
AP[®] Microeconomics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

Inside:

Free-Response Question 2

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
- ☒ **Student Samples**
- ☒ **Scoring Commentary**

Question 2: Short**5 points**

A	Calculate the total economic surplus as \$270 and show your work.	1 point
Point 1	$\text{Total Economic Surplus} = \frac{1}{2} \times (\$10 - \$1) \times (60 - 0) = \frac{1}{2} \times \$9 \times 60 = \$270$ <p>OR</p> $\begin{aligned} \text{Total Economic Surplus} &= \text{Consumer Surplus} + \text{Producer Surplus} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \times (\$10 - \$4) \times (60 - 0) + \frac{1}{2} \times (\$4 - \$1) \times (60 - 0) \\ &= \$180 + \$90 = \$270 \end{aligned}$	
B	State that there will be neither a surplus nor a shortage and explain that a price floor set below the equilibrium price is not binding and, therefore, will have no effect on the market price and quantity.	1 point
Point 2		
C (i)	State that Rushland will export rice and explain with ONE of the following:	1 point
Point 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the world price of \$5, the domestic quantity supplied is 80 bushels of rice, which is greater than the domestic quantity demanded, which is 50 bushels of rice. At the world price of \$5, Rushland has a domestic surplus of 30 bushels of rice that can be exported. 	
(ii)	Calculate the domestic consumer surplus in Rushland as \$125 and show your work.	1 point
Point 4	$\text{Domestic Consumer Surplus} = \frac{1}{2} \times (\$10 - \$5) \times (50 - 0) = \frac{1}{2} \times \$5 \times 50 = \$125$	
(iii)	Calculate the total revenue Rushland's farmers will earn as \$400 and show your work.	1 point
Point 5	$\text{Total Revenue} = \text{World Price} \times \text{Quantity Sold} = \$5 \times 80 = \$400$	

Question 2 Sample 2A Page 1 of 1

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1



Question 2



Question 3



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{A) Total economic surplus} &= \frac{9 \times 60}{2} \\ &= \frac{540}{2} \\ &= \$270 \end{aligned}$$

B) If the government sets a price floor at \$3 per bushel there will be neither a surplus, nor a shortage. This is because for a price floor to be binding, it must be set above market equilibrium. In this case, a price floor at \$3 is below market equilibrium, meaning that it will not be binding, and therefore will have no effect on the market.

C) i, Rushland will export rice. At the price of \$5, quantity demanded is 50 and quantity supplied is 80, meaning that there is a surplus of rice. At the world price of \$5, the surplus of 30 units will be exported.

ii, When Rushland engages in international trade, price is \$5.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Domestic consumer surplus} &= \frac{5 \times 50}{2} \\ &= \frac{250}{2} \\ &= \$125 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{iii, Total revenue earned by Rushland's farmers} &= 5 \times 80 \\ &= \$400 \end{aligned}$$

Page 4

Use a pencil or pen with black or dark blue ink. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.



Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page.

A.

$$\text{Consumer Surplus} = \frac{6 \cdot 60}{2} = \$180$$

$$\text{Producer Surplus} = \frac{3 \cdot 60}{2} = \$90$$

$$\text{Total Surplus} = 180 + 90 = \$270$$

B. Neither because a price floor below equilibrium is non-binding

C.

i. Export because the quantity demanded is 50 and the quantity supplied is 80 so they would have a surplus of 30

$$\text{ii. } \frac{5 \cdot 50}{2} = \$125$$

$$\text{iii. } TR = P \cdot Q$$

$$30 \cdot 5 = \$150 \text{ or } (80 - 50) \cdot 5 = \$150$$

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1



Question 2



Question 3



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page.

A. $PS + CS = TS$

$$\frac{1}{2}(3)(60) + \frac{1}{2}(6)(60) =$$

$$90 + 180 = \$270$$

B. Neither, the price floor will be ineffective as the price is set at \$4, already above the \$3 floor.

C. i. Rushland will export rice because the cost they are able to produce it at is cheaper than the rest of the world. Therefore, Rushland would benefit for exporting over importing.

ii.

$$\frac{1}{2}bh = A = CS$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(6)(60) = A = \$180 = \text{Consumer Surplus}$$

iii.

$$TR = P \cdot Q$$

$$TR = 5 \cdot 50 = \$250$$

Use a pencil or pen with black or dark blue ink. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Question 2

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

NEW for 2025: The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses* on [AP Central](#).

Sample: 2A

Score: 5

Part A

The response earned point 1 for calculating the total economic surplus as \$270 and showing the work.

Part B

The response earned point 2 for stating that there will be neither a surplus, nor a shortage and explaining that a price floor set below equilibrium is nonbinding.

Part C

The response earned point 3 for stating that Rushland will export rice and explaining that the quantity supplied is 80 and the quantity demanded is 50, creating a surplus of rice, and that the surplus of 30 units will be exported. The response earned point 4 for calculating the domestic consumer surplus as \$125 and showing the work. The response earned point 5 for calculating the total revenue earned by Rushland's farmers as \$400 and showing the work.

Sample: 2B

Score: 4

Part A

The response earned point 1 for calculating the total economic surplus as \$270 and showing the work.

Part B

The response earned point 2 for stating that there will be neither a surplus nor a shortage and explaining that a price floor set below equilibrium is nonbinding.

Part C

The response earned point 3 for stating that Rushland will export rice and explaining that the quantity supplied is 80 and the quantity demanded is 50. The response earned point 4 for calculating the domestic consumer surplus as \$125 and showing the work. The response did not earn point 5 because the response does not calculate the total revenue earned by Rushland's farmers as \$400.

Question 2 (continued)**Sample: 2C****Score: 2**

Part A

The response earned point 1 for calculating the total economic surplus as \$270 and showing the work.

Part B

The response earned point 2 for stating that there will be neither a surplus nor a shortage and explaining that a price floor set below equilibrium “will be ineffective.”

Part C

The response did not earn point 3 because the response does not explain that at the world price of \$5, the domestic quantity supplied is 80 bushels of rice which is greater than the domestic quantity demanded, which is 50 bushels of rice, and therefore the surplus of 30 bushels of rice can be exported. The response did not earn point 4 because the response does not calculate the domestic consumer surplus as \$125. The response did not earn point 5 because the response does not calculate the total revenue earned by Rushland’s farmers as \$400.