

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

1. (i) Why has the relevance of pharmacoeconomics as a distinct discipline increased in importance in recent times? (15 marks)
(ii) What improvements could possibly be envisioned by applying the basic concepts of pharmacoeconomic evaluation and management to the local state-funded healthcare system? (10 marks)
2. Discuss the following statements. Utilise a pharmacoeconomic rationale and be brief.
 - (i) The number of conditions listed under Schedule V (chronic diseases) has been almost doubled. Budget estimates for 2012 have however projected pharmaceutical expenditure to decrease. (8 marks)
 - (ii) Expenditure per capita on healthcare in Malta is almost one fifth that of the United States. Yet Malta ranks above the United States in life expectancy and public healthcare system efficiency. (7 marks)
 - (iii) Denmark has recently introduced a tax on foods containing unhealthy fats above a certain percentage content. (8 marks)
3. What are the most important features that must be exhibited by an article in the academic literature to be considered as worthy of serious consideration? List the required properties and provide examples with a specific emphasis on pharmacoeconomic studies. (25 marks)
4. Provide brief answers to the following questions on pharmacy administration and management:
 - (i) List the possible areas of practice for pharmacy graduates. (5 marks)
 - (ii) Define the administrative and professional duties of a pharmacist. (5 marks)
 - (iii) Explain why a basic knowledge of accounting practice is necessary. (5 marks)
 - (iv) List the reasons why inventory control is a vital component of the pharmacy management skill set. (10 marks)
5. International Proprietary Name (INN) prescribing is mandatory in the United Kingdom. This practice has dramatically increased the percentage by volume of generic drugs prescribed, and consequently decreased market share for originator medicines.
Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of introducing such a prescribing requirement in the Maltese Islands. Consider your arguments both from a societal perspective and also from that of the individual. (25 marks)