

Andrew Dickinson

EC330, Summer 2021

HW I. Due Thursday October 14th

Name (Print): _____

Student ID _____

Please write all answers in legible handwriting in the space provided. Points will be taken off your score if the grader cannot read your answers or if your pdf scan is poor. For math questions, show all relevant work neatly. **For questions with numeric answers, clearly circle or box your final answer.**

Total points possible: 25

For the first 5 questions, circle **one** option from the multiple choice. The multiple choice are all based on *ToTC*.

1. (1 point) Which of these is discussed on the last page of the introduction of Triumph of the City as a reason why urban development matters for the environment?
 - (A) Whether or not China or India choose to plan car-based cities (as seen in the U.S., especially) as their wealth grows will hugely impact energy demand and global emissions of carbon dioxide.
 - (B) An increase in the number and size of cities will make countries more productive and wealthy, allowing them to spend the necessary money to solve whatever environmental problems that might exist.
 - (C) The location and growth of cities in places like Brazil or Indonesia threaten rain forests and biodiversity.
 - (D) Cities are engines of creativity and knowledge; solutions to environmental problems will be developed in the colleges, universities, and research labs of cities.
2. (1 point) One theme repeated by Edward Glaeser in these first couple dozen pages of Triumph of the City is that a city is fundamentally made up of...
 - (A) its people.
 - (B) its buildings.
 - (C) its location.
 - (D) its infrastructure.
 - (E) its firms.
3. (1 point) What technology does chapter 2 cite as a "knowledge-destroying-idea"?
 - (A) Henry Ford's assembly line
 - (B) inland waterways, such as the Erie Canal
 - (C) Thomas Edison's light bulb
 - (D) Gustavus Swift's refrigerated railcar

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4. (1 point) As seen in the example of Detroit, what is one of the potential pitfalls of a local income tax (i.e., one imposed at the level of a politically separate municipality—not an entire metropolitan area)?
- (A) Income taxes are more regressive than sales taxes (i.e., they disproportionately burden lower-income households more).
 - (B) Higher-income households may simply move to neighboring municipalities with no lower local income taxes or no local income tax.
 - (C) Local income taxes discourage innovation.
 - (D) There is less democratic control over how the revenues of local income taxes might be spent
5. (1 point) Why was it especially common for farmers to take their grains (like corn) and distill it into alcohol or feed it to livestock (such as pigs) in the early nineteenth century and before?
- (A) Before the advent of railroads and automobiles it was prohibitively expensive to transport bulky, low-value grains over large distances by land.
 - (B) Alcohol and preserved meat (such as ham) have last longer before spoiling than grain, so they can be stored for longer periods or transported slowly.
 - (C) Alcohol and meat both have more calories per unit of weight than grain, so transportation costs per calorie were lower for alcohol and meat.
 - (D) All of the other answers are correct.
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Short Answer

6. (3 points) Using the following Demand and Supply curves,

$$Q(p_s) = 16 - \frac{2}{5}p_s$$

$$Q(p_d) = -5 + p_d$$

to answer the following parts.

- (a) (1 point) Graph each curve (to scale as much as possible) and carefully label. Indicate where equilibrium will be with a capital E
- (b) (1 point) Solve for equilibrium analytically (using math). Check your answer by plotting the equilibrium on your graph. Carefully show all your work and box your answer.
- (c) (1 point) Between consumers and producers, who has the largest surplus? Show your work.

7. (4 points) Castor can produce 20 units of brick or 10 units of wheat or some combination of the two described by the following PPF curve:

$$\text{Castor : } Q_b = 20 - 2Q_w$$

Pollux can produce 18 units of brick or 3 units of wheat or some linear combination of the two described by the following PPF curve:

$$\text{Pollux : } Q_b = 18 - 6Q_w \quad (1)$$

- (a) (1 point) Graph each city's Production Possibilities Frontier for brick and wheat (on the same graph). Draw wheat on the x-axis and brick on the y-axis. Carefully label each component.

- (b) (1 point) Fill in the table, giving the opportunity cost of Castor and Pollux.

	opportunity cost of 1 unit of wheat	opportunity cost of 1 unit of brick
Castor		
Pollux		

- (c) (1 point) Which county has the absolute advantage in wheat? Which county has the absolute advantage in brick? Explain (briefly) how you know.

- (d) (1 point) Who has the comparative advantage in wheat? Who has the comparative advantage in brick?

8. (6 points) The city of Springfield lies at the east end of a railroad. To the west, there are one hundred miles of plains along which there are several towns—all connected to by rail. To the east of Springfield are fifty miles of mountains, whose small villages are connected by a few winding dirt roads. The only factory in the region is in Springfield. It produces widgets at a cost of \$20 per unit at the factory door. Thanks to the rail line, the transport cost to anywhere west of Springfield is \$0.4 per mile. Given the poor state of the roads through the mountains, the transport costs to anywhere east of Springfield is \$0.8 per mile.
- (a) (1 point) Graph the costs of widgets produced throughout the entire 150-mile region. Carefully label the costs at the factory, at the far western end of the region, and at the far eastern end of the region
- (b) (1 point) Assume that the cost of making a widget at home is \$44. What is the market area for the factory? (That is, how many miles west of Springfield will it stretch, and how many miles east of Springfield will it stretch?)

In reality, one of the key inputs for widgets is easier for the residents of the western plains to acquire. For all remaining parts of the problem, assume that the cost of making widgets at home anywhere west of Springfield is actually \$32, and the cost of making widgets at home is \$44 anywhere east of Springfield.

- (c) (1 point) Now what is the market area for the factory? (That is, how many miles west of Springfield will it stretch, and how many miles east of Springfield will it stretch?) Show your work.

The owners of the factory would like its market area to extend more broadly, and they are considering two investment options:

- First, they could help the government of the region finance the upgrading and paving of the mountain roads, which would reduce the transport costs east of Springfield to only \$0.6 per mile. (The transportation costs west of Springfield would stay at \$0.4 per mile.)
- Second, they could purchase and install expensive new equipment in the factory that would reduce the cost of a widget at the factory door to only \$14 per unit.

Each of these options would cost exactly the same, and the owners of the factory can choose only one of these options. Assume that potential customers for widgets are distributed evenly across the entire 150-mile region.

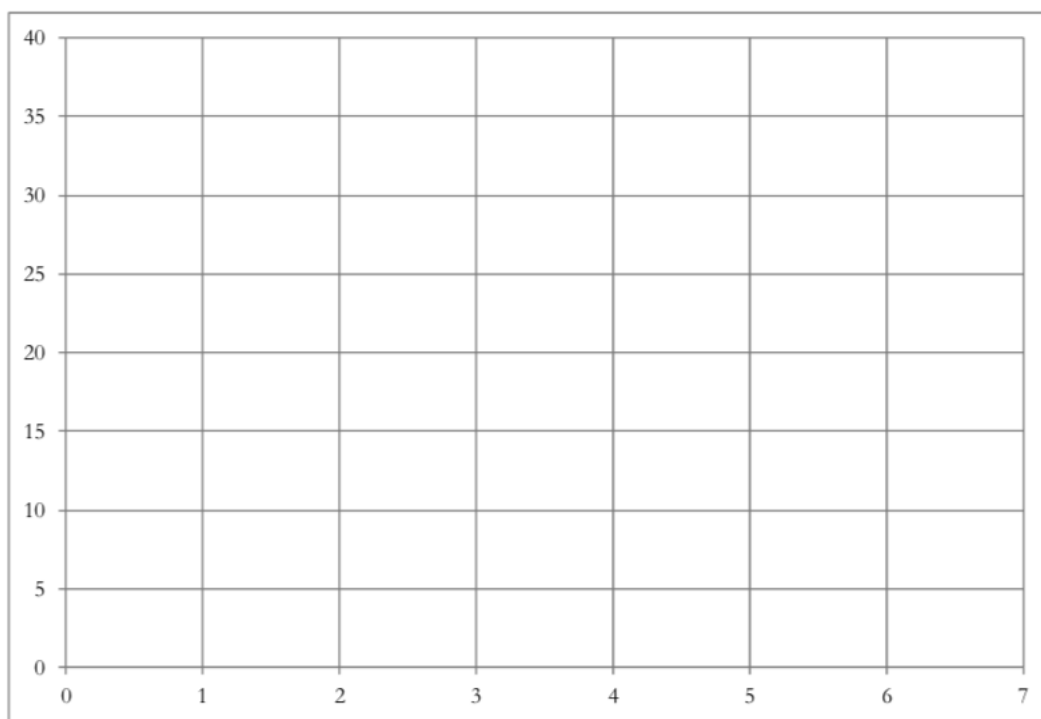
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- (d) (1 point) How many additional miles (on either side of Springfield) would be added to the factory's market area under the first investment option of upgrading and paving the mountain roads? Show your work.
- (e) (1 point) How many additional miles (on either side of Springfield) would be added to the factory's market area under the second investment option of installing new equipment in the factory? Show your work.
- (f) (1 point) Given the answers to parts d) and e) above, which investment option will the factory owners choose? Briefly explain why they will go with that option.

9. (5 points) Consider an entrepreneur who sells jewelry for \$50 per piece. Clustering with similar entrepreneurs would increase labor costs, but it would allow some of the intermediate materials to be made at larger scales, thus reducing per-unit costs.

- (a) (1 point) Fill out the rest of the table below, finding the total cost per piece as well as the profit per piece for an entrepreneur depending on how many other entrepreneurs there are in a cluster.

Number of entrepreneurs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Labor cost per piece	5	6	8	11	15	19	27
Cost of materials per piece	25	20	16	14	12	10	9
Total cost per piece							
Profit per piece							

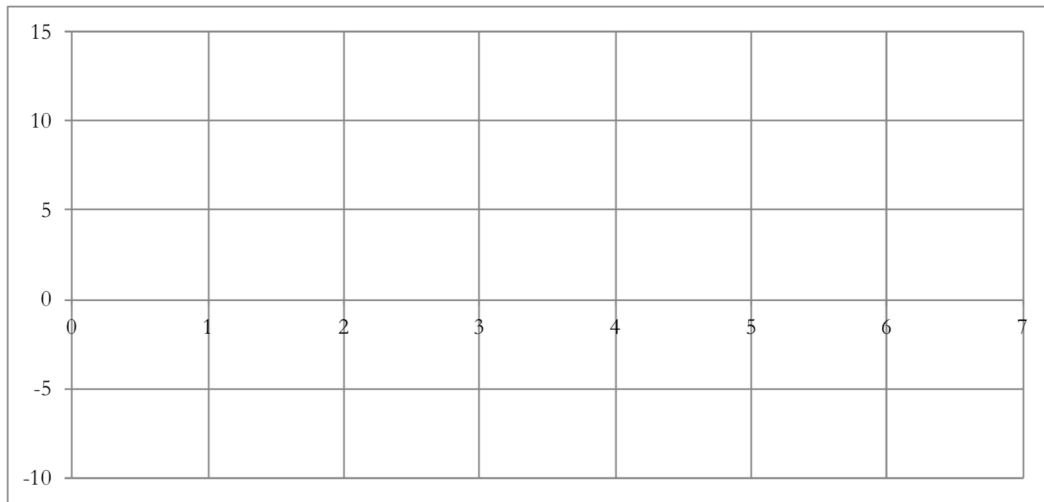
- (b) (1 point) Using the data in the table above graph the labor costs per piece, the costs of materials per piece, and the total costs per piece as functions of the number of entrepreneurs in a cluster. (1 point)



- (c) (1 point) Fill out the following table and graph, finding the profit gap between locating in clusters of more than one entrepreneur compared to locating to an isolated site (i.e., a cluster of size 1). That is, how much more profit will the firm earn in a cluster of multiple entrepreneurs compared to working in an isolated site (i.e., a cluster of size 1)? For the

graph, the x axis should be number of entrepreneurs in the cluster and the y axis should be the profit gap.

Number of entrepreneurs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Profit gap	(0)						



(d) (1 point) What would we expect the equilibrium cluster size to be? No explanation needed (yet).

(e) (1 point) Briefly explain why the equilibrium cluster size would not be smaller than your answer in part (d).

10. (2 points) Assume that the rank-size rule (Zipf's law) for cities is exactly true and that the third-largest city in a region has 4.5 million people.

A) How many people live in the region's largest city? Show your work. (1 point)

B) How many people live in the region's sixth-largest city? Show your work. (0.5 points)

C) How many cities have populations greater than 1 million? Show your work. (0.5 point)