

UNIT 1

BASIC ECONOMIC CONCEPTS

Scarcity - Opposites under the Limited Resources

Opportunity Cost - Next best alternative forgone when a choice is made

Factors of Production - LAND, LABOR, CAPITAL, ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Market Failure - Part of Scarcity, not caused by Government and Markets

Externality - Part of Scarcity, not caused by Government and Markets

Cost-Benefit - Measure performance of Government (cost, benefit, revenue, profit)

Market Failure - What are government responsibilities toward (taxation, income, equality)

Externalities - Government Responsibility to Citizens

5- KEY ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

1. Scarcity has unlimited wants and limited resources (scarcity)
2. Due to scarcity, choices must be made. Every choice has a cost (a trade-off)
3. Citizens respond to incentives and acts in their own "self-interest"
4. Citizens make decisions by comparing the marginal costs and marginal benefits of every choice
5. Real-life situations can be explained and analyzed through simplified models and graphs



Economic Systems - **Command-and-Control (Communism)** vs **Free Markets (Capitalism)**

- Communist Plans or **Command-and-Control** - Society's goals will be set as centrally and that are self-interest
- Competition and self-interest act as an invisible hand that regulates the free market

Market Economics - system with free markets but also some government intervention

Efficient Allocation - The producer that can produce the most output with the least amount of inputs

Comparative Advantage - The producer with the lowest opportunity cost

Financial Transactions Cost

- Distributed scarcity, trade-offs, opportunity costs (MC), efficiency

	A	B	C	D	E	F
Good	1	2	3	4	5	6
Costs	2	3	4	5	6	7



Consumer BC - Resources are evenly adaptable to producing either good

Consumer	1	2	3	4	5	6
Costs	2	3	4	5	6	7

Low or Intermediate BC - As you produce more of any good, the MC (opportunity cost of another good) will increase

Consumer	1	2	3	4	5	6
Costs	2	3	4	5	6	7



Economics Macro Study Guide

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