

AP[®] MICROECONOMICS
2010 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 2

6 points (1 + 2 + 1 + 1 + 1)

(a) 1 point:

- One point is earned for calculating the marginal product of the third worker: $\$450/\5 per unit = 90 units.

(b) 2 points:

- One point is earned for defining the law of diminishing returns: as more and more units of a variable input are added to a fixed input, the output increases at a decreasing rate.
- One point is earned for the explanation that diminishing returns occur because of the overuse of the fixed input.

(c) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that diminishing marginal returns first occur with the hiring of the third worker.

(d) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating \$300.

(e) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that the demand for labor will increase because the increase in the product price raises the marginal revenue product of labor.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

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$$a) \underset{\substack{\text{marginal revenue} \\ \text{product}}}{MRPL} = \underset{\substack{\text{marginal} \\ \text{product}}}{MPL} \cdot \underset{= \$5}{P}$$

$$\Rightarrow 450 = MPL(3) \cdot 5 \Rightarrow MPL(3) = 90$$

Answer: 90

b) When ~~the~~ the use of one factor of production (for example, labor) increases for some point marginal product of this input will fall in condition that other inputs do not change. It occurs because other factors of production (for example capital) do not change. And increase in for example, labor for some point will prevent workers from doing their jobs (amount of equipment is unchanged) \Rightarrow each extra worker will increase output less than before. \Rightarrow MPL will fall

$$c) L=1 \quad MPL = \frac{450}{1} = 90$$

$$L=2 \quad MPL = \frac{500}{2} = 100$$

$$L=3 \quad MPL = 90$$

\Rightarrow Answer: hiring 3 workers

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

$$d) \text{MRPL}(5) = W = \$300 \Rightarrow$$

the wage rate

Answer: \$ 300

e) The demand for labor is derived demand for output \Rightarrow since P increases, MRPL also increases \Rightarrow firms will hire more workers \Rightarrow the demand for labor will increase

2.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

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(a) $MPP_L = MPP_L \times p_x$

$450 = 5 \times MPP_L$

$MPP_L \text{ of } 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ worker} = 90$

(b) The law of diminishing marginal return states that taking all other inputs constant, the ^{successive} addition of 1 more unit of a the variable input will firstly increase output at increasing rate, then, increase output at decreasing rate, and finally, one extra unit of input addition will cause the output to decrease. This occurs because while the variable input, ^{e.g. labor} is increasing, ~~all other~~ all other inputs such as capital, raw materials are kept constant. Finally, there will be a surplus of ~~the~~ variable inputs and they compete for other inputs ⁱⁿ the production process, ~~causing this~~ ^{as well as} underutilization of resources will cause the output level, ^{on well as} to decrease, ~~as a result of~~ resulting in a ~~of~~ diminishing marginal return.

(c) Diminishing marginal returns first occur with the hiring of the 3rd worker

(d)

(e) According to the law of ~~supply~~ demand, an increase in price will cause the quantity demanded to decrease, ceteris paribus. ~~As~~ Since the demand for labor to produce ~~is~~ a product ^{in resource market} is derived from the demand ~~for~~ for the product _{product} in the market, a decrease in demand

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for the product will cause the demand for labor to produce this product to decrease as well.

2)

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

a) marginal product = $\frac{500-450}{5} = -10$

b) The law of diminishing marginal returns states that ~~as~~ ~~output~~ with increasing output, the ~~revenue~~ ~~rate~~ marginal return would decrease. (In ~~this~~ ^{some} cases ~~it may~~ marginal return = marginal revenue)

c) It first occurred with the hiring of the 3rd worker

d) The highest wage is \$5.

e) If the market price of a product increases, the quantity demanded will drop. This will result in a surplus of product. Thus, it will lead to a decrease of demand of labor.

AP[®] MICROECONOMICS
2010 SCORING COMMENTARY (Form B)

Question 2

Sample: 2A

Score: 6

The student earned all 6 points for this question.

Sample: 2B

Score: 4

The student lost 1 point in part (d) for not answering. The student lost 1 point in part (e) for stating incorrectly that the demand for labor will decrease.

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The student earned 1 point in part (c) for stating that diminishing returns occur “with the hiring of the 3rd worker.”