

Economics Fundamentals Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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- 1. What outcome is expected when production shifts from one good to another?**
 - A. Increased total production value.**
 - B. A constant opportunity cost.**
 - C. Increased opportunity costs over time.**
 - D. A decrease in resource allocation efficiency.**

- 2. Scarcity in economics refers to:**
 - A. The limited availability of resources**
 - B. The abundance of resources**
 - C. The surplus of commodities**
 - D. The effective distribution of goods**

- 3. What defines a command economy?**
 - A. Decentralized decision-making by businesses and consumers**
 - B. Market-driven pricing and production**
 - C. Government control over production and distribution decisions**
 - D. Free market competition with minimal government intervention**

- 4. Which of the following choices best illustrates the concept of opportunity cost?**
 - A. The money spent on a new car**
 - B. The time spent studying instead of working**
 - C. Tax payments to the government**
 - D. The physical resources used in production**

- 5. What is meant by the term 'marginal analysis' in economics?**
 - A. Evaluating how changes in prices affect supply and demand**
 - B. Assessment of additional benefits versus additional costs**
 - C. Analysis of total production over time**
 - D. Measurement of total utility gained**

6. As the amount of an activity increases, what generally happens to its marginal cost?

- A. Decreases**
- B. Increases**
- C. Is infinite**
- D. Stays the same**

7. Drinkable water is _____ water in general.

- A. relatively less scarce than**
- B. relatively more scarce than**
- C. as scarce as**
- D. equally available as**

8. What is a common impact of a fiscal deficit on the economy?

- A. Decrease in public services**
- B. Reduction in national debt**
- C. Increased private investment**
- D. Higher government borrowing costs**

9. How does elastic demand differ from inelastic demand?

- A. Elastic demand is less responsive to price changes compared to inelastic demand**
- B. Elastic demand shows a significant change in quantity demanded with small price changes**
- C. Inelastic demand remains constant regardless of price changes**
- D. Inelastic demand involves luxury goods only**

10. What occurs when a government's total revenue exceeds its total expenditures?

- A. Fiscal deficit**
- B. Budget surplus**
- C. Debt accumulation**
- D. Deficit financing**

Answers

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1. C
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. B
8. D
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What outcome is expected when production shifts from one good to another?

- A. Increased total production value.**
- B. A constant opportunity cost.**
- C. Increased opportunity costs over time.**
- D. A decrease in resource allocation efficiency.**

The correct answer revolves around the concept of opportunity costs, which reflects the trade-off involved when resources are reallocated from the production of one good to another. As production shifts from one good to another, especially when moving along a production possibilities frontier (PPF), the opportunity cost typically rises. This occurs because resources are not equally efficient across all types of goods. For instance, if a country is moving resources from producing wheat to producing cars, the initial resources shifted may be less specialized for car production, meaning that the more cars they want to produce, the more wheat they have to give up. Consequently, the opportunity cost of the additional cars increases as production continues to shift, which leads to increased opportunity costs over time as production focuses on less-efficient uses of resources. This dynamic explains why the outcome of shifting production is often characterized by rising opportunity costs, making it the correct choice in this scenario.

2. Scarcity in economics refers to:

- A. The limited availability of resources**
- B. The abundance of resources**
- C. The surplus of commodities**
- D. The effective distribution of goods**

Scarcity in economics is fundamentally rooted in the concept that resources are limited relative to human wants and needs. This principle is central to the study of economics, as it addresses the challenges that arise when the demand for resources exceeds their availability. When we discuss scarcity, we are acknowledging that there are finite resources—like land, labor, capital, and time—and these finite resources must be allocated among various competing uses and demands. This scarcity forces individuals, businesses, and governments to make choices about how to use resources most effectively. It also leads to the concepts of opportunity cost and trade-offs, which are essential in decision-making processes in economics. The other options do not correctly capture the essence of scarcity. An abundance of resources suggests availability that could potentially satisfy all wants and needs, creating no need for choices or prioritization. Similarly, a surplus of commodities implies an excess beyond what is needed, conflicting directly with the notion of scarcity. Lastly, effective distribution of goods refers to how goods and services are allocated but does not address the core issue of limited resources themselves. Hence, the correct understanding of scarcity in economics clearly revolves around the limited availability of resources.

3. What defines a command economy?

- A. Decentralized decision-making by businesses and consumers
- B. Market-driven pricing and production
- C. Government control over production and distribution decisions**
- D. Free market competition with minimal government intervention

A command economy is characterized by significant government control over production and distribution decisions. In such an economic system, the government typically determines what goods and services will be produced, how much will be produced, and the prices at which they will be sold. This contrasts sharply with market-oriented economies, where individual businesses and consumers make decisions based on supply and demand dynamics. The rationale for a command economy often revolves around the idea that centralized planning can facilitate more equitable distribution of resources, avoid the inefficiencies that can arise from market competition, and achieve specific societal goals that may not align with profit motives. This approach allows the government to direct resources toward sectors deemed important for economic growth or public welfare. In a command economy, any deviations from this model, such as decentralized decision-making, market-driven pricing, or free market competition, would not occur, as these are characteristics of market economies where consumers and businesses have more autonomy in economic activities.

4. Which of the following choices best illustrates the concept of opportunity cost?

- A. The money spent on a new car
- B. The time spent studying instead of working**
- C. Tax payments to the government
- D. The physical resources used in production

Opportunity cost refers to the value of the next best alternative that is foregone when making a decision. In this case, the scenario of spending time studying instead of working clearly demonstrates this concept. When you choose to study, you are sacrificing the potential income you could have earned from working during that same period. This lost income represents the opportunity cost of studying—it's the benefit you could have gained had you chosen to work instead. The other options do not illustrate opportunity cost as effectively. The money spent on a new car reflects a direct expenditure but does not highlight the next best alternative that was forfeited. Tax payments are obligations that do not present an alternative choice in the same way studying versus working does. Finally, while physical resources used in production pertain to economic decisions, they do not directly capture the notion of opportunity cost, which is centered on the alternatives forgone in decision-making. Therefore, the situation that best encapsulates opportunity cost is indeed the time spent studying instead of working.

5. What is meant by the term 'marginal analysis' in economics?

- A. Evaluating how changes in prices affect supply and demand
- B. Assessment of additional benefits versus additional costs**
- C. Analysis of total production over time
- D. Measurement of total utility gained

Marginal analysis refers to the examination of the additional benefits and additional costs that arise from a decision or action. In economics, this concept is crucial because it helps individuals and businesses make rational choices by comparing the incremental changes in an economic variable. When undertaking marginal analysis, one assesses whether the benefit gained from a particular decision justifies the cost incurred. For instance, a business might determine if producing one more unit of a product (the marginal unit) will generate enough revenue to cover the additional costs of production. If the marginal revenue exceeds the marginal cost, the activity can be deemed beneficial, leading the firm to increase production. This decision-making process applies to various scenarios, from consumer choices about spending to broader business strategies. The other options, while related to economics, do not capture the essence of marginal analysis as accurately. Evaluating how changes in prices affect supply and demand focuses more on market dynamics rather than the incremental benefits and costs associated with specific decisions. Analyzing total production over time addresses overall output without considering individual changes. Lastly, measuring total utility gained pertains more to overall satisfaction rather than the incremental evaluation of benefits versus costs that marginal analysis entails.

6. As the amount of an activity increases, what generally happens to its marginal cost?

- A. Decreases
- B. Increases**
- C. Is infinite
- D. Stays the same

Marginal cost refers to the additional cost incurred from producing one more unit of a good or service. As the quantity of an activity increases, marginal cost tends to increase due to the principle of diminishing returns. This principle states that when a company continues to add more of one factor of production while keeping others constant, the additional output produced (marginal return) from the last unit of input will eventually decrease. As resources become limited or less efficient, the cost of producing each additional unit tends to rise. For example, in a factory, as more workers are employed, initially, production might increase significantly. However, after a certain point, adding more workers may lead to overcrowding or inefficiencies, causing the cost of producing each additional unit to rise. Hence, the relationship between the quantity of an activity and its marginal cost is typically that marginal cost increases with increased activity levels, making this answer appropriate.

7. Drinkable water is _____ water in general.

- A. relatively less scarce than**
- B. relatively more scarce than**
- C. as scarce as**
- D. equally available as**

The correct choice is that drinkable water is relatively more scarce than water in general. This statement highlights the distinction between all water and the subset of that water which is suitable for drinking. While the Earth is covered by a significant amount of water, approximately 97% of it is saltwater found in oceans, which is not safe for human consumption. Of the remaining 3% that is freshwater, a large portion is locked away in glaciers and ice caps, or is present as groundwater, making it less accessible. Thus, only a small percentage of the world's total water supply is readily available for human use, especially for drinking purposes. This limited availability underscores the fact that drinkable water is indeed more scarce compared to the total volume of water available on Earth. Understanding this scarcity is crucial for water resource management and environmental policy, as it drives home the need for conservation and sustainable practices.

8. What is a common impact of a fiscal deficit on the economy?

- A. Decrease in public services**
- B. Reduction in national debt**
- C. Increased private investment**
- D. Higher government borrowing costs**

A common impact of a fiscal deficit on the economy is higher government borrowing costs. When a government runs a fiscal deficit, it means that its expenditures exceed its revenues. To cover this gap, the government often needs to borrow money, which can lead to increased demand for loans in the financial markets. As a consequence of this higher demand for borrowing, lenders may require a higher interest rate to compensate for the increased risk associated with lending to a government that is already in deficit. Additionally, if investors perceive that the fiscal situation is unsustainable, they may further increase borrowing costs due to concerns about the government's ability to repay its debt in the future. Thus, the relationship between fiscal deficits and government borrowing costs tends to be directly proportional; as deficits rise, so can the costs associated with borrowing. This can create a cycle where higher borrowing costs may limit the government's ability to finance future deficits, leading to potential cuts in public services or reduced investments.

9. How does elastic demand differ from inelastic demand?

- A. Elastic demand is less responsive to price changes compared to inelastic demand
- B. Elastic demand shows a significant change in quantity demanded with small price changes**
- C. Inelastic demand remains constant regardless of price changes
- D. Inelastic demand involves luxury goods only

Elastic demand is characterized by a significant change in the quantity demanded in response to small changes in price. When demand is elastic, consumers are highly sensitive to price fluctuations; even a small increase in price may lead to a considerable decrease in quantity demanded, and vice versa. This understanding is crucial because it highlights how businesses and policymakers can anticipate consumer behavior in response to pricing strategies. For example, if a company increases the price of a product with elastic demand, they may experience a drastic drop in sales, while a decrease in price could lead to a substantial increase in sales. To contrast this, inelastic demand does not change significantly with price changes, which means that consumers will still purchase a relatively consistent quantity regardless of price fluctuations. Thus, the notion that elastic demand is about substantial changes in quantity demanded is what clearly distinguishes it from inelastic demand.

10. What occurs when a government's total revenue exceeds its total expenditures?

- A. Fiscal deficit
- B. Budget surplus**
- C. Debt accumulation
- D. Deficit financing

When a government's total revenue exceeds its total expenditures, this situation is referred to as a budget surplus. A budget surplus signifies that the government has more income than it spends, which can be a positive indicator of fiscal health. This surplus can be used in various ways, such as paying down existing debt, saving for future expenses, or investing in public services and infrastructure. In contrast, fiscal deficit occurs when expenditures surpass revenues, while debt accumulation refers to the total outstanding debt of the government, which can increase during years of deficits. Deficit financing is a method used by governments to cover shortfalls when expenditures exceed revenues, often leading to borrowing. Knowing this distinction helps in understanding the implications of a budget surplus in economic analysis.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://econfundamentals.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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