



**Specimen Paper B  
DFPH Sample Questions - Paper IA**

**Section A: Research Methods**

**Question 1:**

Concern has been raised that the local hospital's mean length of stay is 5.3 days compared to 2.7 days in a similar hospital in a neighbouring city.

Discuss interpretation of length of stay statistics in relation to:

- (a) Skewed distributions (4 marks)
- (b) Casemix (3 marks)
- (c) Relationship with social care, community care and ambulatory care. (3 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

**Question 2:**

There has been widespread coverage in the media comparing mortality data of COVID-19 globally.

- (a) Describe some of the common epidemiological issues that may arise in making such comparisons and how they impact on the interpretation of differences in mortality data between countries. (5 marks)
- (b) What measures could be taken to allow such international comparisons? (5 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

**B: Disease causation and the diagnostic process in relation to public health; prevention and health promotion**

**Question 3:**

Different strategic approaches to managing the COVID-19 pandemic have been adopted over time and between countries. One important consideration has been the balance between reducing the direct harms due to exposure to the virus, and the indirect effects due to the impacts of the public health measures.

- (a) Describe four ways through which indirect (i.e. not directly due to the infection) harms and benefits to health might have occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. (4 marks)
- (b) Outline four examples of how both the direct and indirect harms of the pandemic have exacerbated inequalities in health. (4 marks)
- (c) During the COVID-19 pandemic it has been possible to estimate the direct and indirect health consequences of different approaches to managing the pandemic across countries. Describe a measure that can be used to compare the mortality experiences of different countries during a pandemic that accounts for the direct and indirect mortality impacts and explain its strengths and limitations. (2 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

**Question 4:**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has targeted the elimination of Hepatitis C by the year 2030 and most member countries have signed up to this ambition.

- (a) Describe the epidemiology, clinical features and risk factors for Hepatitis C infection. (5 marks)
- (b) Outline what key measures need to be in place in order to achieve the elimination targets. (5 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

## **C: Health information**

### **Question 5:**

We live in increasingly multi-ethnic societies. Understanding the health needs and outcomes of people from different ethnic groups using health and care services is important.

- (a) Outline the differences in health outcomes between first and subsequent generation migrants compared with the indigenous population. (2 marks)
- (b) Give four reasons why it is important to record the ethnicity of people using health and care services. (4 marks)
- (c) Outline four challenges in the use of ethnicity data. (4 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

### **Question 6:**

A local teaching hospital reports 3457 admissions with COVID-19 infection, 619 of whom died within 28 days of admission over a period of 9 months.

- (a) Calculate the 28-day mortality rate for patients admitted with COVID-19. (1 mark)
- (b) Outline three factors that might cause this to be an inaccurate estimate of local mortality from COVID-19. (3 marks)
- (c) Rates in a similar sized hospital in a neighbouring city recorded a mortality rate of 12.6% over the same period.
  - i. Outline four possible explanations for this difference (4 marks)
  - ii. How might estimates be improved? (2 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

**Specimen Paper B**  
**DFPH Sample Questions - Paper IB**

**D: Medical Sociology, Social Policy and Health Economics**

**Question 7:**

Describe each of the following concepts, providing a definition (1 mark), an explanation of the theoretical basis (2 marks) and an illustration of the concept from a public health perspective (2 marks).

- (a) The Sick Role (5 marks)
- (b) Social iatrogenesis (5 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

**Question 8:**

A recent systematic review (Masters et al, J Epidemiol Community Health. 2017; 17:827-834) included the following introduction:

“Public sector austerity measures in many high-income countries mean that public health budgets are reducing year on year. To help inform the potential impact of these proposed disinvestments in public health, we set out to determine the return on investment (ROI) from a range of existing public health interventions.”

From the perspective of evaluating public health interventions, define and briefly explain each of the following terms, using appropriate examples to illustrate your answer.

- (a) Return on investment (2 marks)
- (b) Opportunity cost (2 marks)
- (c) Discounting (3 marks)
- (d) Time horizon (3 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

**E: Organisation and Management of Health Care, and Health Care Programmes**

**Question 9:**

- (a) Describe what is meant by the term risk management and how it is relevant to a healthcare organisation. (3 marks)
- (b) Using examples, describe approaches for managing risk in a healthcare organisation. (7 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

**Question 10:**

A national audit body proposes to audit health spending in your country.

- (a) Name two reasons why a national audit of health care spending is important (1 mark)
- (b) In conducting the national audit, the auditing body proposes to use a range of indicators. For each of the following, give a brief description and describe one strength and one weakness of the indicator as part of such an audit:
  - i. Health expenditure per capita (3 marks)
  - ii. Life expectancy (3 marks)
  - iii. Patient-reported outcome measures (3 marks)

(Total 10 marks)

**END OF PAPER**