

Topic 2 экономика как наука и искусство мысли

the economic way of reasoning

* scarcity & choice

Because resources (time, money, labor)
are limited people must make choices

Every choice involves a trade-off giving
up one thing to get another

* opportunity cost

the true cost of any decision is the
value of the next best alternative you
give up

not just monetary cost - includes time
missed opportunities

* Rational Behavior

individuals are assumed to act rationally
meaning they try to maximize their
satisfaction or benefit given their
constraints.

Rational $\neq$ selfish it means making
decisions that best serve your own
evaluated interests

* marginal Analysis

- the cornerstone of economic decision making.
- you should do more of something only if the marginal (extra) benefit $>$ marginal (extra) cost.
- Helps optimize decisions: should I study one more hour? only if the benefit (better grade) outweighs the cost (Lost sleep or leisure)

Economic models & theories

simplified representations of reality used to explain or predict economic behavior

Based on assumptions (firms maximize profit consumers maximize satisfaction)
use ceteris paribus (all else equal) to isolate the effect of one variable

Example model: if population grows $\rightarrow$ apartment rents rise (assuming no new housing is built)

* Economic variables

- measurable factors that can change:

prices unemployment production wages, etc

- models show how changes in one variable affect others.

Economic reasoning helps us:

understand individual and market behavior

predict responses to policy changes (taxes subsidies)

make better personal and professional decisions

using cost-benefit Logic