UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB

B.S. 4 Years Program / Eighth Semester – Spring 2022

Paper: General Equilibrium and Welfare Economics Course Code: ECON-421 (CLASH)

Time: 3 Hrs. Marks: 60

THE ANSWERS MUST BE ATTEMPTED ON THE ANSWER SHEET PROVIDED

Q.1. Write short answers to the following questions. (6x5=30)

- i. What is wrong with partial equilibrium analysis?
- ii. How does the utility possibilities frontier relate to the contract curve?
- iii. What are the differences between positive and normative statements?
- iv. Explain the Bentham's and Bergson criterion of social welfare
- v. Differentiate between production efficiency and product mix efficiency?
- vi. Differentiate between Marginal Rate of Technical Substitution (MRTS) and Marginal Rate of Substitution (MRS).

Write detailed answers to the following questions.

- Q2. a) Market economies are inherently inequitable, and there is little a government can do to change this. True or False? Explain
 - b) "Because all points on a contract curve are efficient, they are all equally desirable from a social point of view." Do you agree with this statement? Explain. (5+5)
- Q3. a) Explain the Theory of the Second Best.
 - b) Explain why goods will not be distributed efficiently among consumers if the Marginal Rate of Transformation (MRT) is not equal to the consumers' Marginal Rate of Substitution (MRS). (5+5)
- Q4. a) What factors determine whether a particular economic issue can be adequately analyzed by using a partial rather than a general equilibrium approach?
 - b) Suppose the only two meat dishes consumed in the United States are fish and beef. What are the likely effects in these markets of a rumor of a major water pollution problem discovered in the commercial fishing waters? Assume that production resources cannot be shifted between sectors. (5+5)



Roll No.