

1.1 Introductory concepts

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 24 marks

KEY WORDS opportunity cost • production possibility frontier

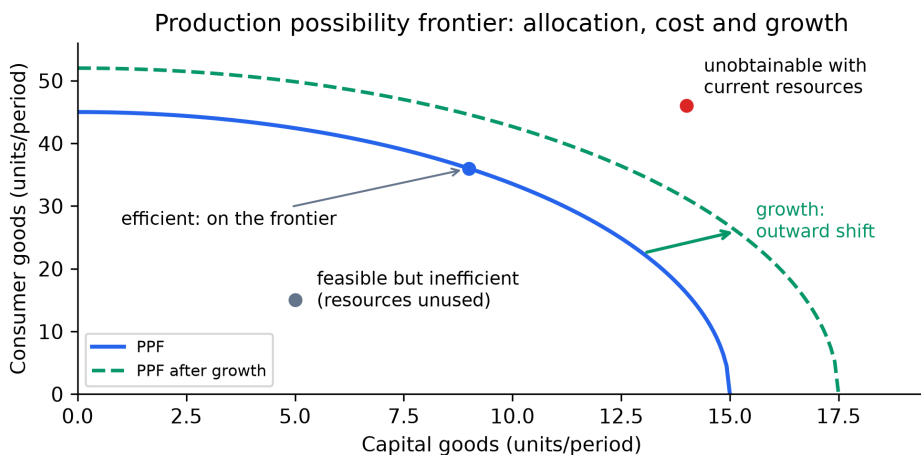
Introductory concepts

Objective

Use the nature-of-economics toolkit: positive and normative statements, scarcity and opportunity cost, production possibility frontiers, specialisation, money, financial markets and economic systems (spec 1.3.1, rows 1–6).

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Models and choice. Economics builds models under the ceteris paribus assumption because it cannot run controlled experiments. Scarcity (unlimited wants, finite resources) forces choice; every choice's real cost is the next-best alternative forgone. A PPF shows maximum potential: on the frontier is efficient, inside is wasteful, outside is unobtainable; the slope is the marginal opportunity cost, and capital goods produced today shift the frontier out tomorrow.



Original model; points, shift and labels are specified in the worked examples.

2 Practice

2.1 Classify each statement as positive or normative: (a) "A unit tax of 6 raised the price consumers pay by 4." (b) "The government should not tax necessities." [2]

2.2 State one difference between a renewable and a non-renewable resource, and between a free good and an economic good. [2]

2.3 An economy can make 15 capital goods or 45 consumer goods per period on a straight PPF. (a) What is the opportunity cost of one more capital good? (b) What does a point inside the frontier show? [3]

2.4 For each event, state whether it is a movement along or a shift of the PPF: (a) unemployment falls and unused land returns to production; (b) a new technology improves yields in both sectors. [2]

2.5 List the four functions of money. [2]

2.6 Why does producing more capital goods today tend to raise future growth? [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 (*Original.*) Using a PPF diagram, explain how an economy that chooses more capital goods today can achieve economic growth, and state one opportunity cost of that choice. [4]

3.2 (*Original.*) Give two advantages of a free market economy and two disadvantages of a command economy. [4]

3.3 (*Original.*) Explain one advantage and one disadvantage of the division of labour for a pin factory, with reference to Adam Smith. [3]
