PHM103  Introduction to health economics

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this assignment is to assess your ability to understand and apply key economic concepts covered in this module to the health sector.

The specific objectives of the assignment are to enable you to:

- Explain relevant concepts and theories
- Explore how these theories and concepts are relevant to the health sector
- Critically appraise the application of these concepts, comparing strengths and weaknesses
- Illustrate the relevance of these concepts and theories using examples drawn from the health sector.

The Task

Choose ONE of the following questions to answer.

Option 1:

What factors could motivate intervention in health care by the government? Be sure to include equity and efficiency factors and to discuss the potential limitations of government intervention. Use examples to illustrate your points. See below for suggested approach.

Reading for Option 1

Essential Reading


Recommended reading


Option 2:

Cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analyses are all types of economic evaluation. What role can these different techniques play in resource allocation-decision making in the health sector? Be sure to use examples to illustrate your points. See below for suggested approach.

Reading for Option 2

Essential Reading

**Recommended reading**


**Suggested Approach**

In broad terms, your answer should be structured as follows:

1. Begin by developing a simple outline of your assignment using a series of bullet points. Make sure that these points flow well and cover the relevant issues. You do not need to submit this outline.

2. Provide an introduction that summarises the aims and structure of your assignment

3. Clearly state the answer to your question or position before you develop your essay.

4. As you discuss the issues, be sure to use examples from the health sector to illustrate your points.

5. Provide a conclusion that brings together key points covered in your essay.

**HINT:** Make sure that all the key concepts and theories mentioned in your assignment are fully explained in your own words. If you cite sentences or phrases, be sure to use proper punctuation and referencing to indicate that these are quotes. Carefully proof read your assignment at least 2 times to ensure that there are no grammatical or typographical errors which will distract and frustrate the marker! Perhaps most importantly, make sure you answer the question being asked no matter how interesting you feel your alternative line of argument might be.

**Word limit**

Your answer should be a maximum of 3,000 words, excluding tables, figures and references. Papers that exceed the word limit will be penalised.

**NOTE:** Do not use tables or figures to extend the word limit. Tables are best suited for summarising data and not presenting detailed arguments.

**Assessment criteria**

Your assignment will be assessed according to the following criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clear explanation and application of relevant economic concepts and theories</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correct use of examples from the health sector</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate ability to critically appraise concepts, theories and published evidence</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall presentation – coherent arguments and clear structure (i.e. introduction and conclusion, correct citation, appropriate reference list)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Presentation guidelines

- Type and double space your assignment answer(s) using 12 point font.
- Insert page numbers in the document.
- Fully and accurately cite all references and resources used to complete your assignment, including reference to your textbook, when required. Refer to the Student Handbook or Appendix A of the Instructions for Preparing and Submitting Core Module Assignments.
- You are not required to rely on materials other than the course materials, but are encouraged to use other materials if you are able.
- Assignments must be submitted via the Assignment Management System no later than 31 March.
- Do not put your name on the assignment but use your student number in the document header.
- Assignments that exceed the permitted word limit will be penalized.