

Exam 1

ECON 380
Fall 2017
UNC Chapel Hill

Name: _____

ONYEN: _____

Honor Code Signature: _____

Directions:

- Fill in your name (Last, first) and PID on your scantron.
- For multiple choice questions, clearly circle the answer choice which best answers the question and bubble in the corresponding choice on your scantron.
- For short answer questions, show all of your work and justify your answers where needed.
- Round answers to the nearest hundredth.
- Assume preferences are transitive, complete, monotone, and convex.
- Assume that leisure is income normal.
- Points available: 50
- Write legibly, write legibly, write legibly!
- Good luck! ☺

Multiple Choice [2 pts each]

The supply and demand for workers in Algeria is shown below:

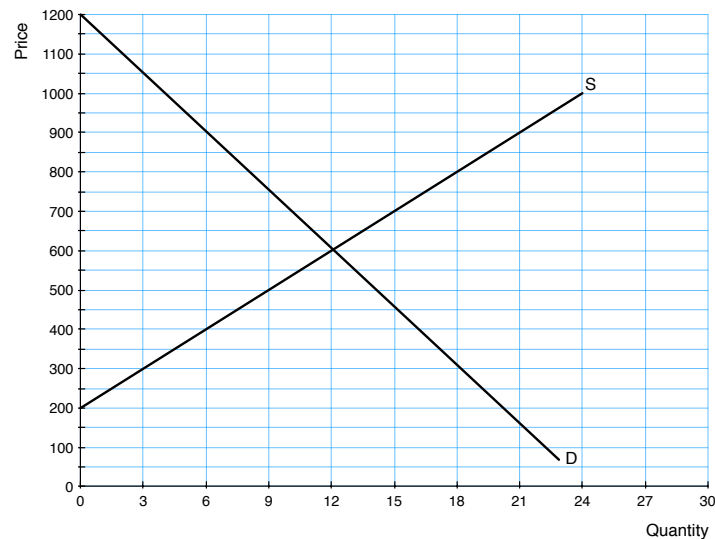


Figure 1: Algerian Labor Market

where "quantity" represents the number of workers (in millions) and the "price" is the hourly wage rate in Algerian dinars (DA). Assume this labor market is perfectly competitive.

The government is considering providing firms a wage subsidy of 500 DA per hour for each worker hired which will increase employment to 18 million. Use this information to answer questions 1-3:

1. If the government chooses to impose this subsidy, the hourly wage earned by workers will be _____, while firms will pay _____ per hour out of pocket.
 - (a) 900 DA; 400 DA
 - (b) 300 DA; 800 DA
 - (c) 400 DA; 900 DA
 - (d) 800 DA; 300 DA
 - (e) None of the above
2. If implemented, the deadweight loss of the subsidy would be
 - (a) 9 billion DA
 - (b) 1.5 billion DA
 - (c) 3 billion DA
 - (d) 4.5 billion DA
 - (e) 0 DA.

3. How many of the following statements are TRUE?
 - i. Worker and firm surplus will increase as a result of the subsidy.
 - ii. The total cost of the subsidy will be lower than the gains to worker and firm surplus.
 - iii. The subsidy will increase employment relative to the competitive market, but will also increase involuntary unemployment.
 - (a) 0
 - (b) 1
 - (c) 2
 - (d) 3

4. Arias & Khamis (2008) analyze participation and earnings performances in several sectors in Argentina in order to test whether the labor market is segmented due to “exclusion” or comparative advantage considerations. Among which workers did the authors find evidence for the “exclusion” story?
 - (a) Workers engaged in self-employment.
 - (b) Workers engaged in home production.
 - (c) Workers engaged in informal work.
 - (d) Workers engaged in any of the above sectors.
 - (e) None of the above. The authors did not find evidence for the exclusion story.

5. All else equal, which of the following correctly describes the relationship between the wage paid to the last worker hired in perfectly competitive (PC) labor markets, a labor market with a perfectly discriminating (PD) monopsonist, and a labor market with a non-discriminating (ND) monopsonist?
 - (a) PC wage = PD monopsonist wage < ND monopsonist wage
 - (b) PC wage = PD monopsonist wage > ND monopsonist wage
 - (c) PC wage > PD monopsonist wage = ND monopsonist wage
 - (d) PC wage > PD monopsonist wage > ND monopsonist wage

6. Abby Lee earns \$30 per hour, regardless of the number of hours she works, and faces a tax rate of 25% (assume she actually pays). Additionally, she must pay childcare costs of \$10 per hour if she works. Lastly, Abby Lee receives a weekly non-taxed payment of \$200 from her older sister. There are 110 hours in a week for Abby Lee to allocate between work and leisure. If she can work 50 weeks each year, which of the following represents the equation for her yearly budget line?
 - (a) $C = 78,750 - 12.50L$
 - (b) $C = 68,750 - 12.50L$
 - (c) $C = 133,750 - 22.50L$
 - (d) $C = 67,750 - 10.50L$
 - (e) None of the above.

7. If discouraged workers become encouraged by recent improvements in the job market and begin searching for jobs, this would cause the unemployment rate to _____ and the labor force participation rate to _____.
- (a) rise; fall
 - (b) fall; rise
 - (c) fall; fall
 - (d) rise; rise
8. JoJo (aged 17) is graduating from dance school next month. She has received job offers from potential employers, but she cannot start work until after she finishes her program. The BLS would classify JoJo as
- (a) unemployed
 - (b) employed
 - (c) out of the labor force
 - (d) not in the working population.
9. Consider the following bundles of leisure and consumption available to a worker:

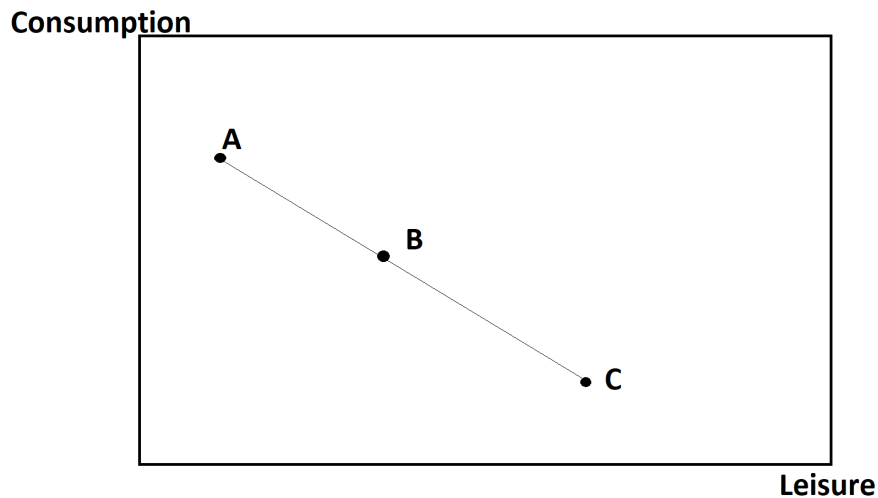


Figure 2: Worker Bundles

where bundle B lies on the line connecting bundles A and C . If the worker's preferences satisfy the property of convexity, which of the following must be true?

- (a) $U(A) > U(B) > U(C)$
- (b) $U(A) > U(B)$ and $U(B) < U(C)$
- (c) $U(A) < U(B)$ and $U(B) > U(C)$
- (d) $U(A) < U(B) < U(C)$

10. Suppose a binding minimum wage is increased. All else equal, in which of the following would the loss in employment be greatest?
- (a) A labor market with a relatively elastic supply curve.
 - (b) A labor market with a relatively elastic demand curve.
 - (c) A labor market with a relatively inelastic supply curve.
 - (d) A labor market with a relatively inelastic demand curve.

Short Answer

1. Maddie is an employee at a local fast food restaurant. Her current wage rate is \$8 an hour. Per week, she has 110 hours to allocate between consumption and leisure. Maddie does not receive any non-labor income. Finally, her utility function is given by $U(C, L) = 5 + C^{1/2}L^{1/2}$. Thus,

$$MU_L = \frac{C^{1/2}}{2L^{1/2}}$$

$$MU_C = \frac{L^{1/2}}{2C^{1/2}}$$

- (a) What is Maddie's reservation wage?

[2 pts]

- (b) What is Maddie's optimal bundle of consumption and leisure?

[4 pts]

- (c) Sketch Maddie's budget line, her optimal bundle of consumption and leisure, and the indifference curve going through this point. Your graph should specify the following to receive full credit: **[4 pts]**
- i. The endowment point
 - ii. Her consumption at $L = 0$
 - iii. The optimal bundle of (C, L)
 - iv. The indifference curve at the optimal bundle

Suppose the government implements a policy similar to TANF/AFDC. Under this policy, Maddie will receive a \$100 weekly subsidy if she does not work, but this subsidy will be reduced by \$0.30 for every dollar she earns in the labor market. As a result, her weekly budget line is now

$$C = 716 - 5.6L$$

- (d) Without any math, explain what will happen to Maddie's work hours as a result of this policy and why. Is this impact unambiguous? **[2 pts]**

2. Mackenzie produces hand-crafted tutus in a perfectly competitive market using sewing machines (S) at rental rate \$50 and labor (E) at wage rate \$12. Assume that she cannot vary her sewing machine level in the short-run. Suppose that she currently leases 5 machines, and the market price of a hand-crafted tutu is \$100. The markets for labor and sewing are also competitive. Note: When necessary, round to two decimals. At this price, Mackenzie faces the $VMPE$ curve

$$VMPE = \frac{160}{S} - \frac{1}{2}E$$

- (a) In the short-run, what is the optimal number of workers to employ? **[2 pts]**

- (b) Suppose the wage rate falls to \$10. How many workers should Mackenzie hire now? **[2 pts]**

- (c) What is the elasticity of labor demand? **[2 pts]**

- (d) Now, assume we've moved to the long-run. MacK notices that at her current input bundle, $MP_E = .75$, $MP_K = 1.8$, and prices are still $w = \$10$, $r = \$50$. Explain how she can alter her inputs to increase her profits. **[2 pts]**

3. The labor market for low-skill workers in Pittsburgh is described by

$$E^D = 52 - 2w$$

$$E^S = 40$$

where E is the number of workers in millions. As the labor supply curve is perfectly inelastic, this implies all workers have a reservation wage of \$0.

- (a) Sketch this labor market. Make sure to specify the equilibrium wage rate and employment level. **[3 pts]**

- (b) On your graph, label (but don't calculate) the firm and worker surplus. **[2 pts]**

Now, suppose a wave of 5 million low-skill migrant workers enter Pittsburgh. All migrants also have a reservation wage of zero, so now $E^S = 45$.

- (c) Sketch this change in your graph above. What is the new equilibrium wage rate and employment level? **[2 pts]**

- (d) Calculate the change in native total surplus (i.e., the immigration surplus). **[3 pts]**