

FIRMS AND DECISIONS (PARTS 1 & 2)

Question 1

- a. Explain how firms maximise profits.
- b. Explain why firms can sometimes aim to revenue maximise.
- c. Explain what is meant by profit satisficing.

Imagine that you are the owner of an ice-cream shop like Baskin Robbins.

- a. Using an example in the context above, explain what fixed cost is.
- b. Using an example, explain what variable cost is.

- c. Which of the following is likely to be fixed costs or variable costs for a chocolate factory over the course of a month?

Example	Fixed or Variable costs
Overtime pay	
Wear and tear on wrapping machines.	
Interest on a mortgage for the factory: the rate of interest rises over the course of the month.	

- d. Distinguish between internal and external economies of scale.

- e. For each of the following examples,
 f. State if the economies of scale is internal or external
 g. Identify the type of internal/external economies of scale
 h. Identify how a firm's LRAC would be affected

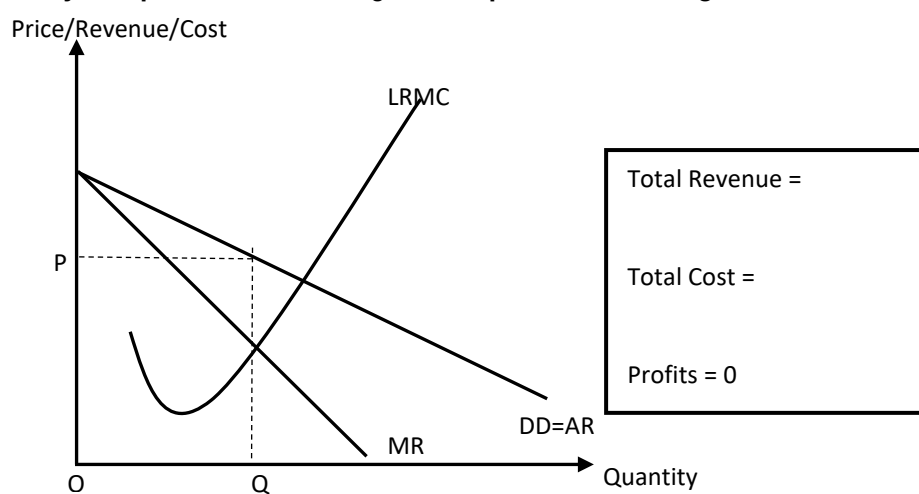
Example	State if internal / external EOS	Identify the type / reason of EOS	Changes to LRAC:
Listed companies can finance their operations through public issue of shares.			
A wafer fab producer benefits from R&D findings by leading players in the industry.			
Firms employ specialists to improve the efficiency of different stages of production.			

Diagram drawing practices

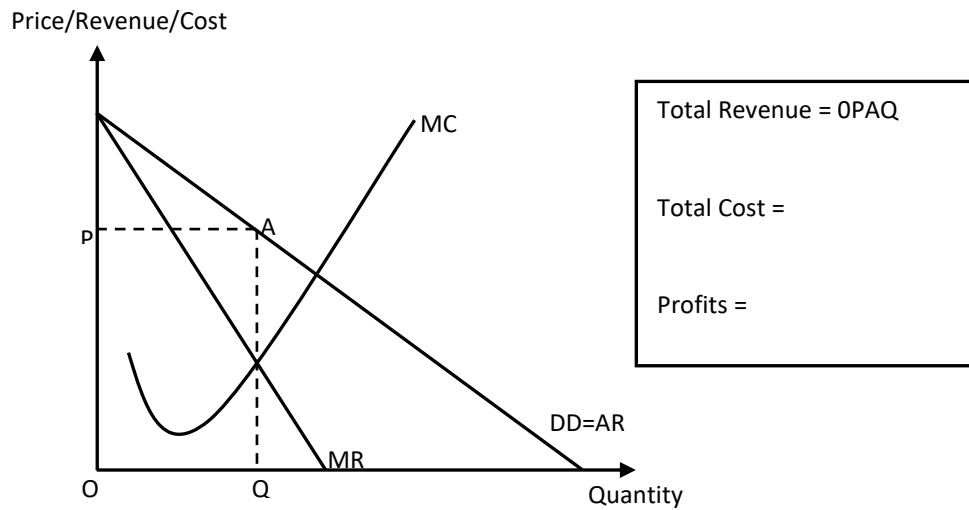
- i. With the aid of appropriate diagrams, illustrate how the profit maximising equilibrium of a **PC firm** and that of a **monopolist** is derived.

Profit maximising equilibrium of PC firm	Profit maximising equilibrium of Monopolist

- j. Complete the diagram below by drawing in the **LRAC** to illustrate the long run equilibrium of a **monopolistically competitive firm** making **normal profits in the long run**.



- k. Complete the diagram below by drawing in the **LRAC** to illustrate the long run equilibrium of an **oligopoly** firm making **supernormal profits in the long run**.



- l. With respect to the diagram below, illustrate the **LRAC** and **LRMC** of a **natural monopoly** and determine the **profit maximising equilibrium** of the natural monopoly.

