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Economics 202-03
Spring 2017

Homework #4 (due by 9:00pm on Tuesday, April 6)

*Please submit your answers to this homework through the Assignment link at Blackboard. **No credit will be given for answers submitted in class or emailed to the professor, regardless of the excuse.** This includes unique excuses like the police confiscated my computer right before I was going to submit it, excuses like “I lost my Internet”, etc. Please note that all submissions are final, again – regardless of the excuse (which includes “I accidentally hit the submit button”). Note that Blackboard allows you to save your answers, but you must hit the “Save and Submit” button to submit your answers. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, then it would be a good idea to visit the class page at Blackboard and check out the homework assignments as they are posted.*

Please note that when Blackboard grades homework answers, more specifically – answers to the fill-in-the-blank questions – your answer must match exactly with the answer that Blackboard is looking for. Below, you’ll find some instructions on how to properly format these answers. Reading this section is strongly recommended.

Homework Questions 1, 2, 3 and 8

Formatting matters with these answers, so be sure to read the comments below. As with each of the previous homeworks, **your answer can be technically correct but graded as wrong because you didn't follow the directions provided below.** Given that formatting is considered part of your answer, a wrongly formatted answer is still a wrong answer.

Please note the following comments regarding formatting below.

(i) In question 1a and 1b, express your answer in dollars and not dollars and cents. E.g., if your answer is \$300, then write it as \$300 and not \$300.00.

(ii) In question 2, express your answer exactly as it is reported. E.g., if you look up the discount rate requested in the question, and that value is 11, then record your answer as 11

(iii) In question 1c and 3, write just the number, rounded to the nearest whole number. E.g., if the answer is \$405.667 billion (or million), then record your answer as 406.

(iv) In each part of question 8, be sure to round your answer for the currency-demand deposit ratio to the nearest tenth. E.g., if you calculate 0.52, then round to 0.5.

Homework #4 questions

1. Assume that in Country X, the required reserve ratio is 20% and that one bank within Country X, Bank A, has \$3000 in demand deposits. Any answer that should be in dollars should be expressed in terms of dollars (e.g. 100 should be written as \$100).

a. Given this information, the amount of Bank A's required reserves would be _____.

b. If the only assets held at Bank A other than reserves is \$800 in loans and \$900 in government securities (i.e. bonds), then the amount of Bank A's excess reserves would be _____.

Assume that all transactions are by check (i.e. consumers hold no currency) and banks loan out all available excess reserves.

c. Using the money multiplier from lecture, answer the following. If excess reserves in this economy increase by \$10 million, then the money supply will expand by \$_____ million. *(note on this last answer, you only need to put a number, rounded to the nearest whole unit. E.g., for an answer of \$100 million, you only write "100" in the blank space, since the \$ and "million" are already included.)*

2. Go to the Course Documents folder of Blackboard and find the file *FRBSF Discount Rate.pdf*. This file includes a table that reports every date when the Discount rate has changed between 1980 and now. Note that each entry shows when the discount rate was changed, and so the rate remained at that value until it was changed again. This file is **also** available at the link below: <http://www.frbsf.org/banking/discount-window/discount-rate>

When answering the questions below, please report your answer exactly as given in the table.

a. On March 25, 2017, the discount rate was _____.

b. Since February 15, 1980, the lowest value for the discount rate is _____.

c. Since February 15, 1980, the highest value for the discount rate is _____.

3. Go to the Federal Reserve's web site

<http://www.frbsf.org/education/activities/drecon/2001/0108.html>

Read the discussion about the required reserve ratio before answering the questions below. ***In answering these questions, you will use the simple money multiplier discussed in class.***

Find what the article says about the required reserve ratio, effective as of December 28, 2000. For simplicity, assume that all banks in the US economy are small, that each bank has only \$20 million in net transaction accounts (demand and checkable accounts).

Using the money multiplier from class and the required reserve ratio that would exist in this economy (given the assumption above), an increase in excess reserves of \$5 million would cause the money supply to expand by \$_____ million.

Note: round your answer to the nearest whole number

To answer the question below, go to Course Documents at Blackboard and, under HW 4 material, locate the handout entitled “Chapter 1: Overview of the Federal Reserve System”.

4. According to this article, the Federal Reserve’s duties fall into four general areas. Those four areas from the article are listed below. Which of the following is not one of those four general areas from the article:

- (a) conducting the nation's monetary policy by influencing the monetary and credit conditions in the economy in pursuit of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates
- (b) supervising and regulating banking institutions to ensure the safety and soundness of the nation's banking and financial system and to protect the credit rights of consumers
- (c) printing the currency and coins necessary for exchange to occur within the economy
- (d) maintaining the stability of the financial system and containing systemic risk that may arise in financial markets
- (e) providing financial services to depository institutions, the U.S. government, and foreign official institutions, including playing a major role in operating the nation's payments system

To answer the question below, go to Course Documents at Blackboard and, under HW 4 material, locate the handout entitled “Chapter 2: Monetary Policy and the Economy”.

5. According to this article, what are the three specific goals of Monetary Policy that were “spelled out in the Federal Reserve Act”. Select those goals from the list below.
(note that there is no partial credit for this problem, it’s either all correct or all wrong).

- (a) maximum employment
- (b) prompting annual increases in Potential GDP
- (c) stable prices
- (d) moderate long-term interest rates
- (e) printing currency and coinage
- (f) low short-term interest rates
- (g) supervising National banks and thrift institutions
- (h) enforcing Federal finance laws
- (i) keeping the money supply growth rate within a 3-5% target

To answer the question below, go to Course Documents at Blackboard and, under HW 4 material, locate the handout entitled “Chapter 2: Monetary Policy and the Economy”.

6. According to this article, when we consider how Monetary Policy affects the economy, how does the Fed manage to “exercise considerable control over the federal funds rate”?

- (a) by decreasing the availability of credit when the economy is in need of stimulus
- (b) by increasing or decreasing the printing of money
- (c) by setting market interest rates at various financial institutions
- (d) through appropriate changes in the discount rate during economic fluctuations
- (e) through influence over the supply of and demand for balances at the Reserve Banks
- (f) by fixing the exchange rate at a level that allows for smooth changes in the money supply

To answer the question below, go to Course Documents at Blackboard and, under HW 4 material, locate the handout entitled “Chapter 3: The Implementation of Monetary Policy”.

7. According to this article, the Federal Open Market Committee attempts to keep the federal funds rate at a specific target rate. Which of the following is a true statement regarding the FOMC’s ability to control the federal funds rate (i.e. funds rate):

- (a) the discount window is a poor complement to open market operations, making it more difficult for the Fed to use monetary policy in controlling the funds rate
- (b) reserve requirements make Monetary policy more difficult to implement and decrease the Fed’s ability to control the funds rate
- (c) the required reserve ratio is the most often-used tool for controlling the funds rate
- (d) the discount rate is the most often-used tool for controlling the funds rate
- (e) Open market operations are the most often-used tool for controlling the funds rate.

8. Go to the Course Documents section of Blackboard and under Homework #4 material, find the file entitled *Currency-Deposits.pdf*. Use the data in that file to calculate a currency-demand deposit ratio for the 3 different month/years below in order to answer this question below.

To calculate a currency-demand deposit ratio, divide the value for currency in a specific month/year by the value for demand deposits in the same month/year and then **round to the nearest tenth** (e.g. if the value for currency in August 1959 is 100 and for demand deposits it’s 200, then your answer would be 0.5).

- a. The currency-demand deposit ratio in August 1959 was _____
- b. The currency-demand deposit ratio in August 2006 was _____
- c. The currency-demand deposit ratio in August 2016 was _____