



PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR VCE

HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Unit 3: Area of Study 2
Promoting health and
wellbeing

SET 5

Question 1 (4 marks)

Using one of the programs below, explain how 'new' public health is improving the health status of Australians.

Smoking: Quit program	The Quit program has worked hard to phase out tobacco advertising on television and radio. It has also encouraged changes to laws regarding plain packaging and non-smoking areas and has a Quitline that offers support and advice for those trying to give up smoking.
Skin cancer: SunSmart program	The SunSmart program encourages schools to have policies such as 'no hat no play' and advocates for shade when planning outdoor spaces. SunSmart also has an app that informs people of the UV levels for the day and a catchy slogan, 'slip, slop, slap, seek and slide', which encourages people to slip on a shirt, slop on some sunscreen, slap on a hat, seek shade and slide on sunglasses.
Road safety: Driver Reviver program	The Driver Reviver program opens up to 220 Driver Reviver sites each holiday season. These are located along popular routes and offer places for drivers to stop and refresh, with free tea, coffee, snacks and toilet facilities. The Driver Reviver program involves volunteers from the State Emergency Service (SES), Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Lions Club. It also has tips online for driving safely.

Question 2 (10 marks)

The Australian Government allocates a significant amount of the yearly budget to health care, particularly towards Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Summaries of Medicare and PBS statistics for the 2017–18 financial year are shown below.

Source 1

More GP attendances and more benefits paid

In 2017–18, patients accessed almost 155 million GP services, at a cost in Medicare benefits of \$7.8 billion. This compares to 149 million services in 2016–17 at a cost of \$7.5 billion in Medicare benefits. This is an increase of 4.9% in service volume and an increase in benefits of 5.5% compared with 2016–17.

More Medicare services overall

The volume of total Medicare services in 2017–18 was 414.3 million services, at a cost of \$23.2 billion in Medicare benefits. This compares to 394.3 million services 2016–17, at a cost of \$22.0 billion in Medicare benefits. This is an increase of 5.9% in service volume and an increase in benefits of 6.3% compared with 2016–17.

Source: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Annual-Medicare-Statistics>

Source 2

Total Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) government expenditure (both Section 85 and Section 100) on an accrual accounting basis for the 2017–18 financial year was \$11 690 million (excluding revenue), compared with \$12 058 million for the previous year. This is a decrease of 3.0%.

Total 2017–18 PBS subsidised prescription volume increased by 0.8% to a total of 204.1 million, compared to 202.4 million for the 2016–17 financial year.

In 2017–18, PBS government expenditure (Section 85 and Section 100) was \$11 602.9 million (excluding rebates), which is 88.9% of the total cost of PBS prescriptions. The remainder was patient contributions, which amounted to \$1 455.5 million.

Source: <http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/statistics/expenditure-prescriptions/expenditure-prescriptions-twelve-months-to-30-june-2018>

- a.** Explain how the PBS may promote health and wellbeing and improve Australia's health status.

3 marks

- b.** Explain how Medicare promotes human development.

3 marks

c. Private health insurance is another form of health cover in Australia.

Explain the difference between private health insurance and Medicare. In your response, consider sustainability and funding.

4 marks

ANSWERS

Question 1

Sample response

The SunSmart program reflects 'new' public health because it seeks to empower individuals to take control of their own health by changing their behaviour. This is seen through the slogan 'slip, slop, slap, seek and slide', which makes suggestions about behaviours. The SunSmart program also aims to educate people about the UV levels of the day through its app so that informed choices can be made to further empower individuals to make healthy choices, such as avoiding direct sunlight.

Mark allocation: 4 marks

- 1 mark for describing 'new' public health
- 1 mark for each feature of the program identified and linked to behavioural change (up to 3 marks)



Tip

- *It is important to use the information in the question, not just pre-learned knowledge about the programs.*

Question 2a.

Sample response

The PBS increases access to medications with subsidised costs. This can decrease the financial stress of having to use medications to treat or manage conditions, thereby increasing mental health and wellbeing. By increasing access to medications, more people can continue to live a normal life by managing or treating mental health and medical conditions. This can improve their positive relationships (increased social health and wellbeing).

Increasing access to medications (such as blood thinners) through the PBS can decrease the severity of cardiovascular disease. This can prevent premature death and increase life expectancy, but can also decrease years lived in ill health (YLD) and burden of disease, thereby increasing the health status of Australians.

Mark allocation: 3 marks

This response is marked holistically.

- 3 marks: response shows an understanding of how the PBS leads to at least two dimensions of health and wellbeing and provides at least two links to health status, as well as showing a clear understanding of the PBS
- 2 marks: response shows an understanding of how the PBS leads to a dimension of health and wellbeing and provides one link to health status, as well as showing a clear understanding of the PBS
- 1 mark: response refers to at least one dimension of health and wellbeing or health status but link to PBS is weak
- 0 marks: response shows no links to PBS

Question 2b.

Sample response

Through subsidised access to healthcare such as GP visits, there may be an increase in access to health knowledge. Early diagnosis and treatment can allow patients to participate in the community sooner. Subsidised health care, such as X-rays, allow patients to spend their money on other things, such as housing, to achieve a greater standard of living. This would have a positive impact on human development.

Mark allocation: 3 marks

- 2 marks for explaining positive human development; this should include showing an understanding of at least two human development terms (creative and productive lives, freedom and choices, participation in the community, access to knowledge and health care, or living a long healthy life)
- 1 mark for a relevant example of Medicare

Question 2c.

Sample response

Private health insurance is an optional health insurance that individuals can take out in addition to Medicare. Unlike Medicare, which is funded by the Australian Government through the Medicare levy and Medicare levy surcharge, private health insurance is funded by the individual who pays a premium.

Medicare only covers basic and essential health care. This ensures that essential health needs can be met and allows for resources to be available for future generations. Private health insurance differs because it covers elective surgery and out-of-hospital medical care (extras). The more extras on a policy, the more it will cost. This cost may lead to decreased sustainability because the cost of cover may not be able to be sustained over future generations.

Mark allocation: 4 marks

- 2 marks for comparing private health insurance and Medicare in relation to sustainability
- 2 marks for comparing private health insurance and Medicare in relation to funding