

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2008/2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF COMMERCE

COURSE CODE: ECON 210

COURSE TITLE: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

STREAM: Y2S1

DAY: WEDNESDAY

TIME: 5.30 - 7.30 P.M.

DATE: 2/09/2008

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Answer **QUESTION ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.
- 2. Question one carries 30 marks and the rest 20 marks each.
- 3. Show all your workings clearly.

PLEASE TURN OVER

QUESTION ONE

- (a) Distinguish the following pairs of concepts;
 - (i) Expansion path and income consumption line. (2mks)
 - (ii) Contract curve and isoquent map. (2mks)
 - (iii) Marginal rate of substitution and marginal rate of technical substitution.

(2mks)

(iv) Giffen good and Normal good

(2mks)

(b) Using a well labeled diagram(s) and brief descriptions distinguish between the substitution effect and income effect of a decrease in the price of a normal good.

(10mks)

(c) A firm faces the following demand function and average cost (AC) function;

Demand function

$$20 - \frac{1}{2}Q - P = 0$$

Average cost function (AC) =
$$\frac{1}{2}Q^2 - 8Q + 30 + \frac{90}{Q}$$

Derive the following functions;

- (i) Total cost (TC) (2mks)
- (ii) Total fixed cost (TFC) (2mks)
- (iii) Total Revenue (TR) (2mks)
- (iv) Total variable cost (TVC) (2mks)
- (d) Explain any two limitations of Pareto criterion (4mks)

QUESTION TWO

(a) Consider the following constant elasticity of substitution function

$$Q = 75 \left[0.3K^{-0.4} + (1 - 0.3)L^{-0.4} \right]_{0.4}^{-1}$$

Which is to be maximized subject to the constraint; 4K + 3L = 120

(i) Determine the optimal number of labour and capital to be employed.

(14mks)

(ii) What is the maximum output produced. (6mks)

QUESTION THREE

(a) A consumer faces the following utility function;

 $Y = 100X^{0.5}Y^{0.5}$. Given further that, M = 1000, $P_x = 30$, $P_Y = 40$.

Where: X = Quantity demand of good X.

Y = Quantity demanded of good Y.

 P_x = Price of good X.

 $P_Y = Price of good Y.$

M = Income of the consumer.

- (i) Determine the amount of good X and Y that the consumer consume in order to maximize his utility. (12mks)
- (ii) What is the maximum utility

(2mks)

(b) Explain in detail the properties of an Isoquant.

(6mks)

QUESTION FOUR

(a) A monopolist faces the following demand curve;

 $Q = 50 - \frac{1}{2}P$ and cost function C = 50 + 40Q

(i) Calculate the profit maximizing output of the monopolist

(10mks)

(ii) What is the profit of the monopolist?

(4mks)

(b) Explain any four factors which give rise to monopoly power.

(6mks)

QUESTION FIVE

- (a) Using indifference curve approach, show clearly with a higher hourly wage rate, the labour force will be induced to trade off some of his leisure time for income.

 (10mks)
- (b) Due to increase in the price of goods and services, the government wishes to implement a food subsidy policy. Using a well labeled diagram illustrate the effects of this policy on the consumers welfare. (10mks)