotherapy pool.

The zenith of the Victoria spa was reached by 1914. However, due to the rise of the First World War, people had lost their interest in going to spas for socialising or therapeutic purposes. Inevitably, the town was challenged by a great decline in the number of visitors. Harrogate's spa centres, as in many other spa towns, fell into decay or were demolished. Things had changed a lot for what was once one of the most extravagant recreational destinations. The Royal Pump Room, for instance, later became a cafe before reopening again as a museum in 1953 its displays featuring Harrogate's former times as England's Premier spa.

Today Harrogate is still one of the most affluent towns in North Yorkshire, attracting a great number of visitors from surrounding areas. It has become a popular destination for recreational travellers due to, of course, its spring waters.

Questions 26 - 30

Read the statements below. Decide whether they are **TRUE**, **FALSE** or **NOT GIVEN** according to the text.

Mark a cross for the correct answer ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

	True	False	Not Given
26 People in the past rarely went to sports centres	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
27 The word spa was never used in England before Harrogate springs were discovered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
28 Developed as a spa town, people only went to Harrogate to get medicinal treatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
29 Patrons of the Cheltenham Pump Room were asked to pay an extra fee to walk in its large gardens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)
30 Harrogate is still quite a destination for tourists who want to enjoy its spring waters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> (1)

(Total for Questions 26 - 30 = 5 marks)

Questions 31 - 40

Complete the following sentences using no more than THREE words that must be taken from one point in the text.

- 31 For over 300 years, the number of people who went to spas for health had (1)
- 32 In addition to Harrogate, people might findin other towns in Yorkshire. (1)
- 33 The played an important role in encouraging the social development of the spa. (1)
- 34 An area in Harrogate was preserved for common use which was for anyone who wanted to come. (1)
- 35 Thanks to more railways, the of Harrogate was on the rise during the Victorian era. (1)
- 36 There were a large number of visitors in Harrogate and a famous author/Charles Dickens was one of them. (1)
- 37 At some spa, people the place listening to music bands for further relaxation. (1)
- 38 The Victorian Baths provided a treatment with to help those who suffer from joint pain. (1)
- 39 Following the emergence of the First World War, the Victoria spa had lost its charms among people and its popularity declined. (1)
- 40 Today, people can visit a museum which was originally theand learn about the golden times of Harrogate spa. (1)

(Total for Questions 31 - 40 = 10 marks)

Questions 41 - 45

Complete this summary of the text using words from the box below. Each word may be used once or not used at all

In the past, going to spas was very popular among British people and this also led to **(41)**..... development. Of all spa towns, Harrogate in Yorkshire was established as a spa town in 1770 and was **(42)** for its premium spring waters in England.

Some people went to spas in Harrogate to relax while others were convinced that its sulphur water would be able to **(43)**..... their illnesses.

Spas had brought a lot of social activities in Harrogate and the town expanded many **(44)** in order to provide great experiences for its visitors.

The popularity of spa, however, **(45)**..... due to the war.

area	known	urban	tourism	heal
soared	facilities	dropped	informed	prevent

(Total for Questions 41 - 45 = 5 marks)

TOTAL FOR PART 3 = 20 MARKS