

Name:

E-mail:

**All questions must be answered on this test form!**

For each question you must show your work and (or) provide a clear argument.

All graphs must be accurate to get credit.

If you need scratch paper, use the back of the form.

**Short Questions** Which of the following is true or false, where  $e(p, u)$  is the expenditure function,  $h(p, u)$  Hicksian demand,  $x(p, w)$  Walrasian demand,  $v(p, w)$  indirect utility. (mark the correct box. Be careful, some of the questions are a little bit tricky.)

30 points

Each question is worth 1.5 points. No explanation is needed

1.  $e(\lambda p, \lambda u) = \lambda e(p, u)$  for all  $\lambda > 0$ .  true  false
2.  $e(\lambda p, \lambda u) = \lambda e(p, u)$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .  true  false
3.  $e(\alpha p + (1-\alpha)p', u) \geq \alpha e(p, u) + (1-\alpha)e(p', u)$  for all  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .  true  false
4.  $e(\alpha p + (1-\alpha)p', u) \geq \min\{e(p, u), e(p', u)\}$  for all  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .  true  false
5. If  $e$  is differentiable then  $\frac{\partial e(p, u)}{\partial p_i} > 0$  for all  $i$ .  true  false
6. If  $e$  is differentiable and preferences are locally non-satiated then  $\frac{\partial e(p, u)}{\partial u} > 0$ .  true  false
7. Let  $u(x_1, x_2) = \min\{x_1, x_2\}$ . Then  $e(p, u)$  is not differentiable with respect to prices.  true  false
8. Let  $u(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + x_2$ . Then  $e(p, u)$  is not differentiable with respect to prices when  $p_1 = p_2$ .  true  false
9. Suppose that preferences are lexicographic. Then  $e(p, u)$  exists.  true  false
10.  $v(\lambda p, \lambda w) = v(p, w)$  for all  $\lambda > 0$ .  true  false

11.  $v$  is convex in  $p$  and  $w$ .  true  false
12. If preferences are continuous and locally non satiated then  $v(p, e(p, u)) = w$ .  true  false
13. If preferences are continuous and locally non satiated then  $h(p, v(p, w)) = x(p, w)$ .  true  false
14. Let  $x^* = x(p^*, w^*)$ . If there are two commodities, Walras' law is satisfied and  $x_1^* = 0$  then  $MRS(x_1^*, x_2^*) \geq \frac{p_1^*}{p_2^*}$ .  true  false
15. Suppose that  $u(x_1, x_2) = (x_1 + 10)(x_2 + 10)$ . Then  $x(p, w)$  satisfies Walras' law.  true  false
16. Suppose that  $u(x_1, x_2) = (x_1 - 10)(x_2 - 10)$ . Then  $x(p, w)$  satisfies Walras' law.  true  false
17. Suppose that  $u(x_1, x_2) = x_1 - x_2^2$ . Then  $x(p, w)$  satisfies Walras' law.  true  false
18.  $v(\alpha p + (1 - \alpha)p', \alpha w + (1 - \alpha)w') \leq \max\{v(p, w), v(p'w')\}$  for all  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .  true  false
19. Let  $v(p, w)$  be the indirect utility function for  $u(x)$  where  $u(x) > 0$ . Then  $\ln(v(p, w))$  is the indirect utility function for  $\ln(u(x))$ .  true  false
20. Let  $e(p, u)$  be the expenditure function for  $u(x)$  where  $u(x) > 0$ . Then  $\ln(e(p, u))$  is the expenditure function for  $\ln(u(x))$ .  true  false

## Other Questions

**Question 1** Suppose that  $X$  is finite. Let  $\succeq$  be preferences on  $X$  that are transitive and reflexive (i.e.,  $x \succeq x$ ) but not necessarily complete. We want to prove that there exists an optimal choice  $x^*$ . An optimal choice means that for all  $y \in X$  one of the following is the case: (1)  $x^* \succeq y$ , or (2)  $x^*$  and  $y$  are not comparable.

We proceed by way of induction. That is, suppose  $X$  consists of a single element. Then the result is obvious. Thus, suppose that we have proved the result for all sets with strictly less than  $n$  elements. Now suppose that  $X$  has  $n$  elements. (*Write the proof in the box below. The argument must be clear and concise to get credit.*)

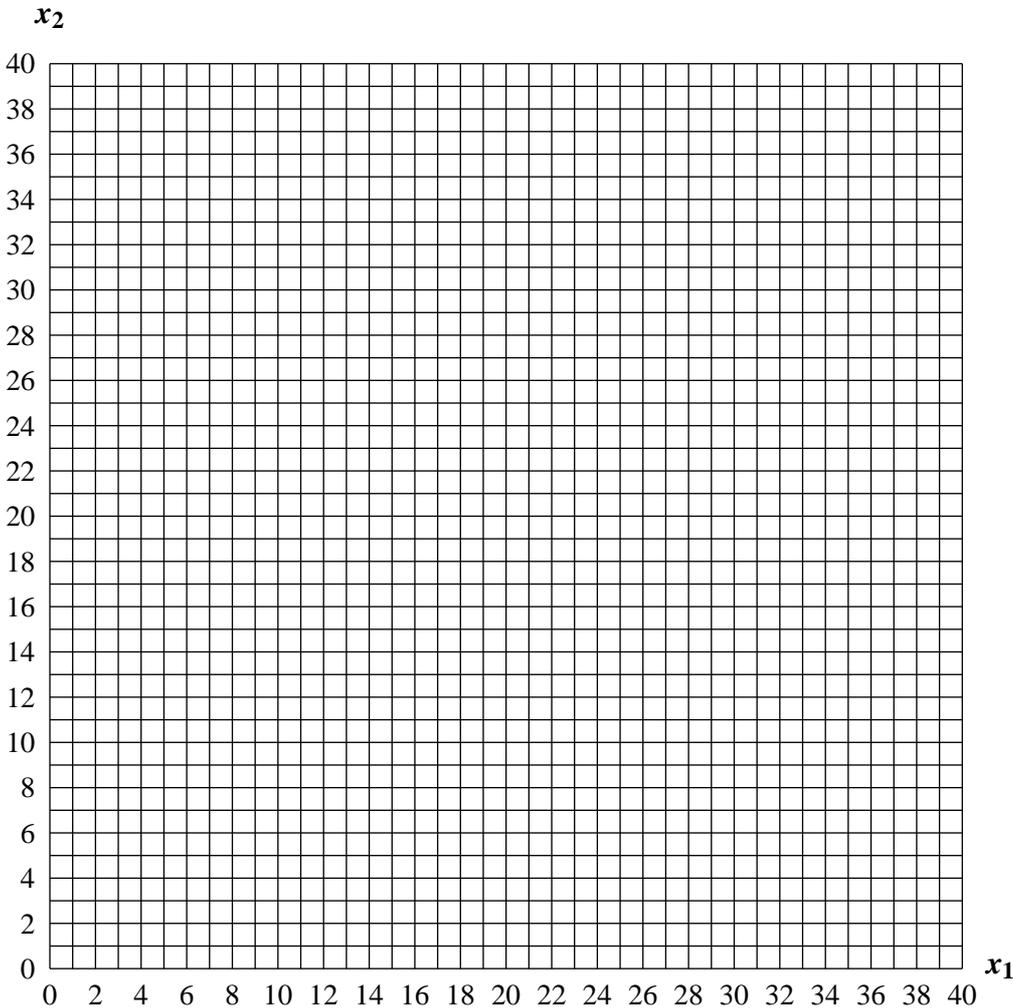
15 points

**Question 2** Suppose preferences are homothetic (recall, that this implies that all wealth expansion paths are straight lines starting at 0). Suppose that at prices  $p_1 = 2$ ,  $p_2 = 1$  and wealth  $w = 40$  Walrasian demand for commodity 1 is 10 units. When the price of commodity 2 increases to  $p_2 = 2$  ( $p_1$  and  $w$  do not change) demand for commodity 1 increases to 14 units. Then using the Slutsky method of compensation (where we adjust wealth such the original consumption remains affordable) the change in demand due to substitution, i.e, the substitution effect, for the commodities are

<b>Commodity 1:</b>	<b>units,</b>	<b>Commodity 2:</b>	<b>units</b>
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(Write the exact quantity of change in the box above. Indicate a decrease in demand by a negative sign. Solve the problem graphically by using the grid below).

15 points



**Question 3** Consider the utility function  $u(x_1, x_2) = \min\{2x_1, 3x_2\}$ . Then

*15 points*

$e(p, u) =$	$v(p, w) =$
$h_1(p, u) =$ , $h_2(p, u) =$	

**Question 4** Suppose there are two commodities. Let

$$g(x_1, y_1) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } |x_1 - y_1| < 2; \\ x_1 - y_1 - 2 & \text{if } |x_1 - y_1| \geq 2; . \end{cases}$$

Suppose that  $(x_1, x_2) \succeq (y_1, y_2)$  if and only if  $g(x_1, y_1) + x_2 - y_2 \geq 0$ .

*(Before you answer the questions below, you should try to understand intuitively what kind of behavior these preferences describe. Once you understand this, the solutions are very short.)*

(a) Let  $\bar{x} = (20, 30)$  and  $\bar{y} = (19, 30.5)$ . Then mark all that apply 5 points

$\bar{x} \succeq \bar{y}$       $\bar{y} \succeq \bar{x}$

Find a  $\bar{z}$  such that  $\bar{x}$ ,  $\bar{y}$  (from above) and  $\bar{z}$  violate transitivity.

Let  $\bar{z} = ( \quad , \quad )$ . Then  $\bar{x} \succeq \bar{z}$ ,  $\bar{y} \succeq \bar{z}$  but  $\bar{x} \succ \bar{y}$ .

(b) Suppose prices are  $p_1 = 2$ ,  $p_2 = 1$  and  $w = 10$ . Then 5 points

$x(p, w) = ( \quad , \quad )$

(c) Suppose prices are  $p_1 = 4$ ,  $p_2 = 5$  and  $w = 15$ . Then 5 points

$x(p, w) = ( \quad , \quad )$

**Question 5** An indirect utility function is given by

$$v(p, w) = \frac{\sqrt{w}}{\sqrt{p_1} + \sqrt{p_2}}.$$

Then

*10 points*

$e(p, u) =$
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$h_1(p, u) =$
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