

Economics II - Homework - due November 26, 2008

HW can be submitted: (1) by e-mail: katarina.kalovcova@cerge-ei.cz

(2) personally during the seminar on November 26

No late submissions will be accepted

Problem 1: [2 points] Your budget is such that if you spend your entire income, you can afford either 4 units of good x and 6 units of good y or 12 units of x and 2 units of y .

- (a) Draw the budget line in the graph with y on vertical axis and x on horizontal axis. Mark the mentioned two consumption bundles.
- (b) What is the ratio of the price of x to the price of y ?
- (c) If you spent all of your income on x , how much x could you buy?
- (d) If you spent all of your income on y , how much y could you buy?
- (e) Write a budget equation that gives you this budget line, where the price of x is 1.
- (f) Write another budget equation that gives you the same budget line, but where the price of x is 3.

Problem 2: [3 points] Consider a following two-consumers (A,B) and two-goods (x,y) economy. The utility function of the first consumer is

$$u^A = 2x^A + y^A$$

and his endowment is $\omega^A = (4, 0)$. The second consumer has the following utility function

$$u^B = \min\{x^B, 2y^B\}$$

and endowment $\omega^B = (0, 3)$.

- (a) Find the competitive equilibrium and graph it in the Edgeworth box.
- (b) Find Pareto efficient allocations and graph them in the Edgeworth box.

Problem 3: [2 points] The short-run production function of a competitive firm is given by $f(L) = 6L^{2/3}$, where L is the amount of labor it uses. The cost per unit of labor is $w = 6$ and the price per unit of output is $p = 3$.

- (a) Plot a few points on the graph of this firm's production function and sketch the graph of the production function. Draw the isoprofit line that passes through the point $(0,12)$, the isoprofit line that passes through $(0,8)$, and the isoprofit line that passes through the point $(0,4)$. What is the slope of each of the isoprofit lines? What are the profits from production plans on each of the isoprofit lines? Highlight the part of the isoprofit line through $(0,4)$ that consists of outputs that are actually possible.
- (b) How many units of labor will the firm hire? How much output will it produce? If the firm has no other costs, how much will its total profits be?
- (c) Suppose that the wage of labor falls to 4, and the price of output remains constant at $p = 3$. On the graph, draw the new isoprofit line for the firm that passes through its old choice of input and output. Will the firm increase its output at the new price? Explain why, referring to your diagram.