

1  **Scarcity and the Factors of Production**

- What is economics?
- How do economists define scarcity?
- What are the three factors of production?

2  **What Is Economics?**

- Economics is the study of how people make choices to satisfy their wants
- For example:
 - You must choose how to spend your time
 - Businesses must choose how many people to hire


3  **Scarcity and Shortages**

- 1 • Scarcity occurs when there are limited quantities of resources to meet unlimited needs or desires
- 2 • Shortages occur when producers will not or cannot offer goods or services at current prices


4  **The Factors of Production**

- Land All natural resources that are used to produce goods and services.
- Labor Any effort a person devotes to a task for which that person is paid.
- Capital Any human-made resource that is used to create other goods and services.

5  **The Factors of Popcorn Production**

6  **Section 1 Assessment**


1. What is the difference between a shortage and scarcity?
 - (a) A shortage can be temporary or long-term, but scarcity always exists.
 - (b) A shortage results from rising prices; a scarcity results from falling prices.
 - (c) A shortage is a lack of all goods and services; a scarcity concerns a single item.
 - (d) There is no real difference between a shortage and a scarcity.
2. Which of the following is an example of using physical capital to save time and money?
 - (a) hiring more workers to do a job
 - (b) building extra space in a factory to simplify production
 - (c) switching from oil to coal to make production cheaper
 - (d) lowering workers' wages to increase profits

7  **Section 1 Assessment**











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8  **Opportunity Cost**

- Does every decision you make involve trade-offs?
- How can a decision-making grid help you identify the opportunity cost of a decision?
- How will thinking at the margin affect decisions you make?

9  **Trade-offs and Opportunity Cost**

- Trade-offs are all the alternatives that we give up whenever we choose one course of action over others.
- The most desirable alternative given up as a result of a decision is known as opportunity cost.

- 10  **The Decision-Making Grid**
- Economists encourage us to consider the benefits and costs of our decisions.
- 11  **Thinking at the Margin**
- When you decide how much more or less to do, you are thinking at the margin.
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- 12  **Section 2 Assessment**
1. Opportunity cost is
 - (a) any alternative we sacrifice when we make a decision.
 - (b) all of the alternatives we sacrifice when we make a decision.
 - (c) the most desirable alternative given up as a result of a decision.
 - (d) the least desirable alternative given up as a result of a decision.
 2. Economists use the phrase “guns or butter” to describe the fact that
 - (a) a person can spend extra money either on sports equipment or food.
 - (b) a person must decide whether to manufacture guns or butter.
 - (c) a nation must decide whether to produce more or less military or consumer goods.
 - (d) a government can buy unlimited military and civilian goods if it is rich enough.
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- 14  **Production Possibilities Graphs**
- What is a production possibilities graph?
 - How do production possibilities graphs show efficiency, growth, and cost?
 - Why are production possibilities frontiers curved lines?
- 15  **Production Possibilities**
- A production possibilities graph shows alternative ways that an economy can use its resources.
 - The production possibilities frontier is the line that shows the maximum possible output for that economy.
- 16  **Efficiency**
- Efficiency means using resources in such a way as to maximize the production of goods and services. An economy producing output levels on the production possibilities frontier is operating efficiently.
- 17  **Growth**
- Growth If more resources become available, or if technology improves, an economy can increase its level of output and grow. When this happens, the entire production possibilities curve “shifts to the right.”
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- 18  **Cost**
- Cost A production possibilities graph shows the cost of producing more of one item. To move from point c to point d on this graph has a cost of 3 million pairs of shoes.
- 19  **Section 3 Assessment**
1. A production possibilities frontier shows
 - (a) farm goods and factory goods produced by an economy.
 - (b) the maximum possible output of an economy.

- (c) the minimum possible output of an economy.
 - (d) underutilization of resources.
2. An economy that is using its resources to produce the maximum number of goods and services is described as
- (a) efficient.
 - (b) underutilized.
 - (c) growing.
 - (d) trading off.

20  **Section 3 Assessment**

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