

Edexcel Economics AS-level

Unit 1: Markets in Action

Topic 3: Supply

3.1 The Supply curve

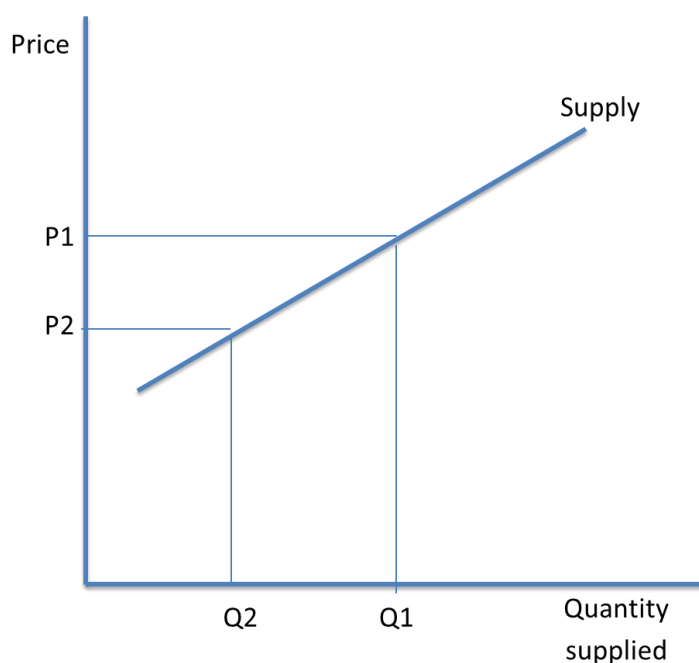
Notes




 Supply curves are upward sloping because:

- If price increases, it is more profitable for firms to supply the good, so supply increases.
- High prices encourage new firms to enter the market, because it seems profitable, so supply increases.
- With larger outputs, firm's costs increase, so they need to charge a higher price to cover the costs.

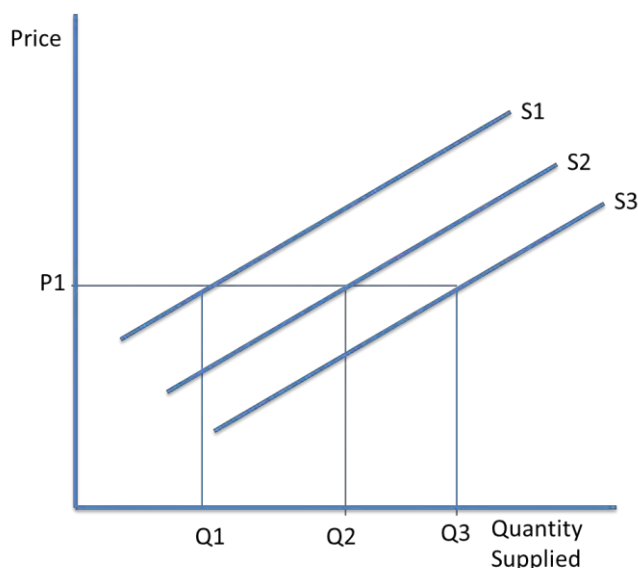
 **Movements along the supply curve:**





-  At price P1, a quantity of Q1 is supplied. At the lower price of P2, Q2 is supplied. This is a **contraction** of supply. If price increases from P2 to P1, QS increases from Q2 to Q1. This is an **expansion** of supply. Only changes in price will cause these movements along the supply curve. This is based on the theory of the **profit motive**. Firms are driven by the desire to make large profits.



Shifting the supply curve:



 Price changes do not shift the supply curve. A shift from S1 to S2 is an outward shift in supply, so a larger quantity of goods is supplied at the market price of P1. A shift from S3 to S1 is an inward shift in supply. More goods are supplied at the market price of P1.

 The factors that shift the supply curve can be remembered using the mnemonic PINTSWC:

- **P- Productivity.** Higher productivity causes an outward shift in supply, because average costs for the firm fall.
- **I- Indirect taxes.** Inward shift in supply.
- **N- Number of firms.** The more firms there are, the larger the supply.
- **T- Technology.** More advanced the technology causes an outward shift in supply.
- **S- Subsidies.** Subsidies cause an outward shift in supply.
- **W- Weather.** This is particularly for agricultural produce. Favourable conditions will increase supply.
- **C- Costs of production.** If costs of production fall, the firm can afford to supply more. If costs rise, such as with higher wages, there will be an inward shift in supply.
- Also, depreciation in the exchange rate will increase the cost of imports, which will cause an inward shift in supply.

