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FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

2014/2015 HARMATTAN SEMESTER EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE/TITLE: ECO205 – INTRODUCTORY MATHEMATICS FOR ECONOMISTS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A AND ANY OTHER TWO FROM SECTION B

SECTION A

TIME ALLOWED: 2HRS

- 1a. Differentiate  $y = e^{x^2+5x+9} 6x^2$
- b. Derive from first principle,  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}$  when  $y = 3x^{-2}$
- c. Evaluate  $\int (7e^{-x} + \frac{2}{x}) dx$
- d. Evaluate  $\int_1^3 6x^2(x+1)dx$
- e. If  $Z = 6y^3 + 6x^2 + 8xy^2 + 10$ , find  $Z_y, Z_x, Z_{xy}, Z_{yx}, Z_{yy}, Z_{xx}$  and ascertain Young's theorem
- f. Given a firm's marginal cost function as  $MC = Q^2 + 2Q + 4$ . Find the total cost function, if the fixed cost is 100.
- g. Given a Savings function as;  $S = 0.02y^2 - y + 100$ , find the marginal propensity to save (MPS) and the marginal propensity to consume (MPC) when  $y = 40$
- h. Given  $P = -Q^2 - 10Q + 150$ , find the price elasticity, when  $Q = 4$
- i. Given  $U = x_1^{1/4} x_2^{3/4}$  find the marginal rate of commodity substitution in terms of  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , when  $x_1 = 100$  and  $x_2 = 200$

(30 MARKS)

SECTION B

2(a) Given a Cobb-Douglas production function,  $Q = Al^\alpha K^\beta$ , where  $Q$  = output,  $L$  = labour,  $K$  = capital,  $A$  = efficiency parameter,  $\alpha, \beta$  = input shares.

- (i) Use Euler's theorem to verify that the function is linearly homogenous and
- (ii) Determine the marginal rate of technical substitution

(b) If a firm's total cost function is given as  $TC = 50,000 + 20Q$  and it charges different prices  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  at two different markets with output  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$ . If the demand equation in each of the markets respectively is given by:

$$P_1 + Q_1 = 500$$

$$2P_2 + 3Q_2 = 720$$

Find the prices in each market, that maximize profit. What is the maximum profit?

(20marks)

when  $U = x_1^{1/4} x_2^{3/4}$  find MRS when  $x_1 = 100$  and  $x_2 = 200$ .

$\frac{\partial U}{\partial x_1} = \frac{1}{4} x_1^{-3/4} x_2^{3/4}$

$\frac{3-1}{4} = \frac{3-4}{4} = \frac{-1}{4}$

$MRS = \frac{MU_{x1}}{MU_{x2}} = \frac{0.4}{0.6} = 0.67$



3(a) The Demand and Total cost function of a commodity is given by

$$4P + Q - 16 = 0 \text{ and Total cost, } TC = 4 + 2Q - \frac{3Q^2}{10} + \frac{Q^3}{20}.$$

Determine

- (i) the value of  $Q$ , that maximizes profit
- (ii) Show that  $MR = MC$  at this point

(b) Given a demand function  $Q = 20 - 5P^2$ , estimate the elasticity of demand at  $P = 2$  and  $P = 3$ , and state the nature of the elasticity.

(20marks)

4(a) Given the utility function of an individual as  $U = 2X_1X_2 + X_2$  where  $U$  is total utility,  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are the quantities of the two commodities consumed, find

- (i) the marginal utilities of the two commodities
- (ii) the value of the marginal utility of the first commodity, when three (3) units of each commodity is consumed.

(b) Given a demand function,  $Q = 100 - 2P_1 + P_2 + 0.2Y$ , where  $P_1 = 10$ ,  $P_2 = 12$  and  $Y = 2000$ .

Find the (i) Price elasticity of demand  
Income elasticity of demand.

(ii) Cross Price elasticity of demand and (iii)  
(20marks)

5(a) A perfectly competitive firm produces two commodities  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  at #1000 and #1800 each respectively. If the total cost function,  $TC = 2Q_1^2 + 2Q_1Q_2 + Q_2^2$ , where  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are the output levels of  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , Find (i) the values of  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  that maximises this profit (ii) the maximum profit at these values.

(b) The demand function for a firm in two separate markets is given by

$$P_1 = 50 - 5Q_1$$

$$P_2 = 30 - 4Q_2$$

If the total cost of the firm is  $TC = 10 + 10Q$ , find the prices  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  that maximises profit of the firm, and what is the maximum profit?

(20marks)