



AP[®] Microeconomics 2005 Scoring Commentary Form B

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Question 1

Sample: 1A
Score: 13

This answer received full credit.

Sample: 1B
Score: 11

One point was lost in part (b) because Petsall's labor supply curve from the perfectly competitive labor market should be horizontal at the market wage rate. A second point was lost in part (c) because the labor supply curve is not shifted to correspond with the decrease in the market wage rate.

Sample: 1C
Score: 9

All points were earned in parts (a) and (d). In part (b) the first point was missed because the answer does not state that the marginal revenue product (MRP) equals the marginal factor cost (MFC). Note that marginal revenue (MR) differs from MRP because MRP is MR multiplied by marginal physical product, and marginal cost refers to the cost of making one more unit of output, while MFC refers to the cost of hiring one more unit of a factor of production. Two additional points were lost in part (b) because the supply and demand curves are reversed, supply is not horizontal, and the graph has the price level and output on the axes. One point was lost in part (c) because the change in wage should result in a change in the quantity demanded (movement along the curve) rather than a change (shift) in demand.

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Question 2

Sample: 2A

Score: 8

This answer received full credit.

Sample: 2B

Score: 7

One point was lost because the short-run supply curve is Curve 1 (MC) above Curve 3 (AVC), which goes through points K and L, but the answer indicates points R and S along Curve 2 (ATC) instead.

Sample: 2C

Score: 5

Two points were lost in part (b) for not indicating increasing or decreasing marginal returns in parts (i) and (ii), respectively. One point was lost in part (d) for not explaining that AFC decreases because as output increases, the fixed cost is spread over a larger number of units.

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Question 3

Sample: 3A

Score: 5

This answer received full credit.

Sample: 3B

Score: 4

One point was lost in part (a) because the demand curve in the butter market should shift right, but the supply curve is shifted instead.

Sample: 3C

Score: 3

The last 2 points were lost because the butter supply is shifted rather than the butter demand, and because the relationship between price and total revenue is not indicated.