## CALTECH

Ec 11 Midterm Examination Professor R. Preston McAfee Winter 2007



Instructions: Open book, open notes, no collaboration. Partial credit will be assigned. Please show your work. You may take this test during any consecutive 4 hour period. Due February 7, by 5:00 PM. Please deposit in Box outside Baxter 100.

- 1. The demand for hamburgers has a constant elasticity of 1 of the form  $x(p) = 8,000 \text{ p}^{-1}$ . Each entrant in this competitive industry has a fixed cost of \$2,000 and produces  $\sqrt{x}$  hamburgers per year, where x is the amount of meat in pounds.
  - a. If the price of meat is \$2/lbs, what is the long run supply of hamburgers?
  - b. Compute the equilibrium number of firms, quantity supplied by each firm and the market price of hamburgers.
  - c. Find the short run industry supply, does it have constant elasticity?
- 2. A recent college graduate wants to retire 30 years from today, and would like to spend \$20,000 during the first year of his retirement, in today's terms. Suppose his annual retirement expenditure increases 3% every year. If he lives forever, how much should he save each year leading up to his retirement? Assume a 5% return on investments.
- 3. A toy factory costs \$2 million to construct and the marginal cost of the q<sup>th</sup> toy is Max[10, q<sup>2</sup>/1,000].
  - a. What are average total costs?
  - b. What is short run supply?
  - c. What is the long run competitive supply of toys?
- 4. Give a brief summary of Ricardian theory. If it holds true, what kinds of goods should the US export and what should it import? How well does the theory hold up?
- 5. A company that produces software needs two inputs, programmers (x) at a rate of p and computers (y) at a price of r. The output is given by
  - $T = 4 x^{1/3} y^{1/3}$ , measured in pages of code.
    - a. What is marginal cost?
    - b. Now suppose each programmer needs two computers to do his job, what ratio of p and r would make this input mix optimal?
- 6. Suppose the price of Microsoft's operating system increases. Explain how this might affect the price and quantity of Intel microprocessor chips.