

2024-2025 AP Microeconomics

Summer Assignment

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Welcome to AP Microeconomics! As we head into our summer vacation, I want to give you a brief description of the course expectations as well as provide you with your summer assignment.

This course will move at an accelerated pace and expectations will be high. AP Economics is intensive in reading and graphing and we will be exploring many economic theories and principles throughout the year. We will be studying current events in class so you will want to get into the habit of staying current with the events of the world around us. Take some time this summer to get comfortable with some economic websites, such as www.economist.com. If this is your first AP course, you should spend some time at AP Central www.apcentral.collegeboard.com. The site has many resources for students and parents on a number of topics and it also has complete course descriptions of all the AP courses.

Summer Assignment (Required):

In your textbook, *Economics (McConnell, Brue, and Flynn)*, read the first two chapters (pages 1-18, 25-44). After reading the chapters, review the learning objectives and key terms/concepts on the sheet attached to this document. You should define each of the key terms/concepts listed (on a sheet of paper or index cards) and answer the questions. The questions must be answered in full sentences and be in a Google Document. There will be an assessment on this content during the first week of class.

Toward the end of summer, you will be added to our Google Classroom. You will be submitting your completed assignment in Google Classroom and Turnitin.com **on the first day of class. CREDIT WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR LATE SUBMISSIONS.** I can be reached by email during the summer with questions regarding the summer work at dmcguigan@fairfieldschools.org.

Have a great summer! I look forward to seeing you in the fall!!

-Mrs. McGuigan

AP Microeconomics

Note Taking Outline: Economics, 22th Edition, By McConnell, Brue, and Flynn

Chapter 1: Limits, Alternatives, and Choices

Learning Objectives:

- Define economics and the features of the economic perspective
- Describe the role of economic theory in economics
- Distinguish microeconomics from macroeconomics and positive economics from normative economics
- Explain the individual's economizing problem and how trade-offs, opportunity costs, and attainable combinations can be illustrated with budget lines
- List the categories of scarce resources and delineate the nature of society's economizing problem
- Apply production possibilities analysis, increasing opportunity costs, and economic growth
- Explain how economic growth and international trade increase consumption possibilities

KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS		
Define each of the following terms on a separate piece of paper or index card		
Economics Economic perspective Scarcity Opportunity costs Utility Marginal analysis Economic principle Other-things-equal-assumption Microeconomics Macroeconomics Aggregate	Positive economics Normative economics Economizing problem Budget line Economic resources Factors of production Land Labor Capital Entrepreneurial ability Entrepreneurs	Consumer goods Capital goods Production possibilities curve Law of increasing opportunity costs Economic Growth

Answer each of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. **Answers should be in your own words (do not copy paste from the textbook) and in full sentences.**

1. In one paragraph, explain how individuals and economics confront the problem of scarce resources.
2. What is an opportunity cost? How does the idea relate to the definition of economics? Which of the following decisions would entail the greater opportunity cost: allocating a square block in the heart of New York City for a surface parking lot or allocating a square block at the edge of a typical suburb for such a lot? Explain.
3. Cite three examples of recent decisions that you made in which you, at least implicitly, weighed the marginal cost and marginal benefit.
4. What is "utility" and how does it relate to purposeful behavior?
5. Make (a) positive economic statement of your choice, and then (b) a normative economic statement relating to your first statement.
6. Why is money not considered to be a capital resource in economics?
7. Why is entrepreneurial ability considered a category of economic resource, distinct from labor?
8. Suppose that, on the basis of a nation's production possibilities curve, an economy must sacrifice 10,000 pizzas domestically to get 1 additional industrial robot it desires, but it can get the robot from another country in exchange for 9,000 pizzas. Relate this information to the following statement: "Through international specialization and trade, a nation can reduce its opportunity cost of obtaining goods and thus move outside its production possibilities curve."

Chapter 2: The Market System and the Circular Flow

Learning Objectives:

- Define and explain laissez-faire capitalism, the command system, and the market system
- List the main characteristics of the market system
- Explain how the market system answers the five fundamental questions of what to produce, how to produce, who obtains the output, how to adjust to change, and how to promote progress
- Explain the operation of the “invisible hand”
- Describe the mechanics of the circular flow model
- Explain how the market system deals with risk.

KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS		
Define each of the following terms on a separate piece of paper or index card		
Economic system Laissez-faire capitalism (pure capitalism) Command system (socialism or communism) Market system (mixed economy) Market Private property Freedom of enterprise	Freedom of choice Self-interest Competition Specialization Division of Labor Medium of Exchange Money	“Invisible hand” Circular flow diagram Households Businesses Product market Resource market

Answer each of the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. **Answers should be in your own words (do not copy paste from the textbook) and in full sentences.**

1. Contrast how a market system and a command economy try to cope with economic scarcity.
2. In a few paragraphs, explain the 3 main economic systems and how they allocate resources
3. Distinguish between the resource market and the product product market in the circular flow model. In what way are businesses and households both sellers and buyers in this model? What are the flows in the circular flow model?
4. Evaluate and explain the following statements:
 - a. The market system is a profit-and-loss system.
 - b. Competition is the disciplinarian of the market economy.
5. In a sentence, describe the meaning of the phrase “invisible hand”.