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Foreword

The National Curriculum Framework (NFC) 2005, recommends that children's life at school must be linked to their life outside the school. This principle marks a departure from the legacy of bookish learning which continues to shape our system and causes a gap between the school, home and community. The syllabi and textbooks developed on the basis of NCF signify an attempt to implement this basic idea. They also attempt to discourage rote learning and the maintenance of sharp boundaries between different subject areas. We hope these measures will take us significantly further in the direction of a child-centred system of education outlined in the National Policy on Education (1986).

The success of this effort depends on the steps that school principals and teachers will take to encourage children to reflect on their own learning and to pursue imaginative activities and questions. We must recognise that, given space, time and freedom, children generate new knowledge by engaging with the information passed on to them by adults. Treating the prescribed textbook as the sole basis of examination is one of the key reasons why other resources and sites of learning are ignored. Inculcating creativity and initiative is possible if we perceive and treat children as participants in learning, not as receivers of a fixed body of knowledge.

These aims imply considerable change in school routines and mode of functioning. Flexibility in the daily time-tables is as necessary as rigour in implementing the annual calendar so that the required number of teaching days are actually devoted to teaching. The methods used for teaching and evaluation will also determine how effective this textbook proves for making children's life at school a happy experience, rather than a source of stress or problem. Syllabus designers have tried to address the problem of curricular burden by restructuring and reorienting knowledge at different stages with greater consideration for child psychology and the time available for teaching. The textbook attempts to enhance this endeavour by giving higher priority and space to opportunities for contemplation and wondering, discussion in small groups, and activities requiring hands-on experience.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) appreciates the hardwork done by the textbook development committee responsible for this textbook. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the advisory group in Social Sciences, Professor Hari Vasudevan, and the *Chief Advisor* for this textbook, Professor Tapas Majumdar, for guiding the work of this committee. Several teachers

contributed to the development of this textbook; we are grateful to their principals for making this possible. We are indebted to the institutions and organisations which have generously permitted us to draw upon their resources, material and personnel. We are especially grateful to the members of the National Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Chairpersonship of Professor Mrinal Miri and Professor G.P. Deshpande, for their valuable time and contribution. As an organisation committed to systemic reform and continuous improvement in the quality of its products, NCERT welcomes comments and suggestions which will enable us to undertake further revision and refinement.

New Delhi 16 February 2007 Director National Council of Educational Research and Training

RATIONALISATION OF CONTENT IN THE TEXTBOOKS

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative to reduce content load on students. The National Education Policy 2020, also emphasises reducing the content load and providing opportunities for experiential learning with creative mindset. In this background, the NCERT has undertaken the exercise to rationalise the textbooks across all classes. Learning Outcomes already developed by the NCERT across classes have been taken into consideration in this exercise.

Contents of the textbooks have been rationalised in view of the following:

- Overlapping with similar content included in other subject areas in the same class
- Similar content included in the lower or higher class in the same subject
- Difficulty level
- Content, which is easily accessible to students without much interventions from teachers and can be learned by children through self-learning or peer-learning
- Content, which is irrelevant in the present context

This present edition, is a reformatted version after carrying out the changes given above.

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contents

F ore	WORD	iii
1. In	TRODUCTION	1
1.1	Emergence of Macroeconomics	5
1.2	Context of the Present Book of Macroeconomics	6
2. NA	ATIONAL INCOME ACCOUNTING	9
2.1	Some Basic Concepts of Macroeconomics	9
2.2	Circular Flow of Income and Methods of	
	Calculating National Income	14
	2.2.1 The Product or Value Added Method	17
	2.2.2 Expenditure Method	21
	2.2.3 Income Method	22
	2.2.4 Factor Cost, Basic Prices and Market Prices	24
2.3	Some Macroeconomic Identities	25
2.4	Nominal and Real GDP	29
2.5	GDP and Welfare	30
3. M o	ONEY AND BANKING	36
3.1	Functions of Money	36
3.2	Demand for Money and Supply of Money	37
	3.2.1 Demand for Money	37
	3.2.2 Supply of Money	38
3.3		39
	3.3.1 Balance Sheet of a Fictional Bank	40
	3.3.2 Limits to Credit Creation and Money Multiplier	40
	Policy Tools to Control Money Supply	42
4. D E	ETERMINATION OF INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT	53
4.1	Aggregate Demand and its Components	53
	4.1.1 Consumption	54
	4.1.2 Investment	56
4.2	Determination of Income in Two-sector Model	56
4.3	Determination of Equilibrium Income in the Short Run	57
	4.3.1 Macroeconomic equilibrium with price level fixed	57
	4.3.2 Effect of an autonomous change in aggregate	
	demand on income and output	60

	4.3.3	The Multiplier Mechanism	61
4.4	Some	More Concepts	64
5. G c	VERNM	ENT BUDGET AND THE ECONOMY	66
5.1	Gove	rnment Budget – Meaning and its Components	66
	5.1.1	Objectives of Government Budget	67
	5.1.2	Classification of Receipts	68
	5.1.3	Classification of Expenditure	69
5.2	Balar	nced, Surplus and Deficit Budget	70
	5.2.1	Measures of Government Deficit	71
6. O	PEN ECC	NOMY MACROECONOMICS	85
6.1	The E	Balance of Payments	86
	6.1.1	Current Account	86
	6.1.2	Capital Account	88
	6.1.3	Balance of Payments Surplus and Deficit	88
6.2	The F	oreign Exchange Market	91
	6.2.1	Foreign Exchange Rate	91
	6.2.2	Determination of the Exchange Rate	92
	6.2.3	Merits and Demerits of Flexible and Fixed	
		Exchange Rate Systems	95
	6.2.4	Managed Floating	95
	GLOSS	ARY	100