

## Health Policy

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### **1. Nature of Health & Health Care**

- Should health care be strictly regulated or provided by the state? Why not just let market work? (Additional to arguments for human rights or basic needs)
  - What are the differences between food and health care as a commodity?
- Is it justified for the state to regulate individual behaviour? (Diets, smoking, use of medicine...)

### **2. Social Inequalities of Health**

- Why does substantial health inequality persist despite the improvement of the overall population health and access to decent health care?
- What is the 'fundamental causes' approach to health inequality? What are potential mechanisms that shape health inequalities?
  - Are health outcomes a result of rational choice behaviour or not? What are policy implications for this assumption?
  - What is the role of the welfare state in tackling fundamental causes?

### **3. Health Care Financing & Governance**

- What are key dimensions of health governance? What are ideal types?
- What are the core strengths & weaknesses of each ideal type? (Equal access, waiting lists, flexibility & quality, bureaucratic efficiency, cost containment)
  - Beware of the tension & different interest between consumers, medical profession & government bodies

### **4. NHS Structure & Politics (England-focused)**

- Let's name the key characteristics of the NHS structure.
- Back to the health inequality question: is the persistent health inequality in the UK related to the nature of the NHS?
- Does the recent marketisation mean the power of doctors (medical profession) has been weakened?

**Any More Questions?**