

7.1 Utility

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 24 marks

KEY WORDS utility 效用 • marginal utility 边际效用

- diminishing marginal utility 边际效用递减
- equi-marginal principle 等边际原则
- total utility 总效用

Objective

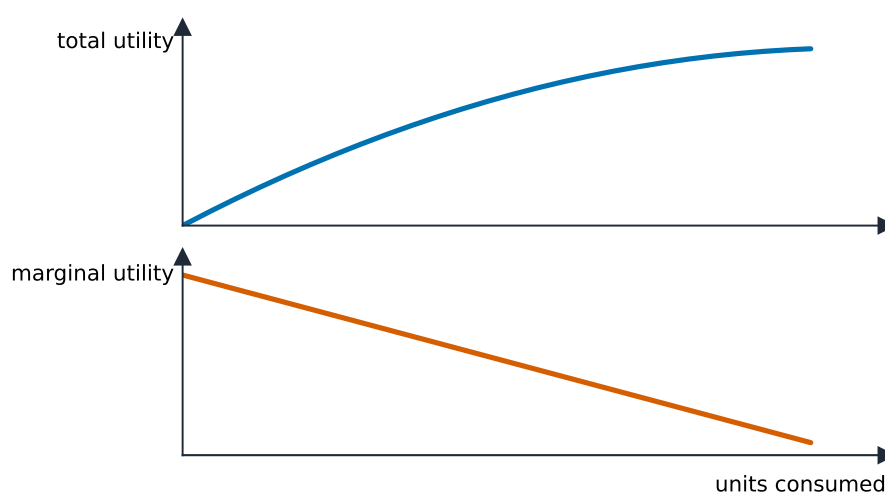
Build the skills to answer exam questions on **utility** 效用 — **total and marginal utility** 总效用与边际效用, **diminishing marginal utility** 边际效用递减, and the **equi-marginal principle** 等边际原则.

You must be able to:

- define total and marginal utility
- explain diminishing marginal utility and why demand slopes downward
- apply and evaluate the equi-marginal principle

1 Worked examples

■ Utility and consumer choice



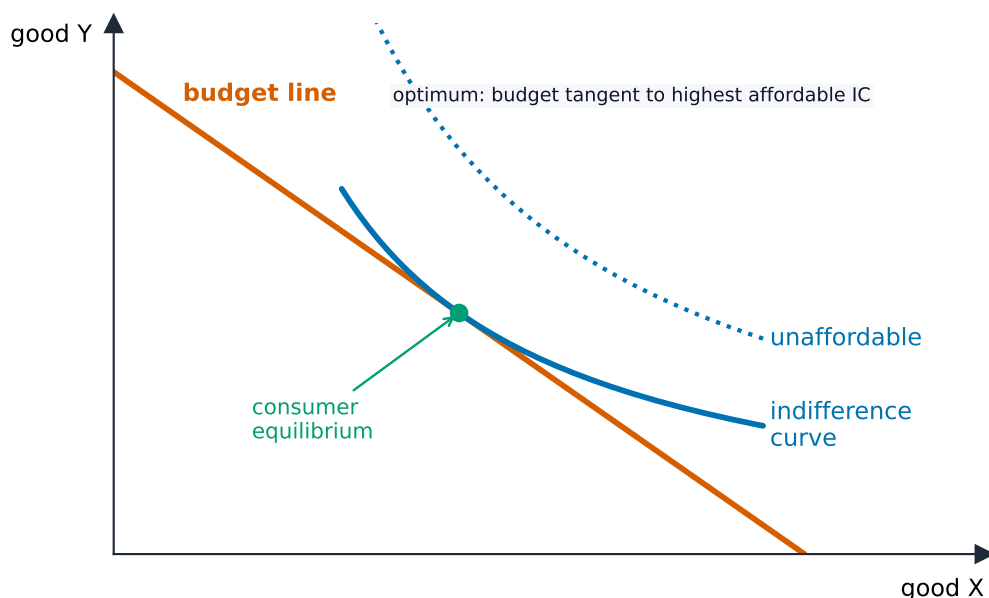
diminishing MU: each extra unit adds less • TU flattens as MU $\rightarrow$ 0

Each extra unit adds less satisfaction — so buyers pay less for later units

- **Total utility** 总效用: satisfaction from all units; **marginal utility** 边际效用:

satisfaction from one more unit.

- **Diminishing marginal utility** 边际效用递减: each extra unit adds less → demand slopes **down**.
- **Equi-marginal principle**: utility is maximised when $\frac{MU_A}{P_A} = \frac{MU_B}{P_B}$.



The same utility-maximising choice shown with indifference curves and a budget line

Answer shapes: AO1 + AO2 + AO3 (analysis) + AO4 (judgement, for evaluate questions).

2 Practice

2.1 Define the term *marginal utility*. [2]

2.2 State the law of diminishing marginal utility. [2]

2.3 State the equi-marginal condition for two goods A and B. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A consumer maximises total utility from two goods when:

[1]

A	B
C	D

A the price of each good is equal

B the marginal utility of each good is equal

C the marginal utility per dollar spent on each good is equal

D total utility from each good is equal

3.2 Explain how diminishing marginal utility helps explain the downward-sloping demand curve.

[6]

3.3 Discuss the usefulness of marginal utility theory in explaining consumer behaviour.[12]