

Winter Term 2007/08

February 2008

Examiner: T. Riechmann

Name, First Name: _____

Immat. No.: _____

Instructions:

• Mark the version of respective box on your answer sheet. Correct answers yield 2 points each, wrong answers -1 point each, no mark yields no point. The second part contains 4 free-form questions (Sections 2 to 5) yielding a maximum of 17 points each.

• You have 120 minutes to answer multiple-choice questions. Please mark for each question if the respective statement is correct ('true') or incorrect ('false'). Mark respective box on your answer sheet. Correct answers yield 2 points each, wrong answers -1 point each, no mark yields no point. The second part contains 4 free-form questions (Sections 2 to 5) yielding a maximum of 17 points each.

• You have 120 minutes to answer all questions.

• Use only the answer sheet to answer the questions. Answers in other places than the answer sheet will not be considered.

• The use of non-programmable calculators is allowed.

• Please put your name on *all* sheets.

• Please hand in *all* exam materials.

Section 1. Various Questions

State whether the following statements are correct or not. Mark the respective box on the answer sheet.

- In its minimum, the AVC curve is intersected by the AC curve.
- An equilibrium is stationary but not necessarily stable.
- The short form of the profit maximization-rule for a firm in a competitive market is 'marginal revenues = marginal costs'.
- In terms of utility, a consumption tax on a single good is better than an income tax with the same revenue.
- Monopolistic price discrimination of first degree generally means charging different prices for different units of the good, but the same prices from different people.
- If a good is a normal good, then demand for it decreases when income decreases.
- The competitive market equilibrium is unstable.
- Monopolistic price discrimination of first degree leads to a Pareto-efficient allocation.
- The reflexivity axiom for consumer preferences demands that consumers can state a preference relation between any two bundles of goods.
- Given demand for good number 1 is $x_1 = 2 \frac{m-p_1+p_2}{2p_1}$, the two goods, good 1 and good 2, are substitutes.
- The Hotelling model can be interpreted as a model of product quality.
- Imagine a firm in a competitive market with a cost function $c(y) = \frac{2}{3}y^3 - 12y^2 + 36y$ with y giving the firm's output quantity. At a market price of $p = 14$, the output quantity that maximizes the firm's profits, is $y^* = 11$.
- For the firm from the previous question, the supply function is $y^* = y(p) = 6 \pm \sqrt{36 - 18 + \frac{p}{2}}$.
- A Cournot equilibrium is a Nash equilibrium.
- If the utility from two goods is given by $U(x_1, x_2) = 5x_1 + 2x_2$, then the two goods are perfect complements.
- In an equilibrium, no single individual has reason to change his behavior.

Section 2. Monopoly

A monopolist faces two separate markets with the demand curves given as

$$D_1(p_1) = y_1 = 100 - p_1, \quad D_2(p_2) = y_2 = 100 - 2p_2$$

with $D_1 = y_1$ and $D_2 = y_2$ giving the quantities and p giving the price on the market. Let the monopolist's costs be given as

$$C(y) = 20y.$$

1. Write down the equations of the inverse demand curves $p_1(y_1)$ and $p_2(y_2)$.
2. Assume that the monopolist can price discriminate by charging a different price in each market.
 - a) Write down the specific revenue functions $R_1(y_1)$ for the first and $R_2(y_2)$ for the second market.
 - b) Write down the specific marginal revenue functions $MR_1(y_1)$ for the first and $MR_2(y_2)$ for the second market.
 - c) What are the profit maximizing quantities and prices on the markets?
3. Assume the monopolist is unable to price discriminate. Thus, he faces the aggregate demand $y = D(p)$ of both markets.
 - a) What is the function of aggregate demand $D(p)$? (Derive the explicit equation of aggregate demand for the given problem.)
 - b) For the aggregate demand function $D(p) = y = 200 - 3p$, compute the function of inverse aggregate demand.
 - c) What is the optimal quantity and price for the non-discriminating monopolist?

Section 3. Consumption

A household has the following utility function:

$$u(x_1, x_2) = x_1(x_2 + 5),$$

with x_1 and x_2 giving the quantities of goods no. 1 and 2, respectively.

1. Derive the general demand functions for the goods.
2. Assume the general demand function for the second good is

$$x_2(m, p_1, p_2) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m}{p_2}.$$

Let the income be $m = 1000$ and the price for the second good $p_2 = 1$

- a) Compute the demanded quantity for the second good, $x_2(m, p_2)$.
- b) Assume the price for the good rises to $p'_2 = 2$. What is the new (hypothetical) income m' that keeps the household's purchasing power constant at the new price p'_2 ?
- c) Compute the demanded quantity of the second good for the new price p'_2 and the hypothetical income m' , i.e. $x_2(m', p'_2)$.
- d) Compute the demanded quantity for the original income m and the new price p'_2 , i.e. $x_2(m, p'_2)$.
- e) Compute the substitution effect $\Delta_{x_2}^s$, the income effect $\Delta_{x_2}^n$ and the total effect Δ_{x_2} of the price change.

Section 4. Cost Minimization

A firm produces the product y with the following production function

$$y = f(K, L) = 3K^{\frac{1}{3}}L^{\frac{2}{3}},$$

where K is the amount of capital and L is the amount of labour.

1. What is the degree of homogeneity of the production function?
2. Assume the costs for the input factors are given by $w_K = 4$ and $w_L = 8$.
 - a) What are the costs of the firm depending on K and L ?
 - b) Derive the cost minimizing input combination depending on the output y .
 - c) Derive the firm's cost function $c(y)$.

Section 5. Oligopoly

Assume that the market demand for a good y is given by

$$D(p) = 30 - \frac{1}{2}p.$$

Suppose that the industry has two firms, a Stackelberg leader (firm 1) and a Stackelberg follower (firm 2). Both firms have identical cost functions

$$c(y_i) = 20y_i,$$

where y_i denotes the output of firm i ($i = 1, 2$).

1. Derive the inverse demand function and the profit functions of both firms.
2. How many units will firm 2 supply?
3. How many units will firm 1 supply?
4. Compute the equilibrium price.
5. Compute the price elasticity of demand in the equilibrium.