## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY MASTER'S COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Answer ONLY the specified number of questions from the options provided in each section. Do not answer more than the required number of questions. Each section takes one hour.
- 2. Your answers must be on the paper provided. No more than one answer per page. Do not answer two questions on the same sheet of paper.
- 3. If you use more than one sheet of paper for a question, write "Page 1 of 2" and "Page 2 of 2."
- 4. Write ONLY on one side of each sheet. Use only pen. Answers in pencil will be disqualified.
- 5. Write ----- END ----- at the end of each answer.
- 6. Write your exam identification number in the upper right-hand corner of each sheet of paper.
- 7. Write the question number in the upper right-hand corner of each sheet of paper.

### Section 1: Microeconomic Theory—Answer Any Two Questions.

1A. (Econ 201 – Chiu) Nathan's preferences for sauce  $(x_s)$  and pasta  $(x_p)$  are described by the utility function  $U(x_s, x_p) = \min(x_s, x_p)$ . He has an income of M = 6, and the price at the store for a unit of pasta is  $p_p = 1$  and the price for a unit of sauce is  $p_s = 2$ .

a) What is the maximum amount of utility Nathan can derive given this scenario?b) Suppose there is a promotion where if you buy 2 units of sauce you get 1 unit of sauce free. Does this change the maximum amount of utility Nathan derives? Explain why or why not.

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1B. (Econ 201 – Hajikhameneh) Find and describe the Bayesian–Nash equilibrium in the following game. There are two players in this game; Player 1 and 2. The top and bottom payoffs belong to Player 1 and Player 2, respectively.



1C. (Econ 104)

a) A firm's production function is given by

$$Q = KL$$

Unit capital and labor costs are \$2 and \$1 respectively. Use Langrage multiplier to find the maximum level of output if the total cost of capital and labor is \$6.

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- b) Repeat part (a) when the total cost constraint is changed to \$7.
- c) Estimate the change in the optimal value of Q if the total cost constraint is changed to \$7.
- d) Verify that the value of the Lagrange multiplier in part (a) is approximately the same as the change in the optimal value of Q when the right-hand side of the constraint is increased by one unit.

(over)