Read the text and do the following activities

Medieval medicine

1 Medical knowledge in Europe in medieval times (476–1453) was very limited. There were doctors in medieval times, although they were usually only for rich people and they weren't very good. Most people couldn't pay a doctor's fees. For poor people there was the wise woman. These women could make medicines from plants and animals! Most medicines were useless and some were so dangerous that people could die. Here are some doctors and wise women's treatments:

- For general illness: Make cuts on your body, or put a leech on your skin, so that the 'bad' blood comes out.
- Toothache: Burn a candle near the bad tooth, or touch a dead man's tooth.
- Fever: Eat spiders.
- Skin problems: Put wolf skin on the bad areas.

Small creatures called leeches were put on people's skin to take out 'bad' blood.

2 Operations were horrific. There were no painkillers. Death was common – there were often infections, because there were no antibiotics. There were no special doctors to do these tasks. Instead barbers and blacksmiths could do operations, because they could use their knives and tools. So the blacksmith's or the barber's was the place to go with a bad tooth, or worse ...

3 But not all medieval medicine was dangerous. Most of these treatments for plague are nonsense, but some aren't bad – going to bed and keeping clean, for example, seem sensible!

- Go to bed.
- Wash the body with vinegar.
- Cut open the swellings.
- Don't eat food that smells bad, such as fish, meat or cheese. Eat bread, fruit and vegetables.
- Clean the road outside the ill person's house.

A plague doctor. There were flowers and herbs inside the mask to protect the doctor from bad smells.

4 Modern medicine is obviously very different, but there are connections to the past. Today scientists study plants that can help us when we are ill. Some of those plants were favourites in medieval times. And, some modern treatments even use leeches. They are especially helpful after certain operations. However, perhaps that's the most we can learn from medieval medicine. Anyone fancy a spider sandwich? Maybe not!

1. Match summary sentences A –F to paragraphs 1-4. There are two sentences that you do not need.

A Operations were very basic and dangerous. ☐
B We can use some ideas from the past. ☐
C Doctors weren't interested in doing operations. ☐
D A few treatments were sensible. ☐
E Medieval medicine was dangerous and didn't often work. ☐
F Doctors wore special clothes. ☐

2. Read the text and match the following words to definitions 1-10.There is an example

limited	fees	useless	problems	~~horrific~~
common	tasks	nonsense	connections	fancy

1 (adjective) terrible, awful
.....horrific.....

2 (noun) links
.....

3 (adjective) not good, with no use
.....

4 (adjective) without many options
.....

5 (noun) jobs
.....

6 (adjective) normal
.....

7 (noun) amount of money
.....

8 (verb) like or be attracted to
.....

9 (noun) issues
.....

10 (adjective) silly, ridiculous, stupid
.....

Complete the sentences with the words in exercise 2. There is an example.

1 'I can't play football today because it's cold.' 'That's .....nonsense..... ! You should put a jumper on and then you can play.'

2 I need to pay for my music lessons. They're expensive – the ..... are very high.

3 Do you ..... going swimming this afternoon?

4 The activities at the sports centre were ..... – there was only tennis and aerobics.

5 I can't sing or play a musical instrument. I'm ..... at music.

6 My uncle is a film director. He's got ..... with a lot of famous people.

7 A lot of people have a cold in winter. Colds are very .....

8 The first people on the boat from England to America were very ill. For them, the journey was