

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 1999

Health Economics

M.A. & M.Econ.Sc.

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Time allowed: Two hours

Answer three questions

1. To what extent does the Lindsay model provide a theoretical justification for the institutional characteristics and structure of the Irish health care system.
2. What are the likely effects in general practice of a change in the remuneration of general practitioners from a capitation-based system to a mixed fee per item and capitation-based system? Draw on both theory and evidence in your answer to the question.
3. The Grossman model of the demand for health is a classic example of the methodology of positive economics set out by Friedman in his hugely influential work on economic methodology in 1953. Outline the Grossman model and discuss why it conforms to Friedman's classification of a good model.
4. In spite of the large number of Contingent Valuation (CV) studies that have been carried out, mainly in the environmental area, the validity of the method is still unclear. Why is this and what are the main issues that should be taken into account in designing CV studies in the area of health care. Make use of examples from the literature in your answer.
5.
 - (a) There are a number of different techniques available to measure directly the preferences of individuals for various health outcomes. Describe the three most widely used techniques and outline their advantages and disadvantages.
 - (b) What are the main advantages of using pre-scored multi-attribute health status classification systems in measuring preferences for health outcomes? Discuss one such system in detail.