

Syllabus

Question 24(b)

Criteria	Marks
• Thoroughly explains reasons for the priority order for the nominated group	3
• Gives some explanations for the priority order of the group's needs	2
• Provides some attempt at priority order of needs	1

Answer may include: Depending on the group selected the priority order can vary. It is important to realise that the order for one individual in the group could be different to that of another. E.g., a frail aged would require different needs to one who is healthy and active.

Aged – priority of needs:

- **Access to services** – there are a wide range of services but because of the aging population there is a large demand on facilities like nursing homes and other levels of aged care. Many families wish to maintain the aged in their own homes – using services like Meals on Wheels, community nurses, Home and Community Care workers who assist with shopping, house work etc.
- **Financial support** is another priority for the aged as they may have superannuation, investments or wages but others may have to rely on Centrelink payments as their sole source of income. If this is the case they may obtain an aged pension, a pensioner concession card and senior's health card. Some are eligible for rent assistance, telephone allowance, pharmaceuticals allowance and remote area allowance.
- **Health needs usually increase with age.** The elderly may need education on conditions such as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis so they can manage these common conditions in a suitable manner. Attending medical appointments can be a difficulty for some aged if they are unable to take themselves as are no longer able to drive. Hearing difficulties and eyesight problems can make such visits a worry for the aged.
- **Security and safety can be a concern.** They can feel vulnerable and may need extra locks, sensor lights and alarm systems as they can be targets of theft and scams. A daily visit from a family member of friend or a daily phone call can increase the wellbeing of the aged.
- **Education** can be a priority need for the aged. If they are still working they need access to training with changing technology to enable them to contribute to the work place. Also it provides a source of knowledge and expertise for inexperienced workers.
- **Housing** for the aged can be an issue. Some may stay in the original family home while others choose to downsize to reduce the amount of housework/garden care, etc. Some may need assistance to remain in their own homes. Through the Aged Care Assistance Team they may be able to access a package to modify the home, have a carer assigned to them and stay in their original dwelling using home help. The aged who can no longer care for themselves may have to move to a hostel/residential aged care or nursing home.
- **Self-esteem** can be an issue. If the aged are dependent on others it is important for them to become involved with a goal-directed activity. This could mean working in a voluntary capacity. People need to feel valued so any activity that does that will help to maintain positive wellbeing and self-esteem. Supportive family and friends are essential to the group.

Disabled  
 Access  
 Fin Support  
 Health Needs  
 Self-esteem

Homeless  
 Housing  
 Fin Support  
 Security + Safety  
 Health  
 Access