

The NHS celebrates its 70th birthday

Elementary

1 Warmer

Which of the areas of life listed below do you think are more or less important than the others? Put them in order from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

- _____ a. education
- _____ b. healthcare
- _____ c. transport
- _____ d. security
- _____ e. work

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

surgery

salary

employer

insurance

ambulance

patient

- An _____ is a person, company or organization that pays someone to work for them. (para 3)
- An _____ is a vehicle that takes people to hospital. (para 3)
- A _____ is someone who is receiving medical treatment. (para 3)
- A _____ is a place where people can visit a doctor. (para 3)
- Health _____ is money you pay regularly so that you will receive free treatment if you are ill or injured. (para 4)
- Your _____ is the money you earn from your job. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

- What does NHS stand for?
- How much does the UK government spend on the NHS each year?
- How many doctors work for the NHS?
- How many nurses work for the NHS?
- When was the NHS formed?
- How many patients does the NHS treat every 36 hours?

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9 August, 2018

- 1 It was born on 5 July, 1948, and in 2018, it celebrates its 70th birthday. What is it? Well, it's the United Kingdom's National Health Service (which people call the NHS), which was the first 'free' health service in the world.
- 2 At the end of the Second World War, the Labour Party won the UK election of 1945. Exactly three years after the election, the NHS was formed. The Health Minister, Aneurin Bevan, was the man who introduced this historical change in healthcare. The main idea of the NHS was that all citizens of the UK could receive free healthcare, whether they were rich or poor.
- 3 Today, 70 years later, the NHS is the fifth biggest employer in the world. Around 1.6 million people work for the NHS, including more than 100,000 doctors, around 300,000 nurses and almost 20,000 ambulance drivers and ambulance workers. Every 36 hours, the NHS treats about one million patients, either in hospital, at a doctor's surgery or, in recent times, by telephone or online.
- 4 The UK government spends over £120 billion a year on the NHS. The service is not actually 'free' because working people have to pay a special tax called National Insurance. The government uses most of this money to pay for the NHS. At the present time, if you are working, you have to pay around 12% of your salary in National Insurance. The UK government also uses money from other taxes to pay for the NHS.
- 5 If you are ill or have an accident in the USA, they will probably ask you if you have private medical insurance before they treat you. Luckily, thanks to the NHS, this doesn't happen in the UK. Happy 70th birthday!

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The NHS was formed ... | a. ... pay a special tax called National Insurance. |
| 2. The service is not completely ... | b. ... the fifth biggest employer in the world. |
| 3. People in the UK have to ... | c. ... exactly three years after the 1945 UK election. |
| 4. The NHS is ... | d. ... first free health service in the world. |
| 5. The NHS was the ... | e. ... more than one and a half million people. |
| 6. The NHS employs ... | f. ... free. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. the in world fifth biggest the
2. first the world in the
3. War World end at Second the of the
4. present the time at

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6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. medical | a. driver |
| 2. ambulance | b. healthcare |
| 3. free | c. people |
| 4. working | d. insurance |

7 Prepositions

Use these prepositions to complete the phrases from the text.

by

to

in

at

- _____ hospital
- _____ a doctor's surgery
- _____ telephone
- thanks _____ the NHS

8 Discussion

- Does your country have an NHS?
- Should healthcare be completely free for everyone? Why? Why not?

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KEY

2 Key words

1. employer
2. ambulance
3. patient
4. surgery
5. insurance
6. salary

3 Find the information

1. National Health Service
2. over £120 billion
3. more than 100,000
4. around 300,000
5. 1948
6. about one million

4 Comprehension check

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. b
5. d
6. e

5 Chunks

1. the fifth biggest in the world
2. the first in the world
3. at the end of the Second World War
4. at the present time

6 Two-word phrases

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

7 Prepositions

1. in
2. at
3. by
4. to