

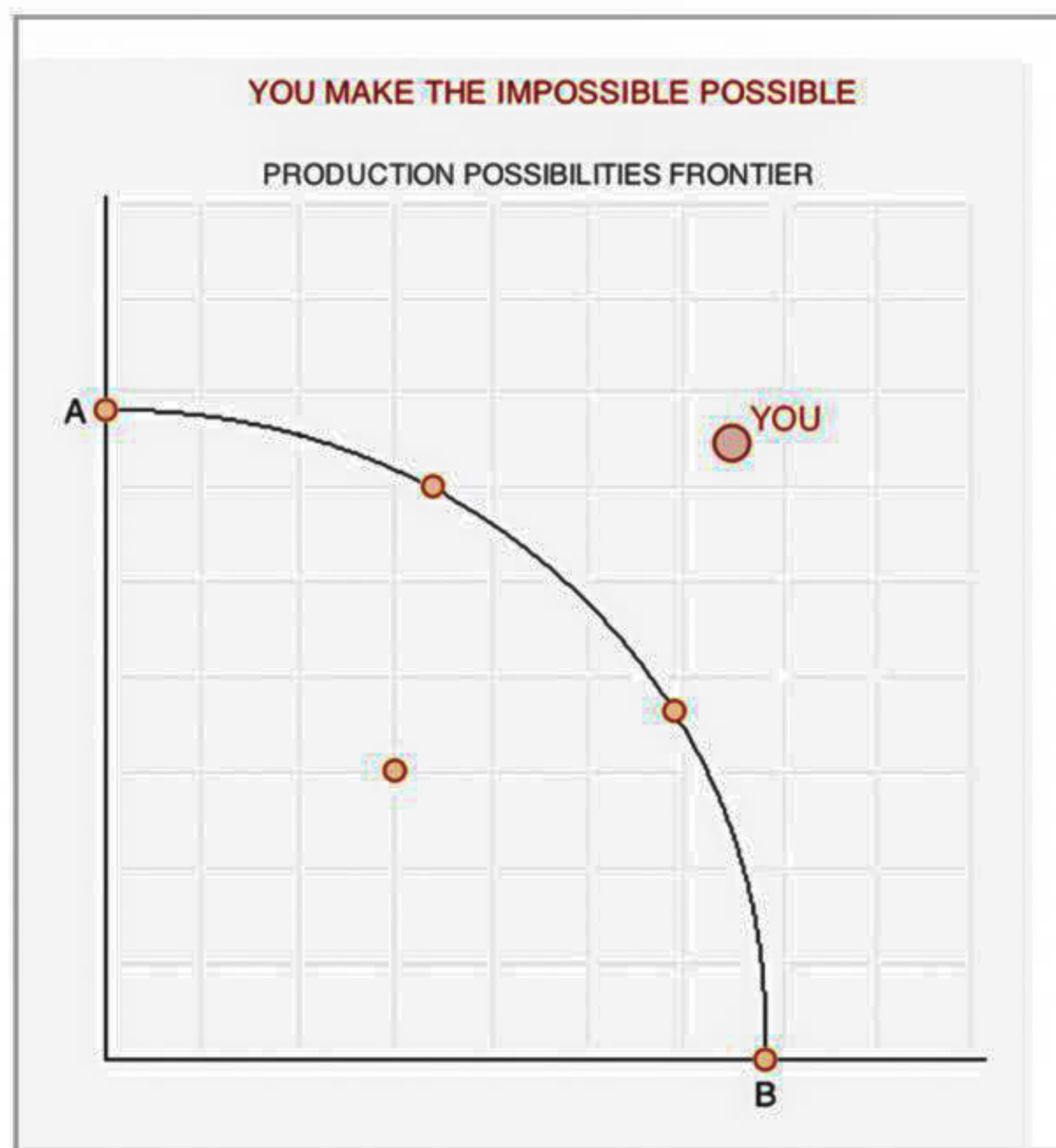
The Economics of Taking Classes with Your Significant Other

FATIMAH AKHTAR

When you stumble through the threshold of high school into university, you're faced with many new dilemmas. But perhaps the most important could be the one involving whether to take all your classes with your significant other or not. Now if you're not an Economics student, like myself, you've probably had these Economics major tell you how they're much better at making these choices because they know what an "opportunity cost" is, or not. Regardless, we will divulge into what would be the economics of you doing your classes with your significant other (S.O.).

The Profit: Since this person is your S.O., I assume you must really like this person. If you don't actually, then I would urge you reconsider your life choices. The upside (or in this case the profit) would be the prospect of seeing him all the time. You'll have one person guaranteed who'd save a seat for you. Vouch for you when you skip a class. Also, share his notes with you. To top it all off, if the teacher is terrible, bearing the storm together will bring you two even closer.

The Loss: You can never not-see this person. The second you walk into your university you see your S.O. There he is, with his books in his hands, ready for a class



with you. You lose track of what it means to have space. Are you an 'individual' person? You ask yourself as you

wake up screaming at night, drenched in sweat having dreamt of you two with the same body, just two heads. This will especially be worse during fights when you would need that space to figure your issues out. And if your S.O. is competitive, watch him crumble if you ever get better grades than he does. Then spend the next hours consoling him instead of being happy about your own grades.

The Trade-off: Although you might often forget when you're in a relationship, you still do have friends outside of your S.O. When you're taking classes with him, you're missing out on spending time with your other friends. On the other hand, if your S.O. and you have different interests, taking different classes would mean being able to explore those interests. For instance, you might want to minor in something, like Anthropology, while your S.O. might not want to minor at all. By taking all your classes together, you might just be making each other miserable.

Ultimately, whether you want to take all your classes together or not is directly on you. But a balance of some together, and some not seems like a better mix. It's on you to decide whether it's economically profitable or not. This is all I can tell you from the one Economics class that I did take.

How to Survive the First Week of School

MASHIYAT NAYEEM

You know miracles exist when you're hastily stuffing your backpacks and tediously ironing your uniform but your phone beeps and a text announces that school is closed until further notice. Now "until further notice" might sound like infinity as you pump your fists in the air but one fine day you will have to drag yourself to school. Surviving the first week is the hardest, after all the late-nighters you have been pulling. So here is fool-proof guide to surviving your first week in school.

Pack a pillow

Let's face it: school feels tedious as it is because of crawling out of your bed at 7 am. A good way to make up for the lost slumber is to sleep in the car. If you can't, then take a pillow to school. Seriously, it's not just in cartoons; stuff a pillow in your backpack and rest your head on the backpack. Nobody shall know.

Put on some music

What better way to start your day than to get pumped with some loud happy music? Blast your jams while you get ready, an activity which will make you far from cheerful and probably not help you to catch the much coveted Zzzs. So make another playlist to lull you to sleep. This will come in handy when you need a quick shut-eye between classes, because one must adjust their sleep schedule when school starts.

Choosing seats

I cannot stress the importance of this enough: choose your seat wisely. Almost all the time, the seat you occupy on the first day becomes your permanent seat for the rest of the year. For each class remember to

scan the room before randomly flopping down onto a desk, because: back row + possibly a window to look out through + board visibility + good angle for talking/sleeping/playing games = the perfect seat.

New supplies

If you're like me and you hoard stationeries and literally stare at them for no good reason, then this one's for you. Get giddy about fresh new books and stationeries and how you plan to use them. I assure you it helps ease the pain of getting separated from your bed. Even if you

have hand-me-downs it's okay, get excited about learning instead.

Eat something

Don't skip breakfast. Never. Ever. Also, instead of floating through the school grounds like a zombie during lunch break like your heart wants to do, eat something to give you energy, preferably chocolate because it is a cure-all (isn't Harry Potter enough proof?)

Move it

Don't let school be 6 hours of having your butt glued to the chair. Move around,

walk everywhere, get your body flexible. Because trust me, you're going to need practice when your bags get heavy and you have to literally drag it from class to class.

Oh, and don't forget to catch up on the studying.

Mashiyat Nayeem has a genuine phobia of onions and identifies as a chocolate connoisseur. She spends her free time making relatable memes or hunting down the next great book. Check them out at mashiyat.nayeem@gmail.com

