

Question 24(a)

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifies the meaning of socio economic statusLinks status to appropriate needs of the chronically ill	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifies the chronically illProvides some information on socio economic status/showing a link to needs	3-4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide point(s) on the chronically ill needs or socio economic status	1-2

Answers may include:

- Socio-economic status affects many aspects of life. It refers to the employment status and the amount of income of an individual.
- The chronically ill are those who are suffering from a long-term or recurring illness or disease that can be moderate or severe and affects their ability to care for themselves.
- The needs of the chronically ill include access to services. If the individual has a high economic status they will be able to afford transport to the required services like a doctor or specialist, hospital care of their choice, services like physiotherapists, ongoing home care etc. However, if they are of a low socio economic status they will have to rely on public transport and require access to government agencies like the Department of Aging, Disability and Homecare and Centrelink. Ultimately the patient may require support from palliative care teams.
- Financial support is another need for the chronically ill as they may be unable to work full time. Medication and other resources will be required. They may be eligible for sick leave paid by the employer, sickness benefits paid by Centrelink, cheaper medications on the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme, carer payments for the individual who gives up work to look after them. Mobility allowance to fund taxi fares to and from medical appointments.
- The chronically ill have high health needs. This may take the form of special medications, occupational therapy, and chemotherapy, continuing medical attention; good care and affordable care are a great need for this group.
- Security and safety is another priority need for the group. Medical bracelets may be essential if the individual becomes unable to tell others about their condition. Vital call, telephone checks on the individual, meals on wheels deliveries, community nurses, sympathetic neighbours, friends and family can all contribute to the wellbeing of the chronically ill.