

**2016 AP<sup>®</sup> MICROECONOMICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

2. Martha has a fixed budget of \$20, and she spends it all on two goods, X and Y. The price of X is \$4 per unit, and the price of Y is \$2 per unit. The table below shows the total benefit, measured in dollars, Martha receives from the consumption of each good.

Quantity of X	Total Benefit from X	Quantity of Y	Total Benefit from Y
0	\$0	0	\$0
1	\$16	1	\$10
2	\$28	2	\$18
3	\$36	3	\$24
4	\$40	4	\$28
5	\$41	5	\$30

- (a) What is Martha's marginal benefit of the fifth unit of good X?
- (b) Calculate the total consumer surplus if Martha consumes 5 units of X. Show your work.
- (c) Martha is currently consuming 4 units of X and 2 units of Y. Use marginal analysis to explain why this combination is not optimal for Martha.
- (d) What is Martha's optimal combination of goods X and Y?
- (e) Indicate whether each of the following will cause the optimal quantity of good Y to increase, decrease, or stay the same.
- (i) The price of good Y doubles.
  - (ii) Martha's income falls to \$10 with no changes in prices.
  - (iii) Martha's income doubles, and the price of both goods double.

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3. Camden's Cakery is one of many dessert cafés serving a local community. Each café produces a slightly differentiated product, there are no barriers to entry or exit, and the firm is in long-run equilibrium.
- (a) Draw a correctly labeled graph showing Camden's demand curve, marginal revenue curve, marginal cost curve, and long-run average total cost curve. Label Camden's profit-maximizing output  $Q_m$  and its price  $P_m$ .
  - (b) On your graph in part (a), label the output at which total revenue is maximized  $Q_R$ .
  - (c) Do firms in this market experience economies of scale, diseconomies of scale, or neither in long-run equilibrium? Explain.

**STOP**

**END OF EXAM**

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**2016 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 2**

**7 points** (1+1+1+1+3)

(a) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that the marginal benefit is \$1.

(b) 1 point:

- One point is earned for correctly calculating the total consumer surplus from consuming 5 units of X.

$$CS = (\$16 - \$4) + (\$12 - \$4) + (\$8 - \$4) + (\$4 - \$4) + (\$1 - \$4) = \$21$$

OR

$$CS = \$41 - \$20 = \$21$$

(c) 1 point:

- One point is earned for explaining that this combination of X and Y is not optimal because the marginal benefit per dollar of good X ( $MB_x/P_x = \$4/\$4 = 1$ ) is less than the marginal benefit per dollar of good Y ( $MB_y/P_y = \$8/\$2 = 4$ ). (This can also be stated as  $MB_x/MB_y < P_x/P_y$ .)

$(MB_x/P_x = 1)$  is not equal to  $(MB_y/P_y = 4)$  is acceptable.

$MB_x/P_x$  is less than  $MB_y/P_y$  is acceptable.

$MB_y/P_y$  is greater than  $MB_x/P_x$  is acceptable.

(d) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that Martha's optimal combination is 3 units of X and 4 units of Y.

(e) 3 points:

- One point is earned for stating that the optimal quantity of good Y will decrease.
- One point is earned for stating that the optimal quantity of good Y will decrease.
- One point is earned for stating that the optimal quantity of good Y will stay the same.