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Principles of Macroeconomics

Review Sheet for Exam 2

This review sheet is intended to cover everything that could be on the exam; however, it is possible that I will have accidentally left something off. You are still responsible for everything in the chapters covered except anything that I explicitly say you are not responsible for. Therefore, if I left something off of this sheet, it can still be on the exam. There will be no multiple-choice questions. Most of the questions will be like the ones in the homework assignments, and possibly a few definition questions, but I am more likely to ask questions that make you use the definitions rather than recite them. I will probably ask one of the questions from the book at the end of the chapters or in the study guide.

The review session will be Sunday, 2/27, at 7:30, in the normal room (I hope).

Chapter 5: What are marginal tax rate, average tax rate, and tax bracket? How can we tell if a tax is progressive, regressive, or proportional? Do not worry about capital gains, capital loss, double taxation, retained earnings, or corporate taxes. Know what tax incidence is, and how to estimate it from a graph. Do not worry about how much government revenue comes from each source, or how it is spent.

Chapter 6: What is the tax base? How can increasing a tax result in less revenue? What are sales, excise, ad valorem, specific (unit) taxes? What is the Laffer Curve? What are Medicare and Social Security? What are their effects on the economy? What is the problem with Social Security? What are some of the proposals for solving the problem? I am most likely to give you a proposal for a solution and ask you how it would work, and whether or not you would implement my proposal.

Chapter 7: What are, and how do we calculate, the unemployment rate, labor force participation rate, and inflation rate? What are stocks and flows? How do they relate to unemployment rates? Know how to classify people by the reason they are unemployed, i.e., laid off, job leaver, etc. Know how to tell who is in which category of unemployment, i.e., frictional, structural, seasonal, and cyclical. What is the natural rate of unemployment and full employment? What are the other costs of unemployment besides lowered production? How do we calculate CPI, PPI, and GDP deflator? Why does it matter if inflation is anticipated or unanticipated? What are the costs of unanticipated and anticipated inflation? Note that if inflation is expected to be 10% and it ends up being 7%, we had unexpected deflation of 3% and that hurts borrowers. Know what an expansion (a.k.a. boom), contraction, recession, depression, trough, and peak are. What is a leading indicator?

Chapter 8: What is the simple circular flow? What do we mean by product markets and factor markets? Know what is calculated in GDP and what is not. That method is the expenditure method (C+I+G+X). Remember that "X" can be negative and that you are likely to get the definition of "I" wrong. **Stocks and bonds are not investments.** Ignore inventory investment. It is very small and confusing. Why should the GDP calculated this way equal the sum of the incomes and the sum of the value added? What are some problems with trying to calculate GDP? What are some of the limitations in our understanding the meaning of different levels? Ignore GDI because they state it is the same as GDP, just calculated differently. Know how to get from GDP to NDP, NI, PI, and DPI. Note that if you know what those terms are trying to measure, you ought to be able to figure out what is added and what is subtracted. Capital consumption allowance is another way to calculate depreciation. What is the difference between real and nominal GDP? Ignore the chain-weighted measure for real GDP. How do we compare GDP across countries?

This is the non-graded assignment #4A that will be gone over with assignment #4.

- 1) (10 points each) For each event, determine if it is part of GDP or not. If it is, then state which part (C, I, G, or X and why. If it is not, then explain why it is not part of GDP.
- A) You buy a new Toyota made in Japan.
- B) I pay you to mow my lawn.
- C) Your grandparents receive Social Security payments.
- D) You pay \$1000 for a car at a used car dealer. The dealer had paid \$400 for it.
- E) The government builds a new road.
- 2) (15 points) If you knew NI and wanted to calculate PI, what would you do? Why would you do that?

3) (15 points) If people expected the inflation rate to be 12% and it is really 15%, then who loses and who gains?

4) (20 points) Do economists care more about real of nominal GDP? Why?