

Answer **FOUR** out of the following five questions:

1. List the most pertinent qualities to be considered when evaluating a peer-reviewed article in academic literature. Particular reference must be made to pharmacoeconomic studies and examples given.
2. Public expenditure on pharmaceuticals in the Maltese Islands increased from €36.5 million in 2003 to €76.4 million in 2010. In this context define pharmacoeconomics and discuss its importance as a discipline within the field of pharmacy and its relevance to current trends in cost-containment and healthcare budgets.
3. Draw up a list of the main types of analysis utilised in pharmacoeconomic studies. Provide examples for each and summarise the main comparative advantages and disadvantages.
4. The following statements are all cause for concern, both from a healthcare perspective and also from the point of view of public administration. List the pharmacoeconomic implications of the following in brief:
 - (a) Sixty-two per cent of the Maltese Islands were classified as obese in 2008 by the National Statistics office.
 - (b) A recent survey indicates that a large percentage of Maltese are not aware of the existence and status of generic medicines.
 - (c) Demographic projections show that the Maltese population will mirror the behaviour of the global population and progressively exhibit a greater percentage of elderly people.
5. Pick one of the two statements below and defend it using examples and a logic-based argument:
 - (a) Generic medicines increase access to pharmaceutical treatment and are the key to improved healthcare outcomes worldwide.
 - (b) Generic medicines cause profit margins to drop and do not allow pharmaceutical companies to earn enough return on their R&D investment to stimulate the development of innovative medicines.