

# ELASTICITY

- IDEA

- Definition: How changes in prices affect the Quantity Demanded

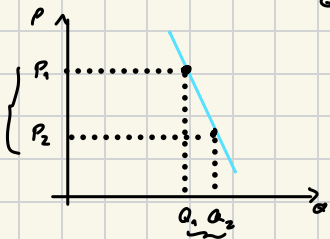
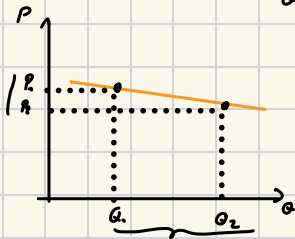
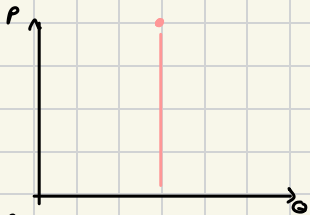
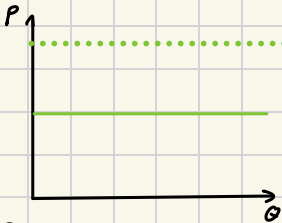
- Inelastic: Medicine  $\Rightarrow$  We need to buy anyway  
So the quantity does not change with higher prices

- Elastic: Dark chocolate  $\Rightarrow$  If prices for Dark chocolate increase, I can consume other types of chocolate so I am going to consume less chocolate

- Why the name is elastic?

Rubber band X Bottle

• Graphically



• Math

$$-\% \Delta Q = \frac{Q_2 - Q_1}{Q_1}$$

$$\% \Delta P = \frac{P_2 - P_1}{P_1}$$

- Price Elasticity of the Demand

Negative



$$\frac{\% \Delta Q}{\% \Delta P}$$

$|E| > 1$  Elastic

$|E| = 1$  unitary

$|E| < 1$  Inelastic

- Elasticity  $\neq$  Slope

- Midpoint:  $Q_1$  for  $\frac{Q_2 + Q_1}{2}$ ,  $P_1$  for  $\frac{P_2 + P_1}{2}$

- What Influences Elasticities

- Substitute Goods

↑ substitutes    ↑ Elastic

- \* Substitutes for Dark chocolate: Sweet chocolate, Peanut butter chocolate ...

- \* Substitutes for medicine: None

- \* Specific brands

- \* Necessities

- \* Time

## Other Elasticities

- Cross-price Elasticity:  $\frac{\% \Delta Q_1}{\% \Delta P_2}$

$> 0$ :  $\uparrow P_2 \Rightarrow \uparrow Q_1 \Rightarrow$  Substitutes

$< 0$ :  $\uparrow P_2 \Rightarrow \downarrow Q_1 \Rightarrow$  Complements

- Income Elasticity of the Demand:  $\frac{\% \Delta Q}{\% \Delta I}$

$> 0$ :  $\uparrow I \Rightarrow \uparrow Q \Rightarrow$  Normal good

$< 0$ :  $\uparrow I \Rightarrow \downarrow Q \Rightarrow$  Inferior good

- Price Elasticity of the Supply:  $\frac{\% \Delta Q^S}{\% \Delta P}$

## MODULE 5 Q 2

Moment 1:  $Q_1 = 10$        $P_1 = 1$

Moment 2:  $Q_2 = 30$        $P_2 = 2$

Midpoint: Price:  $\frac{2+1}{2} = 1.5$

Quantity:  $\frac{40}{2} = 20$

Price elasticity of the supply:

$$\frac{\frac{30-10}{20}}{\frac{1-2}{1.5}}$$

$$-\frac{1}{1.5} = -1.5$$

## Module 5 Q3

$$\text{Moment 1: } P_1 = 6 \quad Q_1 = 20 - 0.5 \cdot 6 = 17$$

$$\text{Moment 2: } P_2 = 4 \quad Q_2 = 20 - 0.5 \cdot 4 = 18$$

$$\text{Midpoint: } P: \frac{6+4}{2} = 5 \quad Q: \frac{17+18}{2} = \frac{35}{2}$$

$$\text{Elasticity: } \left( \frac{\frac{18-17}{\frac{35}{2}}}{\frac{4-6}{5}} \right) = \frac{\frac{2}{35}}{\frac{-2}{5}} = \frac{2}{35} \cdot \frac{5}{-2} = \frac{1}{7}$$

Practic

Q3

Q5

Q19