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# Why Labs, Quizzes, and Discussions?

## **1.** **Why are homework labs and chapter quizzes important?**

Each week you will complete a Flyx lab for each chapter and a quiz over all chapters covered that week. The labs and quiz for each week are both worth 20 points. The points you see in Flyx will be weighted to reflect this 20-point total. The labs and quizzes are due on the dates given in the Flyx Study Guide. Be sure to place this guide on your desktop or print it for easy reference. The purpose of the labs is to give you practice with the economic concepts. The purpose of the quizzes is to assess your understanding of the concepts. Be sure to read/watch the assigned chapter, articles, and videos before attempting the labs and quizzes. You have unlimited attempts for each lab until the due date. You have only one attempt for each quiz with no time limit so be sure you have finished the week’s work and are prepared for the quiz. In the Flyx Study Guide you will find a ‘Practice” link for each chapter section you will study. Use these practices for additional study. They do not affect your final Lab score.

### Learning Outcome

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| **Global Learning Outcomes** | **Course Outcome** | **Assessment Method** |
| Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. | Use the supply and demand model to determine the equilibrium price and quantity in a market. Describe how surpluses and shortages occur and the resulting price pressures. | Weekly Labs and Quizzes |

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## **2.** **Why are weekly discussions important?**

The best way to learn economics is to observe it in action and to apply your economic-reasoning skills to current situations. Each week you will participate in a class discussion forum pertaining to the week’s learning outcomes.

### Learning Outcome

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| **Global Learning Outcomes** | **Course Outcome** | **Assessment Method** |
| Present information effectively through written communication.  Demonstrate critical thinking ability.  Apply information literacy. | Use the supply and demand model to determine the equilibrium price and quantity in a market. Describe how surpluses and shortages occur and the resulting price pressures. | Discussion Forum |

### How are Weekly Discussions Graded?

The weekly discussions are worth a today of 20 points. Your main post answering the assigned question is worth a maximum of 12 points. You are also expected to make at least two posts (4 points each) to other students commenting on their work in a value-added manner. ‘Value-added’ means adding something of value to the discussion thread. This might be a clear explanation of why you agree or disagree or add some research or information from the text. Since this assignment meets college and course requirements for college-level writing, use proper grammar and spelling. Text-message and Twitter language and abbreviations are not acceptable. Be sure to use your word processor’s spell/grammar checker before submitting your work. A good practice is to develop your main post in MS Word (or equivalent), check it for spelling and grammar, and then paste it into a discussion thread.

The following rubric shows how they will be graded.

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| **Criteria**  **Main Post** | **6 points** | **5 points** | **4 points** | **≤ 3 points** |
| **Economic Reasoning** | Excellent presentation with clear explanation of issue and opinion. A high level of economic understanding is demonstrated. Excellent research sources validate writer’s position. | Above average presentation with clear explanation of issue and opinion. A reasonable level of economic understanding is demonstrated. Adequate research sources validate writer’s position. | Average presentation with adequate explanation of issue and opinion. Some economic understanding is demonstrated. Minimum required research sources validate writer’s position. | Below average presentation with weak or missing explanation of issue and opinion. Economic understanding is missing or difficult to identify. Research sources not cited and/or nonexistent. |
| **Spelling and Grammar** | Excellent college-level writing style. Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Above average writing style. Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Average writing style. Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Very poor writing style. Writer makes 5 or more errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. |

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| **Criteria**  **Reply Posts** | **4 points** | **3 points** | **2 points** | **≤ 1 points** |
| **Comments** | Comments add value to thread by expressing and supporting an opinion and/or bringing in new ideas or research. Excellent writing style as explained for main post. | Comments add value with opinions but do not bring any new ideas or research. Above average writing style. | Comments add minimal value by giving and supporting an opinion. No new ideas or research. Average writing style. | Comments do not add value. “Good job” or “I agree” is the essence of this post. Very poor writing style. |