

Problem Set 1

Principles of Economics

David A. Díaz

Introduction to Economics

1. A trade-off exists between a clean environment and a higher level of income in that
 - (a) laws that reduce pollution raise the costs of production and reduce incomes.
 - (b) studies show that individuals with higher levels of income actually pollute less than low-income individuals.
 - (c) efforts to reduce pollution are typically not successful.
 - (d) by employing individuals to clean up pollution, employment and income both rise.
2. Suppose after graduating from college you get a job working at a bank earning \$30,000 per year. After two years of working at the bank earning the same salary, you have an opportunity to enroll in a one-year graduate program that would require you to quit your job. Which of the following should **not** be included in a calculation of your opportunity cost of attending the graduate program?
 - (a) The cost of tuition and books to attend the program.
 - (b) The \$30,000 salary you could have earned by staying at the bank.
 - (c) The \$45,000 salary that you will be able to earn after having completed the graduate program.
 - (d) The value of insurance coverage and other benefits you would have received by retaining your job at the bank.
3. The following is a normative statement: “By reducing financial constraints for poor individuals, the *Prospera* poverty reduction program in Mexico causes more low-skilled immigrants to migrate to the US.”
 - (a) True
 - (b) False
4. Trade-offs are required because wants are unlimited and resources are
 - (a) efficient.
 - (b) economical
 - (c) scarce.
 - (d) unlimited.
 - (e) marginal.

5. Jackson spends an hour studying rather than playing soccer with his friends. The opportunity cost to him of studying is
- (a) zero since Jackson chose to study rather than play soccer, the value of studying was higher to him than that of watching tv.
 - (b) the enjoyment he would have received from playing soccer with his friends.
 - (c) the improvement in his grades from studying.
 - (d) the improvement in his grades minus the benefits of playing soccer.
6. The opportunity cost of attending college does **not** include
- (a) the potential salary you could earn by quitting school and working now.
 - (b) the costs of room and board, books, and class materials.
 - (c) the potential salary you could earn after finishing your degree.
 - (d) the psychological costs of stress and lack of sleep.
7. You won a free ticket to see a twenty one pilots concert (which has no resale value). Milky Chance is performing on the same night and is your next-best alternative activity. Tickets to see Milky Chance cost \$40. On any given day, you would be willing to pay up to \$50 to see Milky Chance. Assume there are no other costs of seeing either performer. Based on this information, what is the opportunity cost of seeing twenty one pilots?
- (a) \$0
 - (b) \$10
 - (c) \$40
 - (d) \$50
8. You are debating on what to do after this class. Option A is to go watch a baseball game, where tickets cost \$15 a person. On the other hand, you could go watch Mad Max: Fury Road. Tickets at the theater sell for \$10. After stressful exams, you find movies very relaxing and would pay up to \$20 to see this film. Assume there are no other costs to either activity. Based on this, what is your opportunity cost of watching a baseball game this afternoon?
- (a) \$15
 - (b) \$25
 - (c) \$35
 - (d) \$45
9. A rational person does not act unless
- (a) the action makes money for the person.
 - (b) the action is ethical.
 - (c) the action produces marginal costs that exceed the marginal benefits.
 - (d) the action produces marginal benefits that exceed the marginal costs.
 - (e) None of the above.

10. You have spend \$1,000 building a frozen banana stand based on sales estimates of \$2,000. The stand is almost complete, but now you estimate sales to be only \$800. If you can complete the stand for another \$300, should you?
- (a) Yes.
 - (b) No.
 - (c) There is not enough information to answer this question.
11. Matthew is trying to determine how many sticks of RAM he should buy for his computer. Each additional stick increases the speed of his computer by 50%. On a typical day, he would be willing to pay \$100 for each 50% increase in computing power. The total costs of acquiring and installing each stick of RAM are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Total Costs of RAM

Sticks of RAM	Total Cost
1	\$50
2	\$100
3	\$175
4	\$300
5	\$600

How many sticks of RAM should Matthew purchase?

- (a) 1
 - (b) 2
 - (c) 3
 - (d) 4
12. Allie's Bakery makes fresh bread every morning at 6:00AM and throws out any remaining bread at closing time, 4:00PM. They sell the bread for \$3.00 a loaf and it costs them \$1.25 to make each one. Throwing away the bread is costless. The manager has 30 loafs of bread left over at 3:30PM today that no one is buying at the current price. Which of the following alternatives is most attractive?
- (a) Lower the price of the remaining bread, but no lower than \$1.25.
 - (b) Lower the price of the remaining bread, even if it falls below \$1.25.
 - (c) Throw the bread away now. No one wants it anyways.
 - (d) Do nothing.
13. The United States currently produces guns and butter. Table 2 shows possible combinations of the two goods the US can produce in a given week (in thousands).

Table 2: Weekly Production of Guns and Butter

Guns	Butter
5	50
10	x
15	30

If resources in the US are specialized such that some are better suited to producing guns and others are better suited for butter production, then a possible value for x might be

- (a) 30
- (b) 35
- (c) 40
- (d) 45

14. Refer to Figure 1. If the economy moves from point A to point C, the opportunity cost is

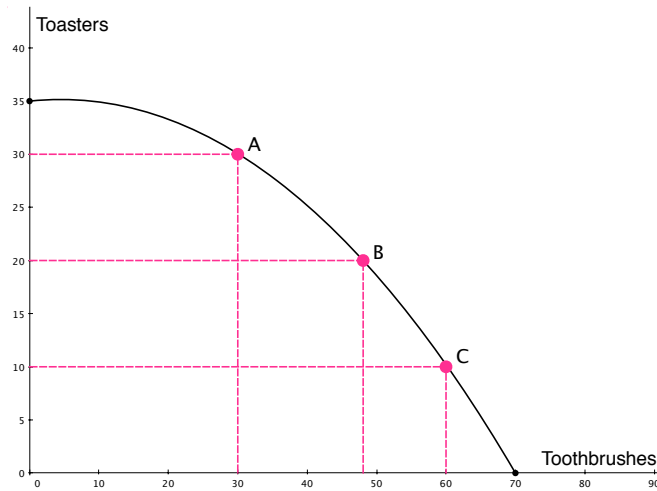


Figure 1: Production Possibilities Frontier

- (a) 10 toasters
 - (b) 20 toasters
 - (c) 30 toasters
 - (d) 30 toothbrushes
15. Which of the following will NOT shift a country's PPF outward?
- (a) An increase in the capital stock.
 - (b) An advance in technology.
 - (c) A reduction in unemployment.
 - (d) An increase in the labor force.
16. Imagine a society that produces military goods and consumption goods ("guns" and "butter").
- (a) Draw a production possibilities frontier for guns and butter. Label your plot clearly and use it for the remainder of this problem. Explain why it most likely has a bowed out shape.
 - (b) Show a point that is impossible for the economy to achieve. Show a point that is feasible, but inefficient.
 - (c) Imagine that the society has two political parties. Hawks favor a strong military and Doves favor a small military. Show a point on the frontier that the Hawks might choose and a point the Doves might choose.

- (d) Imagine an aggressive neighboring country reduces the size of its military. As a result, both the Hawks and Doves reduce their desired production of guns by the same amount. Which party would get the bigger “peace dividend,” measured by the increase in butter production? Explain why. **Hint:** Use your plot.

Trade

1. A person has a comparative advantage in activity X when that person’s
 - (a) opportunity cost of performing that activity is very high.
 - (b) ability to perform that activity exceeds that all of other people.
 - (c) government negotiates a favorable trade agreement.
 - (d) opportunity cost is lower than other trading partners.
2. Jim and Tom both produce hats. If Jim’s opportunity cost of producing hats is lower than Tom’s opportunity cost of producing hats, then
 - (a) Tom must have an absolute advantage in the production of hats.
 - (b) Jim must have an absolute advantage in the production of hats.
 - (c) Tom must have a comparative advantage in the production of hats.
 - (d) Jim must have a comparative advantage in the production of hats.

For questions 3 -5, consider the following scenario: Two individuals, John and Yoko, own a garden with apple trees and berry bushes. Once a year they need to harvest their fruits. The following table shows how many berries and apples each can harvest per hour.

Berries and Apples Harvested (per hour)

	Berries	Apples
John	100	50
Yoko	200	75

3. Which of the following is true?
 - (a) Yoko has the absolute advantage in harvesting apples, and John has the absolute advantage in harvesting berries
 - (b) John has the absolute advantage in harvesting apples, and Yoko has the absolute advantage in harvesting berries.
 - (c) John has the absolute advantage in both harvesting apples and berries.
 - (d) Yoko has the absolute advantage in both harvesting apples and berries.
4. John’s opportunity cost of harvesting 10 apples is
 - (a) 100 berries
 - (b) 50 berries
 - (c) 20 berries
 - (d) 10 berries

5. If John and Yoko want to maximize their joint productivity,
 - (a) John should harvest apples and Yoko should harvest berries.
 - (b) Yoko should harvest apples and John should harvest berries.
 - (c) John should harvest both, apples and berries.
 - (d) Yoko should harvest both, apples and berries.

For questions 6-7, refer to Figure 3, which shows the daily production possibilities of two brothers, Jony and Dany.

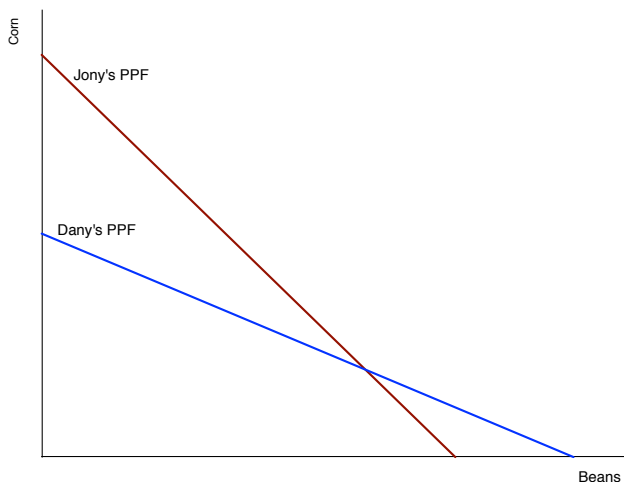


Figure 3: Production of Beans and Corn

6. From their respective PPFs, we can conclude that
 - (a) Dany has an absolute advantage in the production of beans, while Jony has an absolute advantage in the production of corn.
 - (b) Dany has an absolute advantage in the production of both beans and corn.
 - (c) Dany has an absolute advantage in the production of corn, while Jony has an absolute advantage in the production of beans.
 - (d) Jony has an absolute advantage in the production of both beans and corn.
7. Additionally, we can also say that
 - (a) Jony has a comparative advantage in both goods, and Dany has a comparative advantage in neither good.
 - (b) Jony has a comparative advantage in neither good, and Dany has a comparative advantage in both goods.
 - (c) Jony has a comparative advantage in corn, and Dany has a comparative advantage in beans.
 - (d) Jony has a comparative advantage in beans, and Dany has a comparative advantage in corn.
 - (e) There is not information to answer this question.

Use Table 3, which shows the quantity of belts and shoes that Hank and George can produce per hour, to answer questions 8 - 10.

Table 3: Production of Belts and Shoes (per hour)

	Hank	George
Belts	4	6
Shoes	12	6

8. Given this information, it follows that
 - (a) Hank has an absolute advantage in the production of belts, while George has an absolute advantage in the production of shoes.
 - (b) Hank has an absolute advantage in the production of both belts and shoes.
 - (c) Hank has an absolute advantage in the production of shoes, while George has an absolute advantage in the production of belts.
 - (d) George has an absolute advantage in the production of both belts and shoes.
9. From the information, we can also discern that Hank has a comparative advantage in
 - (a) both goods, and George has a comparative advantage in neither good.
 - (b) belts, and George has a comparative advantage in shoes.
 - (c) neither good, and George has a comparative advantage in both goods.
 - (d) shoes, and George has a comparative advantage in belts.
10. Which of the following terms of trade, if any, would make both Hank and George better off?
 - (a) 200 belts per 400 shoes
 - (b) 100 belts per 400 shoes
 - (c) 66 shoes per 100 belts
 - (d) None of the above

Refer to Table 4 for questions 11-12, which shows the number of hours it takes Hank and George to produce one belt or shoe.

Table 4: Hours to produce 1 unit of

	Belts	Shoes
Hank	3	9
George	12	12

11. A terms of trade where 1 shoe would be traded for 4 belts is proposed. Will the two parties agree to this price?
- (a) Yes. The terms of trade will make both parties better off.
 - (b) No. The terms of trade will make George worse off.
 - (c) No. The terms of trade will make Hank worse off.
 - (d) No. The terms of trade will make both parties worse off.
12. Which of the following terms of trade, if any, would make both Hank and George **strictly** better off?
- (a) 200 belts per 400 shoes
 - (b) 50 belts per 25 shoes
 - (c) 100 shoes per 100 belts
 - (d) 400 belts per 50 shoes
 - (e) None of the above.

Use Table 5, which shows the number of hours it takes Katie and Megan to harvest one apple or pear, and the information below to answer questions 13 - 15.

Table 5: Number of hours to harvest one:

	Apple	Pear
Katie	3	5
Megan	2	4

The parties decide to trade and the following terms are proposed:

- i. 200 apples per 400 pears
 - ii. 100 apples per 400 pears
 - iii. 55 pears per 100 apples
 - iv. 100 pears per 400 apples
13. Given this information, it follows that
- (a) Katie has an absolute advantage in the production of apples, while Megan has an absolute advantage in the production of pears.
 - (b) Katie has an absolute advantage in the production of both apples and pears.
 - (c) Megan has an absolute advantage in the production of apples, while Katie has an absolute advantage in the production of pears.
 - (d) Megan has an absolute advantage in the production of both apples and pears.

14. Of the terms of trade proposed, how many would make Katie better off, but would make Megan worse off than without trade?
- (a) 0
 - (b) 1
 - (c) 2
 - (d) 3
 - (e) 4
15. Of the terms of trades proposed, how many would make both parties better off than without trade?
- (a) 0
 - (b) 1
 - (c) 2
 - (d) 3
 - (e) 4
16. Argentina and Brazil can produce mangoes and bananas daily as given by the production possibilities frontiers in Figure 4.

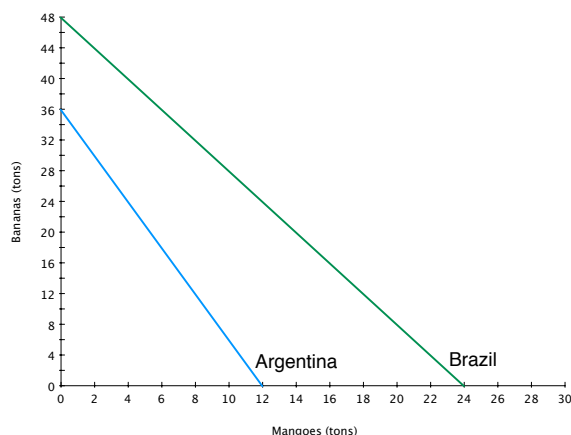


Figure 4: Production Possibilities Frontiers: ARG & BRA

- (a) Which country has an absolute advantage in bananas? In mangoes?
- (b) For each country, determine the opportunity cost of 1 ton of bananas and 1 ton of mangoes. Which country has a comparative advantage in bananas? In mangoes? Given this, what are the expected trade patterns between the two countries?
- (c) Each country specializes in the good for which they have a comparative advantage. Give a terms of trade these countries might agree on in terms of *mangoes*. That is, give a terms of trade in the form of 1 mango: X bananas.

Supply and Demand

1. Suppose the market for iPods is initially in equilibrium, and the demand for iPods suddenly decreases. This decrease in demand will
 - (a) cause a surplus of iPods at the original equilibrium price, and the price of iPods will increase to the new equilibrium level.
 - (b) cause a surplus of iPods at the original equilibrium price, and the price of iPods will decrease to the new equilibrium level.
 - (c) cause a shortage of iPods at the original equilibrium price, and the price of iPods will increase to the new equilibrium level.
 - (d) cause a shortage of iPods at the original equilibrium price, and the price of iPods will decrease to the new equilibrium level.
2. If an economy goes into a recession and incomes fall, what happens in the markets for inferior goods?
 - (a) Equilibrium prices and quantities both rise.
 - (b) Equilibrium prices and quantities both fall.
 - (c) Equilibrium prices rise, quantities fall.
 - (d) Equilibrium prices fall, quantities rise.
3. An increase in _____ will cause a movement along a given demand curve, which is called a change in _____.
 - (a) supply; demand
 - (b) supply; quantity demanded
 - (c) demand; supply
 - (d) demand; quantity supplied
4. Which of the following might lead to an increase in the equilibrium price of grape jelly and a decrease in the equilibrium quantity of jelly sold?
 - (a) An increase in the price of peanut butter (a complement to jelly).
 - (b) An increase in the price of Marshmallow Fluff (a substitute for jelly).
 - (c) An increase in the price of grapes.
 - (d) An increase in consumers' incomes (assume jelly is a normal good).
5. Consider the market for coffee ice cream in the US. There is currently a large strike of coffee bean pickers in Colombia, a major exporter of coffee beans. Given this, the equilibrium price of coffee ice cream in the US
 - (a) will increase, while the equilibrium quantity will increase.
 - (b) will decrease, while the equilibrium quantity will increase.
 - (c) will increase, while the equilibrium quantity will decrease.
 - (d) will decrease, while the equilibrium quantity will decrease.

6. Suppose the demand for single family homes increases due to a decline in interest rates. At the same time, a major home builder goes bankrupt and no longer builds homes. As a result, the equilibrium quantity of single family homes
- increases, while the equilibrium price of homes changes ambiguously.
 - changes ambiguously, while the equilibrium price of homes increases.
 - changes ambiguously, while the equilibrium price of homes decreases.
 - decreases, while the equilibrium price of homes changes ambiguously.
 - None of the above.
7. Suppose that the price of coffee, a complement to donuts, decreases. As a result, the equilibrium price of donuts _____ and total surplus in the donut market _____.
- increases; increases
 - increases; decreases
 - decreases; decreases
 - decreases; increases
8. Chocolate chip cookies and oatmeal raisin cookies are substitutes. If the price of chocolate chip cookies increases, then the equilibrium price of oatmeal cookies will _____ and the equilibrium quantity will _____.
- increase; decrease
 - decrease; increase
 - increase; increase
 - decrease; decrease
9. Table 6 shows the quantity supplied and demanded at certain prices.

Table 6: Prices and Quantities

Price	Q_d	Q_s
\$10	50	30
\$12	45	35
\$14	40	40
\$16	35	45
\$18	30	50

If the price in the market were \$12, there would be

- a shortage of 10 units.
- a surplus of 35 units.
- a shortage of 45 units.
- a surplus of 10 units.

For questions 10-11, refer to Figure 5 below, which shows demand curves relating to some inferior good A .

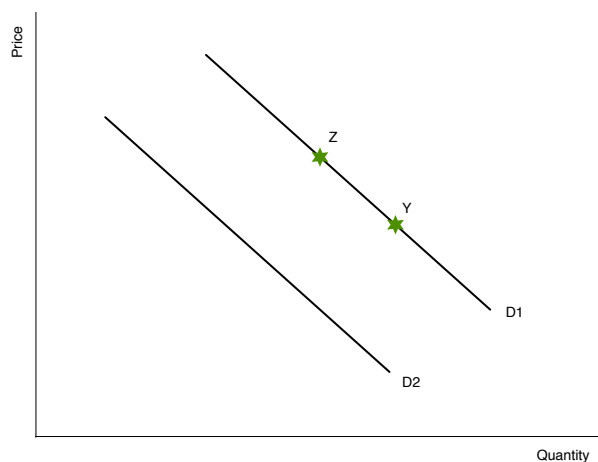


Figure 5: Demand for Good A

10. There is some other good B that is complements with good A . All else equal, a decrease in the price of good B would cause a move from
- (a) D2 to D1.
 - (b) Y to Z.
 - (c) Z to Y.
 - (d) D1 to D2.
11. All else equal, an increase in the price of good A would cause a move from
- (a) D2 to D1.
 - (b) Y to Z.
 - (c) Z to Y.
 - (d) D1 to D2.
12. Suppose that changes in the market for ice cream caused the equilibrium price to increase and the equilibrium quantity to decrease today. Which of the following *could* have caused this outcome?
- (a) Buyers and sellers hear that Ben and Jerry's, a major seller of ice cream, will go out of business in six months time.
 - (b) The First Lady begins a public awareness campaign about the benefits of eating a cup of ice cream a day.
 - (c) The government imposes a maximum price that sellers can charge for each quart of ice cream.
 - (d) The government does away with the minimum wage, causing wages paid to workers in ice cream factories to decrease.
 - (e) Either (a) or (c)

13. Other things equal, when the price of a good rises, the
- (a) supply of the good increases.
 - (b) quantity supplied of the good decreases.
 - (c) demand curve shifts to the left.
 - (d) quantity demanded of the good decreases.
14. Suppose roses are currently selling for \$15 per dozen, but the equilibrium price of roses is \$25 per dozen. We would expect a
- (a) shortage to exist and the price of roses to increase.
 - (b) shortage to exist and the price of roses to decrease.
 - (c) surplus to exist and the price of roses to decrease.
 - (d) surplus to exist and the price of roses to increase.
15. Which of the following demonstrates the law of demand?
- (a) Relative to last month, John buys more pretzels at \$1.50 per pretzel because he got a raise at work this month.
 - (b) Melissa buys fewer cookies at \$.30 per cookie than at \$.75 per muffin, other things equal.
 - (c) Dave buys more donuts at \$.25 per donut than at \$.50 per donut, other things equal.
 - (d) Kendra buys less M&M's at \$.50 because the price of Twix fell to \$.40.
16. Suppose you are studying for your first economics exam with a classmate enrolled in a different section of 101 and they state the following: "A decrease in the number of sellers might seem to increase the price of a good to consumers. But this increase in prices will decrease demand for the good, and this decrease in demand will send the price down again. So, in the end, we don't know for sure that a decrease in sellers will increase the price of the good."
- Do you agree or disagree with their statement? Why or why not?

The Efficiency of Markets

1. Jen values her time at \$60 an hour. She spends 2 hours giving Collen a massage. Collen was willing to pay \$300 for the massage, but they negotiate a price of \$200. In this transaction,
 - (a) consumer surplus is \$20 larger than producer surplus.
 - (b) consumer surplus is \$40 larger than producer surplus.
 - (c) producer surplus is \$20 larger than consumer surplus.
 - (d) producer surplus is \$40 larger than consumer surplus.
2. Refer to Table 7, which gives the willingness to pay for 1 lb of kale of four individuals.

Table 7: WTP for 1 lb Kale

Buyer	WTP
Natalie	\$3.00
Avery	\$1.50
Meredith	\$5.00
Madi	\$.50

If the market price for kale is \$1.50, the total consumer surplus realized is

- (a) \$1.00.
- (b) \$1.50.
- (c) \$4.00.
- (d) \$5.00.

3. Refer to Table 8, which gives the willingness to pay for 1 lb of kale of four individuals.

Table 8: WTP for 1 lb Kale

Buyer	WTP
Natalie	\$4.00
Avery	\$1.00
Meredith	\$3.50
Madi	\$.50

If the market price for kale is \$1.00, the total consumer surplus realized is

- (a) \$5.00
- (b) \$5.50
- (c) \$4.00
- (d) \$3.00

4. Producing a quantity larger than the equilibrium of supply and demand is inefficient because the marginal buyer's willingness to pay is

- (a) negative.
- (b) zero.
- (c) positive but less than the marginal seller's cost.
- (d) positive and greater than the marginal seller's cost.

5. Suppose demand for pizza shifts such that the market price for pizzas increases. Which of the following statements must be true?

- i. Producer surplus increases as existing sellers in the market receive higher prices on the pizzas they were already selling.
 - ii. New sellers enter the market as a result of the price increase and realize surplus.
 - iii. Consumer surplus decreases due to the higher price of pizza.
- (a) i and iii
 - (b) i and ii
 - (c) ii and iii
 - (d) i, ii, and iii

6. Figure 6 shows the demand curve for Fanta.

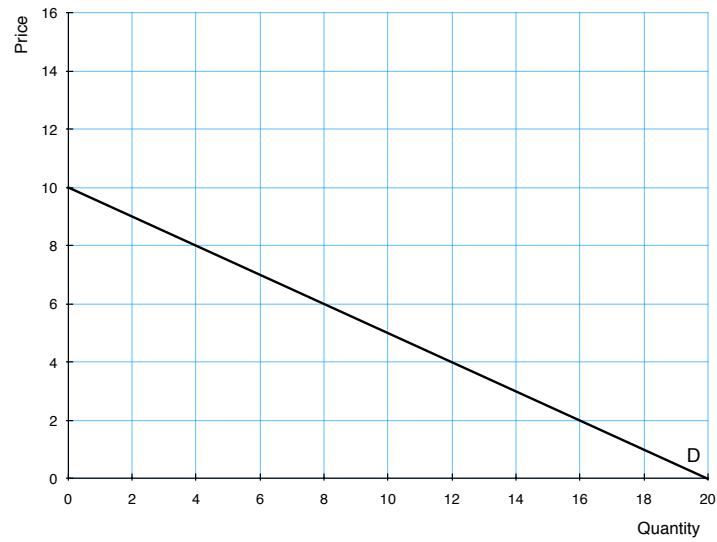


Figure 6: Demand for Fanta

If the price of Fanta decreases from \$8 to \$4, the increase in consumer surplus that is realized by **new buyers** entering the market due to the price decrease is

- (a) \$36.
- (b) \$32.
- (c) \$16.
- (d) \$8.

For questions 7-8, consider Figure 7.

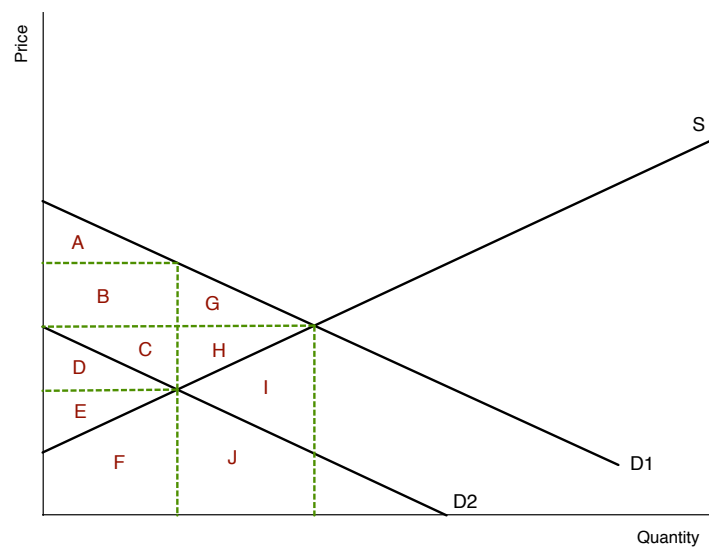


Figure 7: Market for Fanta

7. If demand is originally given by D2, and then shifts to D1, total surplus in the market
- (a) increases by areas A+B+C+G+H+I.
 - (b) increase by areas A+B+C+D+E+G+H.
 - (c) increases by areas A+B+C+D+E.
 - (d) increases by areas A+B+C+G+H.
 - (e) None of the above.
8. As a result of the increase in demand, producer surplus in the market
- (a) decreases by areas C+H.
 - (b) increases by areas D+C+H.
 - (c) increases by areas E+D+C+H.
 - (d) decreases by areas E+D.
 - (e) None of the above.
9. Suppose that the price of wine, a substitute for beer, decreases. As a result, the equilibrium price of beer _____ and total surplus in the beer market _____.
- (a) increases; increases
 - (b) increases; decreases
 - (c) decreases; decreases
 - (d) decreases; increases
10. Refer to Table 9, which gives the costs to sell 1 lb of cauliflower for four individuals.

Table 9: Costs for 1 lb Cauliflower

Seller	Cost
Jasmine	\$4.00
Tyler	\$2.50
Deepak	\$3.00
Sarah	\$.50

Suppose the price of cauliflower increases from \$2.00 to \$3.50. The change in total producer surplus that is due to sellers entering or exiting the market because of the price change is

- (a) \$1.00.
- (b) \$3.00.
- (c) \$4.50.
- (d) \$1.50.

11. If a buyer's willingness to pay for a new car is \$20,000 and he is able to buy it for \$18,000, his consumer surplus is
- (a) \$0
 - (b) \$2,000
 - (c) \$18,000
 - (d) \$20,000
 - (e) \$38,000
12. Producer surplus is the area
- (a) above the supply curve and below the price.
 - (b) below the supply curve and above the price.
 - (c) above the demand curve and below the price.
 - (d) below the demand curve and above the price.
 - (e) below the demand curve and above the supply curve.
13. If a benevolent social planner chooses to produce more than the equilibrium quantity of a good, then
- (a) producer surplus is maximized.
 - (b) consumer surplus is maximized.
 - (c) total surplus is maximized.
 - (d) the value placed on the last unit of production by buyers exceeds the cost of production.
 - (e) the cost of production on the last unit produced exceeds the value placed on it by buyers.
14. An increase in the price of a good along a stationary supply curve
- (a) increases producer surplus.
 - (b) decreases producer surplus.
 - (c) improves market equity.
 - (d) does all of the above.
15. If a market is efficient, then
- (a) the market allocates output to buyers that value it most.
 - (b) the market allocates buyers to sellers who can produce the good at least cost.
 - (c) the quantity produced in the market maximizes total surplus.
 - (d) all of the above are true.
 - (e) none of the above are true.
16. Table 10 shows the willingness to pay and costs of eight buyers and sellers in the market for laptops. Each buyer would like to buy one laptop and each seller has one laptop to sell. Use the table to answer the following questions.

Table 10: WTP and Seller Costs for Laptops

WTP	Seller Costs
\$175	\$160
\$155	\$45
\$130	\$140
\$150	\$200
\$110	\$110
\$115	\$100
\$125	\$70
\$100	\$125

- If the market price is currently \$150, is there a shortage or a surplus? What do you expect will happen to the market price?
- If instead the market price was \$115, would there be a shortage or a surplus? What do you expect will happen to the market price?
- What is the equilibrium quantity and price in this market?
- What is the value of consumer, producer, and total surplus at the equilibrium price? Could we increase total surplus by raising or lowering the price?