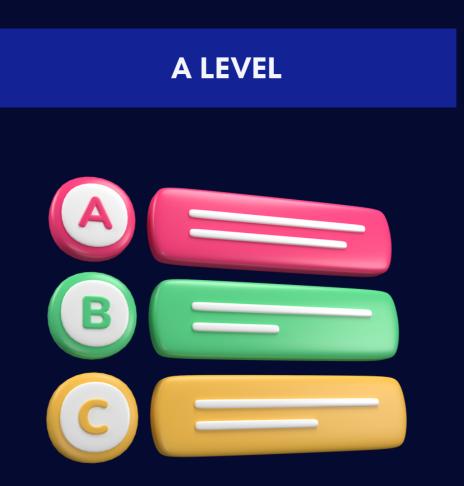


## ECONOMICS MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

## + ANSWERS EXPLAINED



Questions from 9708 Cambridge past papers CLASSIFIED BY TOPIC

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# Law of Diminishing Marginal Utility, Indifference Curves and Budget Lines.

1. The table shows the total utility that an individual derives from consuming different quantities of a good.

quantity of good (units)	total utility (units)
I	24
2	45
3	63
4	78
5	90
6	99

The individual's marginal utility of money is SI =2 units of utility.

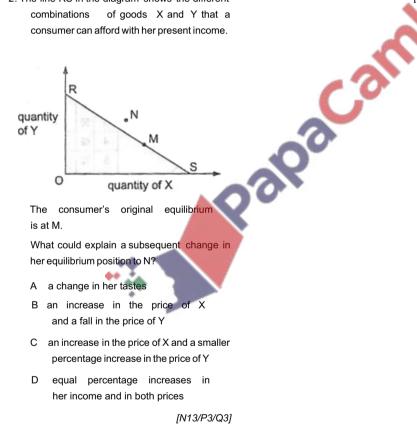
What is the maximum quantity of the good that the individual will buy when its price is \$6?

A 2 units	B 3 units

C 4 units	D 5 units

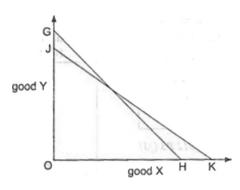
[N13/P3/Q2]

2. The line RS in the diagram shows the different of goods X and Y that a combinations consumer can afford with her present income.



In the diagram, a consumer's initial budget line is JK.

3.



Assuming no change in the price of X, what could explain a shift in the consumer's budget line to GH?

	price of good Y	consumer's money income
А	decrease	decrease
В	decrease	increase
С	increase	decrease
D	increase	increase 🇙

1. D In order to obtain each unit of the good, the consumer sacrifices 12 units of utility. The consumer will continue to purchase up to the point where

MUgood =MUmoney

unit MU good MU money

1	24	12
2	19	12
3	18	12
4	15	12
5	12	12
6	9	12

2. B

[J14/P3/Q2]

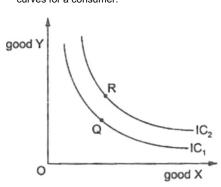


A change in equilibrium to point N suggests a pivotal outward shift on Y- axis and inward shift on X-axis. This may be caused by an increase

in the price of X and a fall in the price of

3. A A decrease in the Price of Y shifts the curve pivotal upward on y-axis, while a decrease in income with no change in the Price of X shifts the curve pivotal inward on xaxis.

4. The diagram shows two indifference curves for a consumer.



What can be concluded if the consumer's equilibrium moves from Q to R?

A The consumer is acting rationally.

- B The consumer's money income is unchanged.
- C The opportunity cost of good Y is constant.
- D The price of good X has risen. [J17/P3/Q4]
- 5. When the price of a good falls the effect on the quantity demanded is the result of an income effect and a substitution effect.

Which statement about these effects is correct?

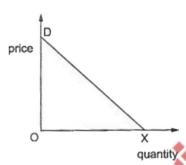
- A For inferior goods the income effect and the substitution effect work in the same direction.
- B For inferior , but not Giffen , goods the income effect outweighs the substitution effect.
- C For normal goods the income effect and substitution effect work in the same direction.
- D For normal goods the income effect outweighs the substitution effect.

[J17/P3/Q5)

- 6. What would not affect the budget line of an individual consumer?
  - A the individual's preference for various goods B the level of income tax C the money prices of goods
  - D the wages earned by the individual

[JI8/P3/Q5]

 The diagram shows the demand curve for a product.



What is maximised at X?

- A marginal revenue
- B total revenue
- C marginal utility

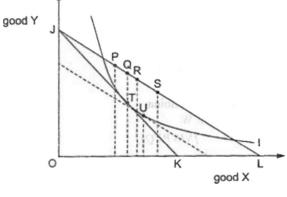
[J18/P3/Q6]

 The diagram shows budget lines and an indifference curve. The consumer 's initial position is T. The price of good X then falls. **4. A** The further an Indifference curve (IC) drawn from the origin, the higher the level of satisfaction. The consumer, therefore, acts rationally when he shifts the equilibrium to the highest possible IC.

**5.** C Substitution and income effect for a normal good move in the same direction because the relative decrease in the price of the good will result in an increase in quantity demanded , because it is now cheaper than substitutes, and lower price will increase the purchasing power, increasing overall consumption.

**6. A** A budget line shows real income because it is drawn with the assumptions that money income and prices of the goods remain unchanged. Therefore, changes in either of the two or both would shift the budget line. A change in consumer's preferences

is indicated by a change in combination of two goods on the same budget line, therefore it does not affect the budget line.



Which combination of statements about the movements in this diagram is correct?

- A T to Q represents perfect elasticity; T to P represents a Giffen good
- B T to R represents an income effect ; R to S represents a substitution effect
- C T to U represents a substitution effect; T to Q represents a normal good
- D T to U represents a substitution effect; U to P represents an income effect

[N18/P3/Q4]

Papacanik

**7. D** Consumer is willing to obtain quantity Y at zero price, therefore it would reduce both TR & MR to zero . Thus options A & B are incorrect.

A consumer is willing to pay as much as the MU he derives from each unit and the graph suggests that he is willing to obtain the last unit of quantity Y at zero price that makes MU to fall to zero hence option C is incorrect.

TU is the sum of MU that the consumer derives from all individual units he consumes up to quantity Y hence it is maximized.

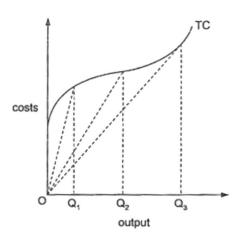
**8. D** Movement along the same indifference curve from T to U suggests positive substitution effect for all gcods. Thus options A & B are ruled out.

Income effect of normal goods is also positive and it is indicated by a movement from U to S. Hence option C is ruled out.

Giffen goods have a negative income effect that outweighs positive substitution effect. Thus a movement from T to U on the new budget line is due to income effect indicating a fall in Q that is more than a rise caused by substitution effect.

# Types of Cost, Revenue and Profit

1. In the diagram, TC is a firm's shortrun total cost curve.



Which statement is correct?

- A Average total cost is minimised at output OQ2.
- at output OQ2. B Average variable cost is
- minimised at output OQ1. C Average variable cost is
- minimised at output OQ3. D Marginal cost is minimised at
- output OQ2. [N16/P3/Q9]
- 2. The table shows the total cost of a firm.

output	total cost (\$)	
0	40	
1	55	
2	60	
3	65	
4	80	1

What is the average variable cost of producing 4 units of output?

B \$15 D\$40

A \$10	
C \$20	

[N16/P3/Q10]

- 3. Which is not a source of market failure?
  - A imperfect information
  - B income inequality
  - C monopoly
  - D non-excludability

[N16/P3/Q14]

 The government wants to regulate the consumption of a demerit good in order to increase society's net welfare. In

which situation will society's net welfare increase?

- A The fall in the marginal social benefit is greater than the fall in the marginal social cost.
- B The fall in the marginal social cost is greater than the fall in the marginal social benefit.
- C The fail in the total social benefit is greater than the fall in the total social cost.
- D The fall in the total social cost is greater than the fall in the total social benefit.

[N16/P3/Q15]

5. In 2015, a large mining company said it would reduce the number of staff by 6000 and sell its less profitable mines in an attempt to become more efficient.

If it is successful, what is most likely to happen to its costs?

	total fixed cost	total variable cost	average cost
А	fall	fall	fall
в	fall	fall	no change
С	fall	no change	fall
D	no change	fall	fall

[N17/P3/Q2]

Shortcuts:

MC = MARGINAL COST = AVERAGE VARIABLE COST AVC = AVERAGE FIXED COST AFC ATC = AVERAGE TOTAL COST = AVERAGE REVENUE AR FC = FIXED COST Q = QUANTITY Ρ = PRICE = TOTAL COST TC = TOTAL REVENUE TR 1. D MC as measured by the slope between two successive points on TC

successive points on TC curve is the lowest at Q2. ATC refers to the slope of each point on a TC curve from origin therefore A is incorrect. AVC refers to the slope of each point on a TVC curve from origin.

**2. A** At zero output Total Cost = Fixed Cost. In this case Fixed Cost = 40 and Total Cost = Fixed Cost + Variable Cost.

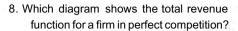


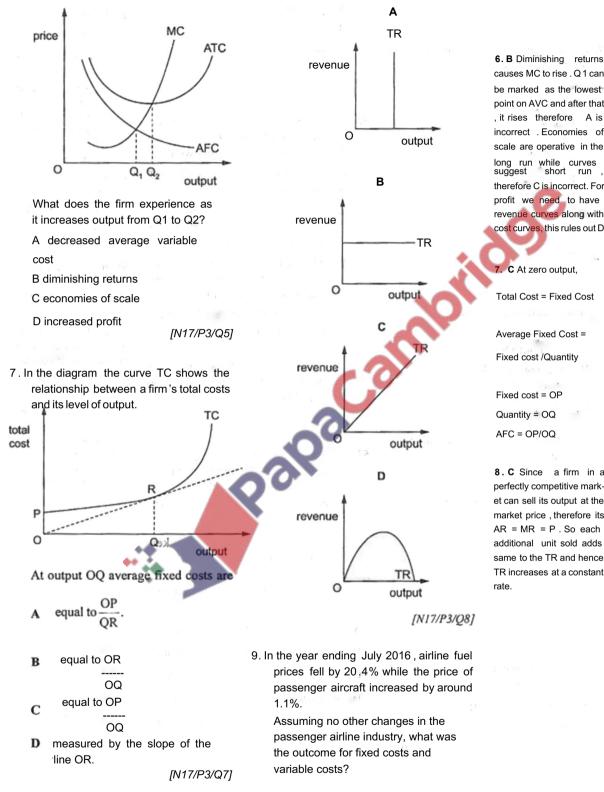
**3**. **B** It refers to equity therefore not related to efficiency or market failure.

**4. D** Demerit goods are associated with higher Social costs therefore greater fall in Social Costs will improve net welfare.

**5. A** Selling mines would lower total fixed cost while lowering the number of workers would reduce variable cost. These two would eventually lower Average Cost.

### 6. The diagram shows the cost curves for a firm.





causes MC to rise . Q1 can be marked as the lowest point on AVC and after that it rises therefore A is incorrect . Economies of scale are operative in the long run while curves suggest short run therefore C is incorrect. For profit we need to have revenue curves along with cost curves, this rules out D

C At zero output,

Total Cost = Fixed Cost

Average Fixed Cost =

Fixed cost /Quantity

Fixed cost = OP

8.C Since a firm in a perfectly competitive market can sell its output at the market price , therefore its AR = MR = P. So each additional unit sold adds same to the TR and hence TR increases at a constant

	fixed costs	variable costs
А	decreased	decreased
В	decreased	increased
С	increased	decreased
D	increased	increased

[J18P3/Q8]

10. The schedule shows the short-run marginal cost of producing good X.

units of X	1	2	3	4	5
marginal cost (\$)	45	40	30	20	20

Given that the total fixed cost is \$50, which level of output minimises average total cost?

C 4 units

B 3 units D 5 units

9. C Cost on fuel is dependent on output, therefore it is part of airline's variable cost and with no other changes a fall in fuel price must have decreased airline 's variable cost. Therefore an increase in price per passenger must have resulted from an increase in airline's fixed cost.

10. D When output = 0. firm's TC = FC. We then progressively add MC in order to obtain TC for each increasing level of output and in order to obtain ATC we divide TC at each level of output on its corresponding level of output.

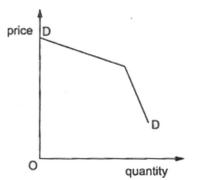
Average total cost lowest at 5 units of output.

1				
	Unit of X	MC	TC	ATC=TC/Q
	0		50	-
	1	45	95	95
	2	40	135	67.5
	3	30	165	55
	4	20	185	46.25
	5	20	205	41

Papacant

# Firms and Market Structures

1. Which feature of oligopoly is being assumed when the demand curve for an individual firm is as shown?



A price discrimination

B price leadership by the dominant firm

C interdependence between firms

D collusion between firms

[J17/P3/Q13]

2. Firms X and Y merge in a horizontal integration.

What must be true about the industry and the stage of production in which X and Y operate?

	industry	stage of production
А	different	different
в	different	same
С	same	different
D	same	same

[N17/P3/Q6]

- Many public utilities can be described as 'natural' monopolies'. Which statement best describes the situation leading to a 'natural' monopoly'?
  - A There are high fixed costs and falling average costs over all outputs demanded.
  - B There are legal restrictions on new entrants.
  - C A single firm controls the supply of raw materials.
  - D The firm has a patent on an essential process.

[N17/P3/Q9]

4 . Increased advertising by a firm in an imperfectly competitive industry leads to an increase in demand for the industry's product but a fall in the firm's profits.

What could help to explain this?

- A Production is subject to diseconomies of scale.
- B Rival firms respond by increasing their advertising outlays.
- C The demand for the industry's product is price-inelastic.
- D The increase in demand for the firm's output is entirely at the ex- pense of other firms.

[N17/P3/Q10]

5. An industry consists of a dominant firm, which acts as a price leader, and a large number of small firms.

> Which statement about the profit maximising output of the small firms is correct?

A Average cost is equal to average revenue.

B Average cost is minimised.

C Marginal cost is equal to price.

D Marginal revenue is zero.

[N17/P37Q11]

There are two firms in an industry . Firm X faces a choice . It can either act independently or work with its rival . If it acts independently its profit could be \$900 a week but it could be only \$400 a week depending on what its rival does. If it works with its rival the joint profit of the two firms together would be \$1400 , \$700 each . It has no knowledge of what the rival's policy will be.

Which concept describes this situation?

- A contestable market
- B kinked demand curve
- C principal agent problem

D prisoner's dilemma

[N17/P3/Q12]

**1. C** A kinked demand curve implies interdependence.

**2. D** Horizontal integration implies same stage of production in the same industry.

**3. A** Economies of scale is the source of a natural monopoly and high fixed cost results in more economies of scale leading to a natural mon opoly.

**4. B** It will increase the firm' s cost but response by the rival firms will make it ineffective . All other options are likely to increase firm's profits.

**5.** C All other firms become price takers and in that case they have their P = AR = MR. therefore MC = MR implies P = MC.

**7. D** A typical example of game theory.

**8. C** Because of this the firm maintains its price that produces a kinked demand curve. In other cases price may change.

#### Shortcuts:

MC MR	= MARGINAL COST = MARGINAL REVENUE
AFC ATC	= AVERAGE VARIABLE COST = AVERAGE FIXED COST = AVERAGE TOTAL COST = AVERAGE REVENUE
FC	= FIXED COST
Q P	= QUANTITY = PRICE
тс	= TOTAL COST

TR = TOTAL REVENUE

8. What explains the kinked demand curve model of price rigidity in oligopoly?

A collusion between all firms in theindustry in the setting of prices B the assumption that a single

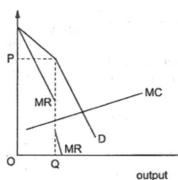
firm acts as price leader for all firms in the industry

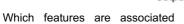
C the individual firm's expectations about other firms' responses to its price changes

D the presence of barriers to the entry of new firms into the industry

[N17/P3/Q13]

9. The diagram shows a firm's cost and revenue curves.





- with the diagram?
- A economics of scale and allocative efficiency
- B interdependence and allocative efficiency C price rigidity and economies of scale

D price rigidity and interdependence [J18/P3/Q7]

- 10. Which feature of production would make it more likely that an industry is a contestable market?
  - A advertising has established consumer loyalty
  - B all firms in the industry share research and development
  - C low fixed costs

D market rivals aim to reduce product differentiation

[J18/P3/Q9]

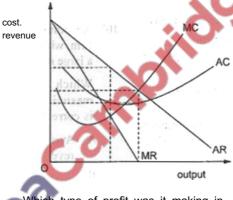
11. What is an example of backward vertical integration?

A a bakery buying a wheat form

- B a car manufacturer buying a car showroom
- C a vineyard buying an apple orchard
- D two rival supermarkets joining together

### [J18/P3/Q10]

12. The diagram shows a firm in imperfect competition . It changed its aim from profit maximising to sales revenue maximising.



Which type of profit was it making in each case?

	profit	sales revenue
	maximising	maximising
А	normal profit	supernormal profit
в	subnormal profit	normal profit
С	supernormal profit	normal profit
D	supernormal profit	supernormal profit

[J18/P3/Q11]

**9. D** On a kinked dem and curve the firm faces elastic demand curve for a rise in price because if it chooses to raise its price the rival firms prefer not to follow suit and hence TR earned by the firm de- creases . On the contrary the firm faces inelastic demand curve for a fall in price , because rival firms match any decrease in price and this again causes its TR

to fall . Being dependent on rival firms ' reaction the firm prefers to maintain its price . Options A & B are incorrect because P > MC indicates allocative inefficiency . Option C is ruled out because AC curve is missing In the graph and hence we cannot read economies of scale.

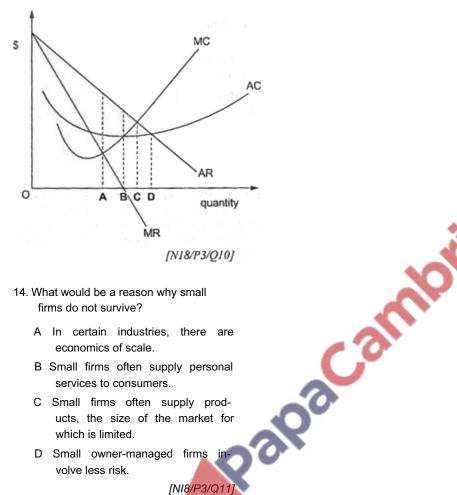
**10** . C A low fixed costs makes it easier for firms to enter and exit an industry-a key feature of contestable market. Other options point out features that are not necessarily required for a market to become contestable.

11 A Vertical integration takes place between different stages of production . Bakery , being a manufacturer buys a wheat farm i.e. raw material provider is an example of vertical backward integration . Option В suggests vertical forward integration, while C &D are examples of horizontal integration because firms are integrating at the same stage of production.

**12.** D MC =MR indicates profit maximizing output where firm's AC < AR, indicating supernormal profit. A firm maximizes sales revenue at an output when its MR=0 where this firm is still earning supernormal profit because its AC< AR.

13. The diagram shows the costs and revenue for a firm in imperfect competition.

> Which level of output would produce only a normal profit?



- 14. What would be a reason why small firms do not survive?
  - A In certain industries, there are economics of scale.
  - B Small firms often supply personal services to consumers.
  - C Small firms often supply products, the size of the market for which is limited.
  - D Small owner-managed firms involve less risk. [NI8/P3/Q11]
- 15. What is the implication of a dominant oligopoly following a limit pricing policy?
  - A The industry will be restricted to a target number of firms.
  - B The industry will contract as rival oligopolists are eliminated.
  - С The oligopolist will achieve a satisficing level of profit.
  - D The oligopolist will sacrifice short-term profit for long-term profit.

[N18/P3/Q12]

13. D Normal profit is indicated by AR = AC

14. A Economics of scale allow some of the existing firms to grow large and produce at a relatively lower per unit cost than the smaller firms who arc then competed away by the large firms. Other options suggest the valid reasons for survival of small firms.

15 . D It means that the dominant oligopolist would reduce its price inthe short run to a level where it may survive even by incurring short term loss but its weak competitors would be driven out from the indus try . The oligopolist then would raise its price to a level where it earns higher long run profits.

# morido Efficient resource allocation

1. In an economy no one can be made better off without making someone else worse off.

What can be deduced from this?

- A Individuals are the best judges of their own well-being.
- B Individuals can be relied upon to behave rationally.
- C The distribution of income is socially optimal.
- D The economy's resources are allocated efficiently.

[N17/P3/QI]

- 2. The production of a firm which operates in an imperfectly competitive market gives rise to external production costs. Which statement about this firm must be correct?
  - A External costs exceed external benefits.
  - B Private costs exceed social costs.
  - C Social costs exceed private costs.
  - D Social costs exceed social benefits.

[H17/P3/Q3]

- In the UK in 2015 there were two methods of charging for water supply.
  - 1 a fixed charge giving the consumer the right to consume water at zero price per litre
  - 2 a price per litre of water used

It has been observed that the amount of water consumed is markedly lower when method 2 is used.

What is implied by this observation?

- A Water in the UK is not a scarce good.
- B Water is a free good of nature and no charge should be levied.
- C Water is a necessity, the use of which should not be restricted by unit prices.
- D Water is subject to the law of diminishing marginal utility.
- 4. Which policy is not designed to correct a market failure?
  - A government provision of health care

B removing import quotas

- C price controls on large firms
- D regulations to limit smoke pollu-

5. How is social cost calculated?

tion

- A external cost minus external benefit
- B external cost minus private cost
- C external cost plus private cost
- D social cost minus social benefit

IJ18/P3/Q1]

[NI7/P37Q14]

- 6. Which government policy is not aimed at correcting inefficiency in resource allocation?
  - A marginal cost pricing in state owned industries
  - B permits restricting the pollution of rivers by private firms

1. D By definition. Options A & B suggest inefficiencies while C is not related to efficiency

2. C SC = PC + EC, so if SC > PC it must be due to EC. Option B suggests external benefits while the outcome of A & D is uncertain.

3. D Since MU of wa ter diminishes therefore people do not consume water beyond the point where MU of the money that they pay for it equals MU of an additional unit of waler.

**4. B** Options A, C & D aim at correcting market failure white B aims at correcting BOP

5. C Social cost
= private cost + external cost. Option A measures net external benefits and D suggests net social benefits while B is irrelevant.

6. C Requiring minimum wage to be paid aims at correcting inequitable distribution of income hence it is not related to efficient allocation of resources. All other options clearly suggest policies to correct inefficient allocation of resources.

#### Shortcuts:

- SC = SOCIAL COST PC = PRIVATE COST EC = EXTERNAL COST
- SB = SOCIAL BENEFIT PB = PRIVATE BENEFIT
- EB = EXTERNAL BENEFIT
- MU = MARGINAL UTILITY

PED = PRICE ELASTICITY OF DEMAND

C requiring firms to pay a minimum wage

D

the provision of public goods at zero price

[J18/P3/Q2]

7. The table shows some of the costs and benefits, in \$ millions, associated with a road building project. Both a government department and a profit - maximising private firm are considering building the road.

private	external costs	external	social
costs		benefits	benefits
450	75	50	550

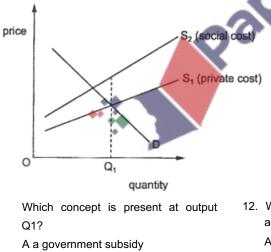
Who would be willing to build the road?

A Both would be willing to build it.

- B Neither would be willing to build it.
- C Only the government department would be willing to build it.
- D Only the private firm would be willing to build it.

[J18/P3/Q3]

8. In the diagram , Q1 is the quantity produced of a good as the result of market forces.



- B a negative externality
- C a positive externality
- D a specific tax

[J18/P3/Q4]

 Under which circumstances will a subsidy from the government be most beneficial if there are externalities from producing good X?

	externality caused by good X	price elasticity of demand of good X
А	negative	<1
в	negative	>1
С	positive	<1
D	positive	>1

[J18/P3/Q17]

- 10. In which situation are there definitely positive externalities?
  - A Private benefits exceed private costs.
  - B Private benefits exceed social benefits.
  - C Social benefits exceed private benefits.
  - D Social benefits exceed private costs.

[N18P3/Q1]

- 11. A cost-benefit analysis is carried out on the construction of a hydroelectric power station.
  - Which combination of circumstances would be most likely to lead to the scheme being approved?
  - A Private benefits are greater than private costs.
  - B Social benefits arc greater than social costs.
  - C Social benefits arc greater than total costs.
  - D Total costs arc greater than total revenue.

[N18/P3/Q2]

- 12. What does not pose a threat to the achievement of allocative efficiency?
  - A imperfect information on the part of consumers
  - B income inequalities
  - C the existence of externalities
  - D the presence of monopolistic elements

[N18P3/Q3]

#### 7. A PB = SB - EB

(500 = 550 - 50)

 $\label{eq:PB} \begin{array}{l} \mathsf{PB} = 500 \text{ and } \mathsf{PC} = 450 \ , \\ \text{therefore it is profitable for} \\ \text{a private firm to build the} \\ \text{road} \ . \\ \text{Government would} \\ \text{be willing to take up this} \\ \text{project because } \mathsf{PC} + \mathsf{EC} = \\ \mathsf{SC} < \mathsf{SB} \ . \\ (450 + 75 = 525 < 550) \end{array}$ 

**8. B** A higher SC than PC suggests presence of negative externality.

9. D Government uses subsidy in order to increase provision of goods that generate positive externalities Thus options A & B are ruled out. A subsidy benefits the most when PED > 1 because it causes price to fall and a proportionately larger increase in consumption.

**10**. C Positive exter nalities refer to external benefits that exist when SB > PB. Option A measures net private benefits /cost while B suggests negative externalities (PB > SB) while option C is irrelevant

**11. B** A project is approved when it generates net social benefits (SB > SC). Thus C & D are incorrect. Option A is more likely to be applied by private firms.

**12. B** Income inequalities refer to the issue of income distribution hence it is not related to efficient alloca - tion of resources as are ail other options.

Shortcuts:

- SC = SOCIAL COST PC = PRIVATE COST EC = EXTERNAL COST
- SB = SOCIAL BENEFIT PB = PRIVATE BENEFIT EB = EXTERNAL BENEFIT
- MU = MARGINAL UTILITY

PED = PRICE ELASTICITY OF DEMAND

13. Transport economists estimate the price elasticity of demand for private car use is very low.

What would be the most effective way of reducing road traffic congestion?

A banning private cars and lorries from town centres

B introducing a subsidy to lower the price of using bicycles

C introducing road pricing on all main roads

D subsidising public transport such as trains and buses

13. A A lower PED o fusing private transport means a tax or subsidy would bring а proportionately smaller fall in number of private cars on roads and hence they will fail to reduce road congestion . In that case a direct control such as putting a ban would help reduce road congestion.

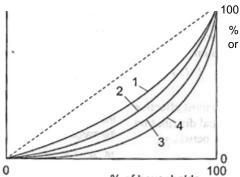
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# Equity and Policies towards Income and Wealth Redistribution

- 1. Which statement is most likely to explain why a government decides to increase the highest rates of tax on personal income?
  - A It expects total tax revenue to be unaffected by the policy change.
  - B It is concerned about the possibility of emigration by some high earning individuals.
  - C It regards equity considerations as being more important than efficiency ones.
  - D It wishes to switch the emphasis of its tax system from direct to indirect taxation.

[J17/P3/Q14]

2. The Lorenz curves in the diagram show different distributions of income and of wealth.



% of households

Income in a country is more equally distributed than wealth.

In a period the distribution of income becomes more unequal but the distribution of wealth becomes more equal.

Which movement would show the effects of these changes on the distribution of income and wealth within the country?

	distribution of income	distribution of wealth
А	shift from curve 1 to curve 2	shift from curve 4 to curve 3
В	shift from curve 2 to curve 1	shift from curve 3 to curve 4
с	shift from curve 3 to curve 4	shift from curve 2 to curve 1
D	shift from curve 4 to curve 3	shift from curve 1 to curve 2

[J17/P3/QI5] 1.

1. C Options A & D clearly contradict the statement, while B is incorrect because the policy would encourage emigration.

2. A Further the curve drawn on the left of 45 degree line the more is the unfair distribution of income and wealth and vice versa.

**3. C** Nudge theory proposes positive but indirect suggestions to try and achieve non-forced compliance of groups and individuals. Options A, B & D suggest compliance by force , therefore , they are incorrect.

% of income or % of wealth

3. A government wishes to discourage tax avoidance.

Which policy to achieve this would be an

example of the behavioural approach of nudge theory?

A compelling direct tax deduction

by employers

B making random inspections of individual tax records

C providing information on how the tax is

spent by the government

D using penalties, such as fines and

imprisonment for tax avoidance

[J17/P3/Q16]