

# Problem Set 4

## Principles of Economics

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### Monopolistic Competition

1. Which of the following conditions does NOT describe a firm in a monopolistically competitive market?
  - (a) It makes a product different from its competitors.
  - (b) It takes its price as given by market conditions.
  - (c) It maximizes profit both in the short run and in the long run.
  - (d) It has the freedom to enter or exit in the long run.
2. Firms in monopolistically competitive markets are similar to monopolies in that they both \_\_\_\_\_ and are similar to firms in perfectly competitive markets in that they both \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) make positive profits in the short and long run; are price takers
  - (b) charge a price above the marginal cost; produce at the efficient scale in the long run
  - (c) are price makers; make zero economic profit in the long run
  - (d) are in markets with barriers to entry; produce at the efficient quantity
3. A monopolistically competitive firm will decrease its production if
  - (a) marginal revenue is less than average total cost.
  - (b) price is less than marginal cost.
  - (c) marginal revenue is less than marginal cost.
  - (d) price is less than average total cost.
4. For a firm in a monopolistically competitive market, which of the following accurately describes the relationship between the price, average total cost, and marginal cost in the short run given that the firm is making a negative profit?
  - (a)  $ATC = P = MC$
  - (b)  $ATC > P = MC$
  - (c)  $ATC = P > MC$
  - (d)  $ATC > P > MC$

5. For a firm in a monopolistically competitive market, which of the following accurately describes the relationship between the price, average total cost, and marginal cost in the long run?
- (a)  $P = ATC = MC$
  - (b)  $P > ATC = MC$
  - (c)  $P = ATC > MC$
  - (d)  $P > ATC > MC$
6. Consider the environment faced by Sparkle, one of the many toothpaste brands in the market for toothpaste, shown in Figure 1.

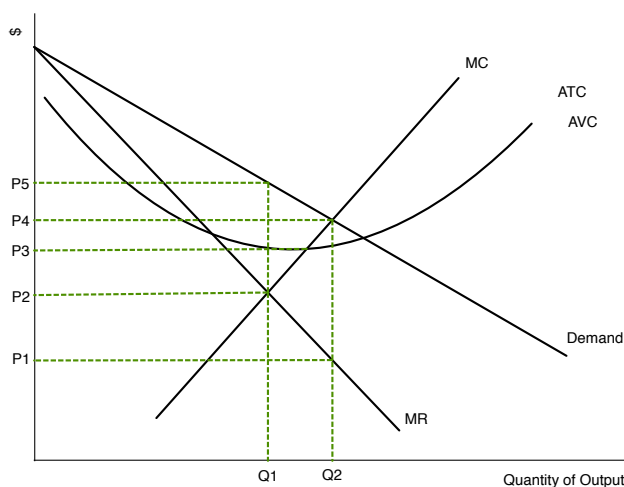


Figure 1: Environment for Sparkle

The quantity produced by the firm is \_\_\_\_\_ and it charges a markup of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a)  $Q2; P4 - P3$
  - (b)  $Q2; P4 - P1$
  - (c)  $Q1; P3 - P2$
  - (d)  $Q1; P5 - P2$
7. Which of the following is true regarding the similarities and differences in monopolistic competition and monopoly?
- (a) The monopolist faces a downward-sloping demand curve while the monopolistic competitor faces a perfectly elastic demand curve.
  - (b) The monopolist makes economic profits in the long run while the monopolistic competitor makes zero economic profits in the long run.
  - (c) Both the monopolist and the monopolistic competitor operate at the efficient scale.
  - (d) The monopolist charges a price above marginal cost while the monopolistic competitor charges a price equal to marginal cost.

8. In the short run, if the price is above the average total cost in a monopolistically competitive market, the firm makes
- (a) losses and firms enter the market.
  - (b) losses and firms exit the market.
  - (c) profits and firms enter the market.
  - (d) profits and firms exit the market.
9. Monopolistically competitive firms produce
- (a) at the efficient scale and charge a price equal to marginal cost.
  - (b) at the efficient scale and charge a price above marginal cost.
  - (c) with excess capacity and charge a price equal to marginal cost.
  - (d) with excess capacity and charge a price above marginal cost.
10. One source of inefficiency in monopolistic competition is that
- (a) since price is above marginal cost, surplus is redistributed from buyers to sellers.
  - (b) since price is above marginal cost, some units are not produced that buyers value in excess of the cost of production.
  - (c) monopolistically competitive firms produce beyond their efficient scale.
  - (d) monopolistically competitive firms earn economic profits in the long run.
11. Sleek Sneakers Co. is one of the many firms in the market for shoes, where each company sells differentiated products.
- (a) Assume that Sleek is currently earning short-run profit. On a clearly labeled diagram, show the company's profit maximizing output and price, as well as the area representing profit.
  - (b) What happens to Sleek's price, output, and profit in the long run? Show this in a new diagram.
  - (c) On your diagram for the firm in the long run, show the consumer surplus derived from the purchase of Sleek shoes and the deadweight loss relative to the efficient level of output.
  - (d) If the government forced Sleek to produce the efficient level of output, what would happen to the firm?

## Oligopoly

1. If an oligopolistic industry organizes itself as a cooperative cartel, it will produce a quantity of output that is \_\_\_\_\_ the competitive level and \_\_\_\_\_ the monopoly level.
- (a) less than; more than
  - (b) more than; less than
  - (c) less than; equal to
  - (d) equal to; more than

2. If an oligopoly does not cooperate and each firm chooses its own quantity, the industry will produce a quantity of output that is \_\_\_\_\_ the competitive level and \_\_\_\_\_ the monopoly level.
- (a) less than; more than
  - (b) more than; less than
  - (c) less than; equal to
  - (d) equal to; more than

For questions 3 and 4, consider the simultaneous move game below.

		United States	
		Low tariffs	High Tariffs
Mexico	Low tariffs	\$25M, \$25M	\$10M, \$30M
	High tariffs	\$30M, \$10M	\$20M, \$20M

3. The dominant strategy for Mexico is \_\_\_\_\_ and the dominant strategy for the US is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) low tariffs; low tariffs
  - (b) high tariffs; low tariffs
  - (c) low tariffs; high tariffs
  - (d) high tariffs; high tariffs
4. Thus, the Nash Equilibrium is where the United States plays \_\_\_\_\_ and Mexico plays \_\_\_\_\_.
- (a) low tariffs; low tariffs
  - (b) high tariffs; low tariffs
  - (c) low tariffs; high tariffs
  - (d) high tariffs; high tariffs
5. Intel and AMD each decide to either invest heavily in R&D (“High R&D”) or to not (“Low R&D”). Their decisions affect both their profits and those of the other company. Assume that there is perfect information so that each knows the payoffs of the other given the strategies chosen by each. Their profits are summarized in the game table below, where the first number in each block is AMD’s profit and the second number is Intel’s profit.

		Intel	
		High R&D	Low R&D
AMD	High R&D	\$15,000, \$20,000	\$18,000, \$15,000
	Low R&D	\$16,000, \$18,000	\$16,000, \$15,000

If this game was played once and Intel and AMD are both rational, what would be the outcome?

- (a) Intel would invest heavily in R&D and AMD would not.
- (b) Both Intel and AMD would invest heavily in R&D.
- (c) AMD would invest heavily in R&D and Intel would not.
- (d) Both Intel and AMD would choose to not invest heavily in R&D.

6. Consider the simultaneous move game between Righty and Lefty shown below, where the first number in each block is the payoff to Lefty and the second is the payoff to Righty.

		Righty	
		Swerve	Straight
Lefty	Swerve	2, 2	$x$ , 4
	Straight	1, $y$	2, 3

If this particular game has **no** Nash equilibrium, then possible values of  $x$  and  $y$  are

- (a)  $x = 1$  and  $y = 2$ .
- (b)  $x = 1$  and  $y = 4$ .
- (c)  $x = 3$  and  $y = 2$ .
- (d)  $x = 3$  and  $y = 4$ .

7. Consider the simultaneous move game between Jim and Bob shown below, where the first number in each block is the payoff to Bob and the second is the payoff to Jim.

		Jim	
		Left	Right
Bob	Top	2, 4	$x$ , 2
	Bottom	1, $y$	2, 3

If “Top” is the dominant strategy for Bob and “Left” is the dominant strategy for Jim, then possible values of  $x$  and  $y$  are

- (a)  $x = 1$  and  $y = 2$ .
- (b)  $x = 1$  and  $y = 4$ .
- (c)  $x = 3$  and  $y = 2$ .
- (d)  $x = 3$  and  $y = 4$ .

8. Bandidos and Carrburritos are the only taco sellers in Chapel Hill. They face the environment outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Demand Schedule and Costs for Tacos in CH

Price	Quantity Demanded	Average Total Cost
\$10	200	\$4
\$9	300	\$4
\$8	400	\$4
\$7	500	\$4
\$6	600	\$4

The two firms currently have an agreement where they produce 400 tacos in total and split production evenly. If Bandidos were to break this agreement and increased their taco production by 100 tacos while Carrburritos stuck to the original agreement, the profit realized by Bandidos would now be \_\_\_\_\_ and the profit realized by Carrburritos would be \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) \$900; \$600
  - (b) \$750; \$750
  - (c) \$900; \$700
  - (d) \$800; \$800
9. A situation in which oligopolists interacting with one another each choose their best strategy given the strategies that all the other oligopolists have chosen is known as a
- (a) collusions solution.
  - (b) cartel.
  - (c) Nash equilibrium.
  - (d) dominant strategy.
10. If oligopolists engage in collusion and successfully form a cartel, the market outcome is
- (a) the same as if it were served by a monopolist.
  - (b) the same as if it were served by competitive firms.
  - (c) efficient because cooperation improves efficiency.
  - (d) known as a Nash equilibrium.
11. Jack and Jill are the only lemonade providers in Jurassic World. They face the environment outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Demand Schedule and Costs Lemonade

Price	Quantity Demanded	Average Total Cost
\$1.10	300	\$.30
\$1.00	400	\$.30
\$.90	500	\$.30
\$.80	600	\$.30
\$.70	700	\$.30
\$.60	800	\$.30

- (a) The two friends currently have an agreement where they produce 600 drinks in total and split production evenly. What will be the profit realized by each individual?
- (b) If Jack were to break this agreement and increase his lemonade stand's production by 100 drinks, while Jill stuck to the original agreement, what will be the profit realized by each?
- (c) What will be the profit realized by each if both choose to increase production by 100 units?
12. Consider the three person simultaneous move game below. Each person can decide to either work or shirk. Alice chooses the row, Bob chooses the column, and Curt chooses the matrix. For example, if Alice decides to work, Bob decides to shirk, and Curt decides to work, the payoffs are given by the top row of the right column of the top matrix. Alice would get a payoff of  $-1/2$ , Bob would get a payoff of  $3/2$ , and Curt would get a payoff of 1.

		Curt: Work	
		Bob	
		Work	Shirk
Alice	Work	1, 1, 1	$-1/2, 3/2, 1$
	Shirk	$3/2, 1, -1/2$	$0, 3/2, -1/2$

		Curt: Shirk	
		Bob	
		Work	Shirk
Alice	Work	$1, -1/2, 3/2$	$-1/2, 0, 3/2$
	Shirk	$3/2, -1/2, 0$	$0, 0, 0$

- (a) Does Alice have a dominant strategy? If so, what is it?
- (b) Does Bob have a dominant strategy? If so, what is it?
- (c) Does Curt have a dominant strategy? If so, what is it?
- (d) If there is one, what is the Nash equilibrium in this game?

## Gross Domestic Product

1. Which of the following does NOT add to US GDP?
- (a) Air France buys a plane from Boeing, the US aircraft manufacturer.
- (b) General Motors builds a new factory in North Carolina.
- (c) The city of New York pays a salary to a policeman.
- (d) The federal government sends a social security check to your grandmother.

2. Which of the following is NOT considered an investment for calculating GDP?
  - (a) A family purchases a new home.
  - (b) An investor purchases Apple stock.
  - (c) A farmer buys a new tractor.
  - (d) KIA Motors builds a new factory.
3. A country experiencing low GDP growth and high population growth will have a
  - (a) low real GDP growth rate.
  - (b) low nominal GDP growth rate.
  - (c) low per capita GDP growth rate.
  - (d) high per capita GDP growth rate.
4. A country experiencing high GDP growth and low population growth will have a
  - (a) low real GDP growth rate.
  - (b) low nominal GDP growth rate.
  - (c) low per capita GDP growth rate.
  - (d) high per capita GDP growth rate.
5. A bag of sugar is sold to Coca Cola for \$0.50, which uses this sugar to make Sprite that is sold to consumers for \$1.25. Another bag of of sugar is sold to Food Lion for \$1.25, where it is sold to consumers for \$2.75. Together, these transactions have what effect on GDP?
  - (a) Increase GDP by \$1.75
  - (b) Increase GDP by \$4.00
  - (c) Increase GDP by \$5.75
  - (d) Increase GDP by \$3.00
6. An American buys a pair of shoes manufactured in Italy. How do the US national income accounts treat this transaction?
  - (a) Net exports and GDP both rise.
  - (b) Net exports and GDP both fall.
  - (c) Net exports fall, while GDP is unchanged.
  - (d) Net exports are unchanged, while GDP rises.
7. If nominal GDP rose in 2008, then we can conclude that
  - (a) production rose in 2008.
  - (b) prices rose in 2008.
  - (c) neither production or prices rose in 2008.
  - (d) either production or prices, or both, rose in 2008.



8. Table 3 shows the prices and quantities produced of the only two goods in Uzbeki-beki-beki-Stan-Stan, grapes and olives, for the years 2000 – 2002.

Table 3: Grapes and Olives in UZN

Year	Grapes Produced	Price of Grapes	Olives Produced	Price of Olives
2000	20	\$2.10	4	\$4.10
2001	19	\$2.25	6	\$4.15
2002	22	\$2.20	7	\$4.15

Using 2001 as the base year, the real GDP in 2000 is \_\_\_\_\_. Additionally, the inflation rate in 2001 was \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) \$61.60; 3.2%
  - (b) \$58.4; 5.5%
  - (c) \$61.60; 5.5%
  - (d) \$58.4; 3.2%
9. Which of the following would be excluded from 2016 GDP? The sale of
- (a) a 2016 Honda made in South Carolina.
  - (b) a haircut.
  - (c) a realtor's services.
  - (d) a home built in 2015 and first sold in 2016.
  - (e) All of the above should be included in 2016 GDP.
10. GDP would include which of the following?
- (a) Housework.
  - (b) Illegal drug sales.
  - (c) Intermediate sales.
  - (d) Consulting services.
  - (e) The value of taking a day off work.
11. GDP would exclude which of the following?
- (a) Lawyer services purchased by a home buyer.
  - (b) Lawn care services purchased by a home owner.
  - (c) A new bridge purchased by the state of Ohio.
  - (d) Cotton purchased by Levi's Jeans.
  - (e) The purchase of a new Mazda produced in Detroit.
12. An example of a transfer payment is
- (a) your employer directly depositing wages in your bank account.
  - (b) remittance payments from migrants to families in their native country.
  - (c) your local government paying for park maintenance.
  - (d) your state government paying unemployment benefits.

13. Table 4 shows some data from the land of milk and honey.

Table 4: Land of Milk and Honey

Year	Price of Milk	Quantity of Milk	Price of Honey	Quantity of Honey
2013	\$1	100 quarts	\$2	50 quarts
2014	\$1	200	\$2	100
2015	\$2	200	\$4	100

- (a) Compute the nominal and real GDP for each year, using 2013 as the base year.
- (b) Compute the percentage change in nominal and real GDP in 2014 and 2015.
- (c) Did economic well-being rise more in 2014 or 2015? Explain.

### Measuring the Cost of Living

1. If the consumer price index was 200 in 1980 and 300 today, then \$600 in 1980 would have the same purchasing power as \_\_\_\_\_ today.
  - (a) \$400
  - (b) \$500
  - (c) \$700
  - (d) \$900
2. Suppose the CPI in 1990 using 1980 as the base year was 114, while the CPI in 1980 using 1975 as the base year was 105. If average salary of engineers in 1990 was \$74,500 and they were equally as well off in terms of purchasing power as engineers were in 1980, then the average salary of engineers in 1980 must have been approximately
  - (a) \$65,351.
  - (b) \$84,930.
  - (c) \$74,500.
  - (d) \$68,618.
3. Assume an economy experienced a positive rate of inflation between 2003 and 2004 and again between 2004 and 2005. However, the inflation rate was lower between 2004 and 2005 than it was between 2003 and 2004. Which of the following scenarios is consistent with this assumption?
  - (a) The CPI was 100 in 2003, 110 in 2004, and 105 in 2005.
  - (b) The CPI was 100 in 2003, 120 in 2004, and 135 in 2005.
  - (c) The CPI was 110 in 2003, 106 in 2004, and 100 in 2005.
  - (d) All of the above are correct.
4. You deposit \$2,000 in a savings account, and a year later you have \$2,100. Meanwhile, the CPI rose from 200 to 204. In this case, the nominal interest rate is \_\_\_\_\_ and the real interest rate is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (a) 1%; 5%
  - (b) 3%; 5%
  - (c) 5%; 1%

- (d) 5%; 3%
5. When the consumer price index rises, the typical family
- (a) has to spend more dollars to maintain the same standard of living.
  - (b) can spend fewer dollars to maintain the same standard of living.
  - (c) finds that its standard of living is not affected.
  - (d) can offset the effects of rising prices by saving more.
6. One of the widely-acknowledged problems with the consumer price index (CPI) as a measure of the cost of living is that the CPI
- (a) fails to account for consumer spending on housing.
  - (b) accounts only for consumer spending on food, clothing, and energy.
  - (c) fails to account for the fact that consumers spend larger percentages of their incomes on some goods and smaller percentages of their incomes on other goods.
  - (d) fails to account for the introduction of new goods.
7. Suppose the CPI in 2001 using 1982 as the base year was 262. The average salary of accounting majors in 1982 was \$45,500, while in 2001 it was \$74,000. Given this information, we can say that accounting majors in 2001 were
- (a) better off than accounting majors in 1982.
  - (b) worse off than accounting majors in 1982.
  - (c) equally as well off as accounting majors in 1982.
  - (d) Not enough information given.
8. Mavis Corporation has an agreement with its workers to index completely the wage of its employees to the CPI. Mavis currently pays its production line workers \$7.50 an hour and is scheduled to index their wages today. If the CPI is currently about 130 and was 120 a year ago, Mavis should increase the hourly wages of its workers by about
- (a) \$0.075
  - (b) \$0.10.
  - (c) \$0.58.
  - (d) \$0.63.
9. The cost of a basket of goods and services in 1990 was computed to be \$90. In 2000, this same basket's cost was computed to be \$85. Moreover, the CPI in 2001 using 1990 as the base year was 90. What was the inflation rate between 2000 and 2001?
- (a) -5.88%
  - (b) 4.70%
  - (c) -4.70%
  - (d) 5.88%

10. The “basket” on which the CPI is based is composed of
- (a) raw materials purchased by firms.
  - (b) total current production.
  - (c) products purchased by the typical consumer.
  - (d) consumer production.
  - (e) none of the above.
11. Suppose your income rises from \$19,000 to \$31,000 while the CPI rises from 122 to 169. Your standard of living has likely
- (a) fallen.
  - (b) risen.
  - (c) stayed the same.
  - (d) Impossible to tell without knowing the base year.
12. If workers and firms agree on an increase in wages based on their expectations of inflation and inflation turns out to be more than expected,
- (a) firms will gain at the expense of workers.
  - (b) workers will gain at the expense of firms.
  - (c) neither firms nor workers will gain because the increase in wages is fixed in the labor agreement.
  - (d) both firms and workers will gain because the increase in wages is fixed in the labor agreement.
13. Table 5 refers to a small economy that produces two goods - books and calculators. A typical basket of books and calculators consists of 10 books and 2 calculators.

Table 5: Books and Calculators

Year	Price of Books	Price of Calculators
2010	\$30	\$4.00
2011	\$35	\$4.50
2012	\$35	\$6.00

- (a) Calculate the consumer price index for each year, using 2012 as the base year.
- (b) Calculate the inflation rate for 2011 and 2012.
- (c) The average salary of a plumber in 2010 was \$22,500, while in 2012 the average salary was \$24,975. Were plumbers better off in 2012 relative to 2010? Explain why.