

# ECONOMICS

## *An Introduction to Economics and the Economic Origins and Impact of World War II*

### I. FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC CONCEPTS 10%

#### A. Basic Assumptions of Economics

1. Scarcity
2. Trade-offs
3. Opportunity Cost
4. Rationality
5. Gains from Trade

#### B. Models and Economic Theory

#### C. Positive and Normative Economics

#### D. Efficiency as a Goal

#### E. Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

### II. MICROECONOMICS 40%

#### A. Perfectly Competitive Markets

1. Markets
2. Demand
3. Shifts in the Demand Curve
  - a. Income
  - b. The prices of related goods
  - c. Tastes
  - d. Expectations
  - e. Number of buyers
4. Supply
5. Shifts in the Supply Curve
  - a. Input prices
  - b. Technology
  - c. Expectations
  - d. Number of sellers
6. Equilibrium
7. The Characteristics of Competitive Market Equilibrium

#### B. Applications of the Competitive Market Model

1. Changes in Market Equilibrium
2. Elasticity

3. Using Elasticity
- C. Evaluating Government Policy: The Impact of Price Controls and Taxes
    1. Price Controls
    2. Taxes
  - D. International Trade
    1. An Isolated Economy
    2. Adding the Opportunity to Trade
    3. Comparative Advantage and the Gains from Trade
    4. The Political Economy of Trade
  - E. The Profit Motive and the Behavior of Firms
    1. Economic Profits and Accounting Profits
    2. Finding the Firm's Supply Curve
    3. Entry, Exit, and the Market Supply Curve
  - F. Imperfect Competition
    1. Monopoly
    2. Monopoly Supply
    3. Welfare Consequences of Monopoly
    4. Dealing with Monopolies
    5. Price Discrimination
    6. Oligopoly
    7. Monopolistic Competition
  - G. Creative Destruction: The Profit Motive and the Sources of Economic Change
  - H. Market Failures
    1. Externalities
    2. The Effect of Externalities on Resource Allocation
    3. Private Responses to Externalities
    4. Government Regulation of Externalities
    5. Property Rights
    6. The Effects of Private Ownership
    7. Public and Private Goods
      - a. Private goods
      - b. Common resources
      - c. Collective goods
      - d. Public goods
  - I. Institutions, Organizations, and Government
    1. Pork Barrel Politics
    2. Rent-Seeking
    3. What Is the Proper Role for Government?

### III. MACROECONOMICS

30%

- A. Macroeconomic Issues
  - 1. Economic Growth and Living Standards
  - 2. Recessions and Expansions
  - 3. Unemployment
  - 4. Inflation
  - 5. International Trade
  
- B. Macroeconomic Measurement
  - 1. Measuring Total Output: Gross Domestic Product
    - a. Market value
    - b. Final goods and services
    - c. Within a country
    - d. During a specified period
  - 2. Understanding What GDP Measures
  - 3. Other Ways to Measure GDP: Expenditures Equal Production
  - 4. Yet Another Way to Measure GDP: Income Equals Production Equals Expenditures
  - 5. Real GDP
  - 6. Measuring Inflation
  - 7. Unemployment
    - a. Frictional unemployment
    - b. Structural unemployment
    - c. Cyclical unemployment
  
- C. Economic Growth, Productivity, and Living Standards
  - 1. The Circular Flow Model of the Economy
  - 2. What Determines How Much an Economy Produces?
  
- D. Savings, Investment, and the Financial System
  - 1. Financial Markets
    - a. The bond market
    - b. The stock market
  - 2. Financial Intermediaries
    - a. Banks
    - b. Mutual funds
  - 3. Saving and Investment in Aggregate
  - 4. International Capital Flows in an Open Economy
  - 5. How Financial Markets Coordinate Saving and Investment Decisions
  
- E. Money and Prices in the Long Run
  - 1. What Is Money?
  - 2. Measuring Money
  - 3. The Federal Reserve System, Banks, and the Supply of Money
  - 4. Bank Runs

5. Money and Inflation in the Long Run
6. Why Worry about Inflation?

F. Short-Run Economic Fluctuations

1. Characteristics of Short-Run Fluctuations
2. Potential Output, the Output Gap, and the Natural Rate of Unemployment
3. Explaining Short-Run Fluctuations in Output
4. The Aggregate Demand Curve
  - a. Wealth effects
  - b. Interest rate effects
  - c. Foreign exchange effects
5. The Aggregate Supply Curve
6. The Keynesian Model of Short-Run Fluctuations
7. Inflation in the Keynesian Model
8. Using Fiscal and Monetary Policy to Stabilize the Economy

IV. THE ECONOMIC ORIGINS AND IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II 20%

A. The Economic Origins of World War Two

1. The European Theater
  - a. The Treaty of Versailles: the First World War plants the seeds of the second
  - b. The economic consequences of the peace
  - c. The Weimar Republic
  - d. The Great Depression
  - e. The Lend Lease program
2. The Pacific Theater
  - a. Japan's Twenty-One Demands on China
  - b. U.S. sanctions on Japan

B. Mobilization for War

1. Office for Emergency Management
2. Office of Price Administration
3. Supply Priorities and Allocation Board / War Production Board
4. Office of War Mobilization

C. The Economics of War

1. Financing the War

D. The Impact of World War Two on the American Economy

1. Wartime Prosperity
2. The Atomic Age Begins
3. Long-Term Changes
4. The Size and Role of Government: The American Postwar Experience