

AP[®] MACROECONOMICS
2015 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 2

5 points (1+1+2+1)

(a) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that Country Y has an absolute advantage in producing solar panels.

(b) 1 point:

- One point is earned for calculating the opportunity cost of a furnace for Country Y: 2 solar panels per furnace.

(c) 2 points:

- One point is earned for stating that Country X has the comparative advantage in producing furnaces.
- One point is earned for explaining that Country X has a lower opportunity cost of producing furnaces than Country Y.

(d) 1 point:

- One point is earned for stating that Country X should produce solar panels domestically.

a) Country Y has the absolute advantage in producing solar panels.

b) The opportunity cost of a furnace in Country Y is 2 solar panels.

c) Country X has the comparative advantage in producing furnaces because their opportunity cost is less. Country X only gives up producing $\frac{4}{3}$ of a solar panel where Country Y loses the production of 2 solar panels.

d) Country X should produce solar panels domestically.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

2B₁

A) Country Y

B) 1 furnace is 2 solar panels in Country Y

C) Country X

D) They should import solar panels from Country Y

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

2 C1

a) Country Y has the absolute advantage in producing solar panels

b) The opportunity cost is 6

c) Country Y has the comparative advantage in producing furnaces because they can produce less than country X.

d) Country X should produce solar panels domestically.

AP[®] MACROECONOMICS
2015 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

The question focused on absolute advantage, comparative advantage, and trade. Students were given the production of furnaces or solar panels for two nations and were then asked to (a) identify absolute advantage, (b) calculate the opportunity cost of a furnace, (c) explain which country has the comparative advantage in producing furnaces, and (d) determine for a given terms of trade whether solar panels should be produced domestically or imported.

Sample: 2A

Score: 5

The student answered all parts of the question correctly and earned all 5 points.

Sample: 2B

Score: 3

The student did not earn 1 point in part (c)(ii) for not explaining that Country X has a lower opportunity cost of producing furnaces than Country Y. The student did not earn 1 point in part (d) for not correctly stating that Country X should produce solar panels domestically.

Sample: 2C

Score: 2

The student earned 1 point in part (a) for stating that Country Y has an absolute advantage in producing solar panels. The student earned 1 point in part (d) for correctly stating that Country X should produce solar panels domestically.