

**Assignment #1 Economics course 606**  
**Ingredient list and unit costs**

Activity	Unit	Amount of units	Cost per unit	Multiplier		Fixed Cost -- Development		Fixed Cost -- Maintenance		Variable Cost	
				Units	Students	Fixed Cost	# Years	Fixed Cost	# Years		# Years
<i>Development</i>											
1 Course manager	salary per annum	¼ of full-time post p.a. over three years of deve	\$42,000.00	0.25		\$31,500.00	3				
2 Author											
2a Study guide	study guide = 50 pages	seven study guides	\$1,800.00	7		\$12,600.00	1				
2b Course reader	course reader = 200 pages	one reader	\$7,500.00	1		\$7,500.00	1				
3 Editing & design	study guide = 50 pages	Eleven	\$6,800.00	11		\$74,800.00	1				
4 Secretarial support	salary per annum	1/8 of full-time post p.a. over three years of dev	\$22,600.00	0.125		\$8,475.00	3				
5 Copyright clearance	study guide = 50 pages	eleven	\$2,400.00	11		\$26,400.00	1				
6 Development of assignments	assignment	three	\$95.00	3		\$285.00	1				
<i>Maintenance</i>											
7 Author	unit of 50 pp (study guide)	three	\$750.00	3				\$2,250.00	1		
8 Editing & design	unit of 50 pp	three	\$6,800.00	3				\$20,400.00	1		
<i>Student support</i>											
9 Marking of assignment	assignment	three assignments per student	\$21.00	3	250					\$126,000.00	8
10 Student related fees	student	one student	\$24.00	1	250					\$48,000.00	8
11 Tuition	hour per student	fifteen tuition hours per student	\$2.00	15	250					\$60,000.00	8
<i>Production</i>											
12 Production of study guide	study guide	seven study guides	\$1.80	7	250					\$25,200.00	8
13 Production of assignment	assignment	three assignments	\$1.35	3	250					\$8,100.00	8
14 Production of course reader	reader	one reader	\$6.00	1	250					\$12,000.00	8
15 Packaging and posting	package	three mailings	\$6.00	3	250					\$36,000.00	8
<i>Income</i>											
16 Fee per student	student	one student	\$370.00	1	250					\$740,000.00	8
<b>Total Fixed Costs of Development</b>						<u>\$161,560.00</u>					
<b>Total Annual Fixed Costs of Development Per Student</b>						<u>\$80.78</u>					
<b>Total Fixed Costs of Maintenance</b>								<u>\$22,650.00</u>			
<b>Total Annual Fixed Costs of Maintenance Per Student</b>								<u>\$22.65</u>			
<b>Total Variable Costs</b>										<u>\$315,300.00</u>	
<b>Total Annual Variable Costs</b>										<u>\$39,412.50</u>	
<b>Total Annual Variable Costs Per Student</b>										<u>\$157.65</u>	

**Assignment #1 Economics course 606**  
 You may use the following format for your cost analysis

Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Total
No of students	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	2,000
Accumulated no of students	250	500	750	1,000	1,250	1,500	1,750	2,000	9,000
Cash flow	Aggregate fixed costs of development				Aggregate fixed cost of maintenance				
FD Depreciated (over 8 years)	\$161,560	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$161,560
FM Depreciated (over 4 years)	\$22,650				\$5,663	\$5,663	\$5,663	\$5,663	\$22,650
<b>Fixed Costs Depreciated</b>	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$20,195	\$25,858	\$25,858	\$25,858	\$25,858	\$184,210
FD Annualized at 10% over 8 years	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$242,268
FM Annualized at 10% over 4 years					\$7,145	\$7,145	\$7,145	\$7,145	\$28,582
<b>Fixed Costs Annualized</b>	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$30,283	\$37,429	\$37,429	\$37,429	\$37,429	\$270,849
	F \$270,849								
	V \$158								
AC= F/s+V (For F use Total Annualized Fixed Costs; only s varies)	\$1,241	\$699	\$519	\$428	\$374	\$338	\$312	\$293	\$188
<b>TC =F + V x s (For F use Total Annualized Fixed Costs; only s varies )</b>	\$310,262	\$349,674	\$389,087	\$428,499	\$467,912	\$507,324	\$546,737	\$586,149	\$586,149
Income per year	\$370	\$92,500	\$92,500	\$92,500	\$92,500	\$92,500	\$92,500	\$92,500	\$740,000
Accumulated income per year	\$92,500	\$185,000	\$277,500	\$370,000	\$462,500	\$555,000	\$647,500	\$740,000	

**Note:**

F=Fixed Cost  
 FD=Fixed Costs of Development  
 FM=Fixed costs of Maintenance  
 AC= Average Cost  
 TC=Total Cost

You are expected to use in line 11 and 12 for F use Total Annualized Fixed Costs (line 10: under Total) and for s use always accumulated student numbers, i.e. numbers in line 3.

The grey shaded area indicates where your inputs are expected.

In line 13 the value in the last cell must equal the value of line 14 in year 8.

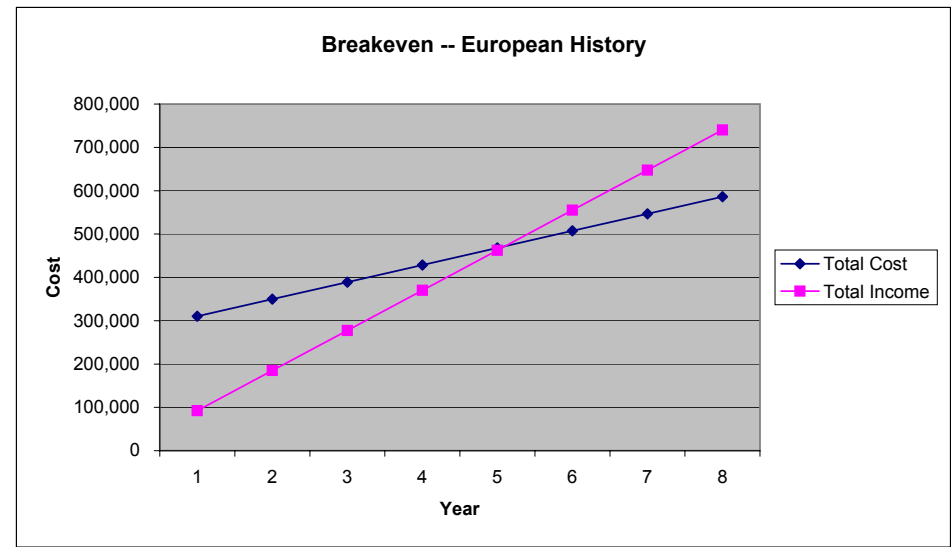
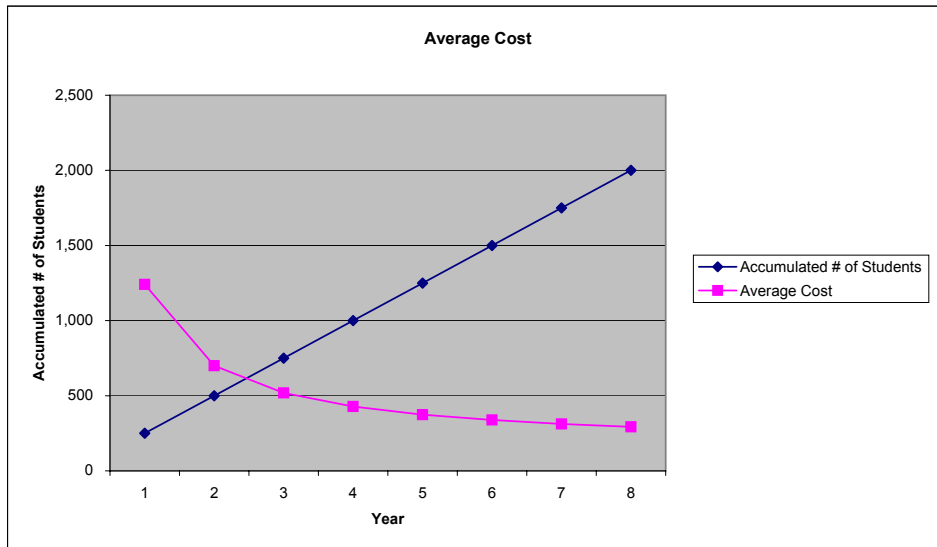
Annualization --Fixed Costs of Development			
Input	r	rate	10%
Input	n	years	8
Input	C	amount	\$161,560
	$(1+r)^n$	(Intermediate value)	2.1436
	a(r,n)	Annualization factor	0.1874
<b>Result</b>	$C \cdot a(r,n)$	Annualized amount	\$30,283

Annualization --Fixed Costs of Maintenance			
Input	r	rate	10%
Input	n	years	4
Input	C	amount	\$22,650
	$(1+r)^n$	(Intermediate v)	1.4641
	a(r,n)	Annualization f	0.3155
<b>Result</b>	$C \cdot a(r,n)$	Annualized an	\$7,145

**Assignment #1 Economics course 606**  
 In order to generate the graph you may use the following format

Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
No of students	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
X-Axis : Accumulated no of students (s)	250	500	750	1,000	1,250	1,500	1,750	2,000
Y-Axis AC=(F/s)+V	1,241	699	519	428	374	338	312	293
TC = F+Vxs	310,262	349,674	389,087	428,499	467,912	507,324	546,737	586,149
I= SF*s	92,500	185,000	277,500	370,000	462,500	555,000	647,500	740,000

Note:  
 Take F = FD+FM



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Assignment 1, Cost Analysis

1 Classify the different cost items -- see extension of chart. Fixed costs defined (Rumble, 1997, p. 23); variable costs defined (Rumble, 1997, p. 24). This exercise does not explore semi-variable costs (Rumble, 1997, p. 24) because there is no projected increase in activity across the life of the course.

2 Calculate aggregate FD and FM -- see below chart. Formulas within cells requiring calculations.

3 Calculate depreciation rate -- see "Format of Table." Depreciation calculated on life of course, excluding years of development during which "development" costs incurred, in accordance with Rumble (1997), p. 48. Rumble (p. 45) states the major problem with estimating depreciation is that the calculation is dependent upon an estimated useful life of the building or equipment. Depreciation does treat the costs as an asset of the organization and spreads the cost equally across the anticipated life of the asset. Through depreciation, the revenue realized from the asset is matched to the cost, and each year's financial statements may reflect a truer picture of cost relative to revenue.

4 Annualize FD and FM -- see "Format of Table" and annualization calculations below table.

Reasons for and against annualization: For: It looks at the cost of acquiring an asset from the standpoint of its future value and at the value of its services rendered, neither of which are dependent upon the age of any assets used in the production of this particular service. Against: (1) It is necessary to distinguish between depreciation and opportunity cost of capital (Eicher as quoted in Rumble (1997), p. 47). An asset should be depreciated to reflect its anticipated useful life and to match that cost against revenues earned during its useful life. (2) It is not clear that opportunity cost should be included in the calculation (Eicher as quoted in Rumble, p. 47). Public projects, in particular, may not have options on how to invest funds -- bond funds or grants are designated for specific purposes, and it should not be an option for the receiving organization to invest the funds in some other asset.

5 Calculate the equation of total costs -- see "Format of Table," line 12 (Rumble, 1997, p. 22)

6 Calculate the equation of average costs -- see "Format of Table," line 11 (Rumble, 1997, p. 35)

7 Calculate the break-even point -- see "Graph," "Breakeven--European History" (Rumble, 1997, p. 37)

8 Generate the graph of average costs -- see "Graph," "Average Costs" (Rumble, 1997, p. 35)

9 Summarize why ... DE may be more cost-efficient -- Efficiency is defined as "the ratio of output to input. A system is cost efficient if, relative to another system, its outputs cost less per unit of input" (Rumble, 1997, p. 120). DE can operate without the need for full-time, tenure-track faculty or for extensive classroom and library facilities. DE uses written text (whether on paper or on-line) for transmission of material to be learned and written exams in place of orals (Rumble, pp. 1-2). DE "augment(s) ... human efforts by technology" (Jamison et al, as quoted in Rumble, p. 2). However, comparisons must be made with full cost information available, and the efficiencies of DE will vary depending upon the system of transmission used. DE provides an option for learning that gives more choice to individual learners -- learners may continue in full-time employment and schedule times for studying within their responsibilities to family, community, and employer, and learners may opt for the best program available rather than whatever is offered within a local area after working hours (Rumble, p. 2). One other consideration when discussing cost-efficiency is that neither costs borne by the learner nor benefits received "free" by the organization (such as access to a state-owned broadcasting system) may be factored into the equation (Rumble, p. 5). Even though teachers and learners are remote in location or time, the distinguishing feature of DE is the contact with a tutor throughout the learning process (Rumble, p. 4).