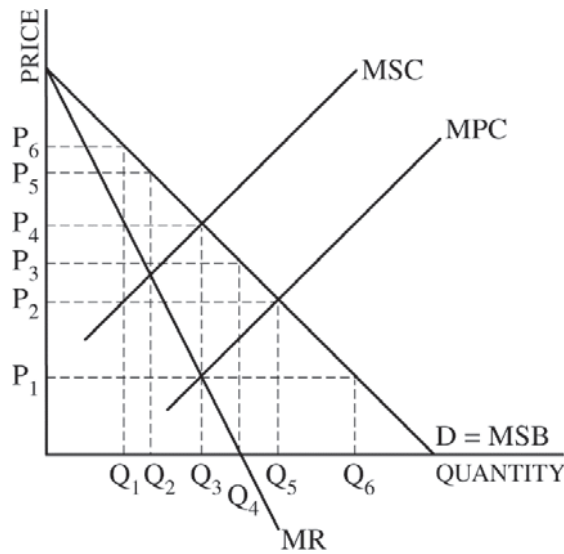


2017 AP[®] MICROECONOMICS FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3. The graph below shows the marginal social cost (MSC), marginal private cost (MPC), marginal social benefit (MSB), demand (D), and marginal revenue (MR) curves for a monopoly.



- (a) Identify the monopolist's
 - (i) profit-maximizing quantity
 - (ii) profit-maximizing price
- (b) What information in the graph indicates that there is a negative externality?
- (c) Identify the socially optimal quantity.
- (d) In the case in which the government imposes a per-unit tax equal to the marginal external cost, identify each of the following.
 - (i) The dollar value of the tax, using the price labels from the graph
 - (ii) The profit-maximizing quantity associated with the tax
- (e) Given the monopoly facing the negative externality, would the deadweight loss increase, decrease, or stay the same as a result of imposing the per-unit tax? Explain.

STOP

END OF EXAM

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Question 3

7 points (2 + 1 + 1 + 2 + 1)

(a) 2 points:

- One point is earned for correctly identifying the monopolist's profit-maximizing quantity, Q_3 .
- One point is earned for correctly identifying the monopolist's profit-maximizing price, P_4 .

(b) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that $MSC > MPC$ **or** that the MSC curve exceeds, is above, or is greater than the MPC curve.

(c) 1 point:

- One point is earned for correctly identifying the socially optimal quantity, Q_3 .

(d) 2 points:

- One point is earned for correctly identifying the dollar value of the tax, $P_4 - P_1$.
- One point is earned for correctly identifying the profit-maximizing quantity associated with the tax, Q_2 .

(e) 1 point:

- One point is earned for correctly stating that the deadweight loss increases because the monopolist's profit-maximizing quantity is equal to the socially optimal quantity before the tax and is less than the socially optimal quantity after the tax.