

Topic 1.1: Scarcity

LO: MKT-1.A | Skill: 1.A | Portfolio: Analysis Memo 1

AP-Style Mini Free-Response Question

Format: Short Free-Response (Concept & Explanation) • Suggested time: 10 min • Skill 1.A • Homework

FRQ FORMAT PRACTICE

The AP Microeconomics exam has three free-response questions: one long (10 pts) and two short (5 pts each). This mini-FRQ practices the short format — define, identify, and explain. Graphing tasks appear later as your Graph Bank grows.

Scenario

Pinegrove Sawmill is a small mill with one cutting line, about twenty workers, and a fixed weekly delivery of logs from nearby forests. This week its line and crew have enough capacity to cut EITHER finished flooring OR construction lumber — but not both at full volume. The mill also uses a cutting pattern its founder designed, which any of its saws can follow at the same time.

Prompt

Respond to each part. Use specific evidence from the scenario.

- 1 **Define** scarcity, and **explain** how Pinegrove's situation illustrates it.
- 2 **Identify** the four economic resources, and give one Pinegrove example of each.
- 3 **Identify** the opportunity cost if Pinegrove cuts flooring, and **explain** what 'opportunity cost' means.
- 4 **Explain** why the founder's cutting pattern is non-rival, and how that makes it different from the cutting line.