

2018

AP[®] CollegeBoard

AP Microeconomics

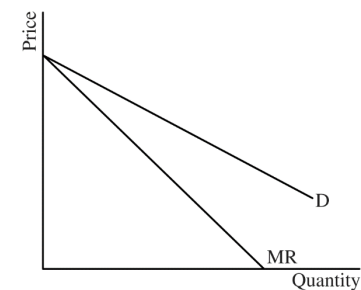
Scoring Guidelines

AP[®] MICROECONOMICS 2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

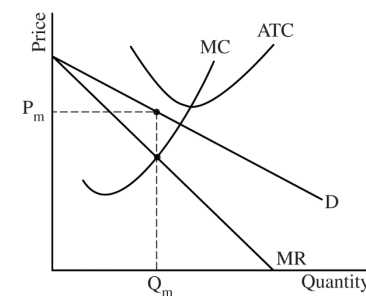
Question 1

9 points (5 + 1 + 1 + 2)

(a) 5 points:



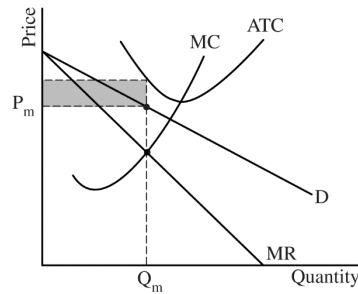
- One point is earned for drawing a correctly labeled graph for a monopoly showing a downward sloping demand (D) curve with the marginal revenue (MR) curve below the demand curve.



- One point is earned for showing the marginal cost (MC) curve rising and passing through the minimum of the average total cost (ATC) curve.
- One point is earned for showing the profit-maximizing quantity, Q_m , where $MR = MC$.
- One point is earned for showing the price, P_m , from the demand curve at Q_m .

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Question 1 (continued)



- One point is earned for completely shading the area representing negative economic profit and showing the ATC curve above the demand curve for all quantities.

(b) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that the price must be greater than average variable cost, OR total revenue must be greater than total variable cost, OR the firm's current economic loss is less than its fixed cost, which is equal to the firm's loss if it shuts down.

(c) 1 point:

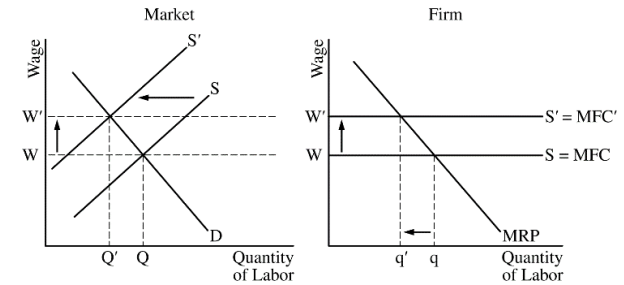
- One point is earned for stating that total revenue will decrease and explaining with one of the following reasons.
 - The monopolist is operating on the elastic portion of the demand curve.
 - The quantity effect is greater than the price effect.
 - The percentage change in quantity demanded is greater than the percentage change in price.
 - MR is positive.

(d) 2 points:

- One point is earned for stating or graphically showing that the wage rate will increase because the market supply of labor decreases (shifts left).
- One point is earned for stating the marginal revenue product (MRP) of the last worker hired will increase and explaining with one of the following reasons.
 - The firm is hiring fewer workers now and therefore the marginal product of the last worker hired increases (diminishing marginal product).
 - The market wage (marginal factor cost or MFC) increased and the profit-maximizing firm will hire where $MRP = MFC$.
 - There is an upward movement along the firm's MRP curve as wage or MFC increases (shifts up).

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Question 1 (continued)



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Question 2

6 points (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 2)

(a) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating positive externality, and for explaining that either marginal social benefit is greater than marginal private benefit ($MSB > MPB$) or the equilibrium quantity is less than the socially optimal quantity.

(b) 1 point:

- One point is earned for identifying the market equilibrium price as \$6 and the market equilibrium quantity as 16 units.

(c) 1 point:

- One point is earned for identifying the area of the deadweight loss as DEF.

(d) 1 point:

- One point is earned for identifying \$4 as the dollar value of the per-unit subsidy.

(e) 2 points:

- One point is earned for identifying 8 units.
- One point is earned for stating no and explaining with one of the following reasons:
 - The quantity exchanged in the market will be less than the socially optimal quantity.
 - $MSB > MSC$ at a quantity of 8 units.
 - Deadweight loss increased after the price floor.

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Question 3

5 Points (1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1)

(a) 1 point:

- One point is earned for correctly calculating the gain, 20 points.

(b) 1 point:

- One point is earned for correctly calculating the opportunity cost, 6 points for that hour (or 6/20).

(c) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that the opportunity cost increases and for using one the following explanations:
 - The expected score on microeconomics decreases at an increasing rate with each additional hour spent studying history.
 - The marginal cost is rising (expected score on microeconomics decreases) for each additional hour spent studying history.

(d) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that Nirali should spend 2 hours on studying microeconomics and 3 hours on studying history to maximize the sum of expected scores.

(e) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that Nirali will spend the additional hour studying microeconomics because studying microeconomics will increase her expected total score by 8 points compared to 5 points if spent studying history.