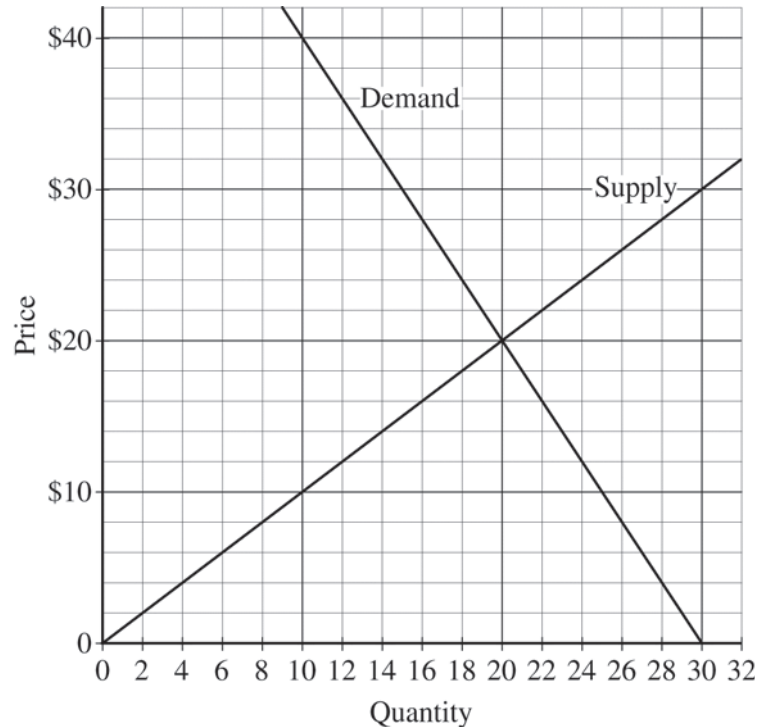


2015 AP[®] MICROECONOMICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3. The graph below shows the market for widgets. The government is considering intervening in this market.



- (a) Calculate the total producer surplus at the market equilibrium price and quantity. Show your work.
- (b) If the government imposes a price floor at \$16, is there a shortage, a surplus, or neither? Explain.
- (c) If instead the government imposes a price ceiling at \$12, is there a shortage, a surplus, or neither? Explain.
- (d) If instead the government restricts the market output to 10 units, calculate the deadweight loss. Show your work.
- (e) Assume the price decreases from \$20 to \$12.
 - (i) Calculate the price elasticity of demand. Show your work.
 - (ii) In this price range, is demand perfectly elastic, relatively elastic, unit elastic, relatively inelastic, or perfectly inelastic?

STOP

END OF EXAM

AP[®] MICROECONOMICS
2015 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

6 points (1+1+1+1+2)

(a) 1 point:

- One point is earned for calculating the total producer surplus as $(1/2 \times 20 \times 20) = \200 .

(b) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that imposing a price floor at \$16 is ineffective and will not create a surplus or a shortage in the market because it is set below the equilibrium price, or because it is not binding.

(c) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that imposing a price ceiling at \$12 will create a shortage because quantity demanded is greater than quantity supplied, or because the price ceiling is binding.

(d) 1 point:

- One point is earned for calculating the deadweight loss as \$150 and for showing:

$$(1/2 \times 30 \times 10)$$

or

$$(1/2 \times 10 \times 10) + (1/2 \times 20 \times 10)$$

or

$$\$50 + \$100$$

(e) 2 points:

- One point is earned for calculating the price elasticity of demand as $[(24-20)/20 / (12-20)/20] = -0.5$, or for correctly using the midpoint formula.
- One point is earned for stating that in this price range the demand is relatively inelastic.