

MATH 1000 READING CHECK 2

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Instructor: Alex Rice

Name:

These questions concern Chapter 1 of *How Not to Be Wrong* by Jordan Ellenberg, titled “Less Like Sweden”

- (1) Which sentence best summarizes the theme of this chapter?
 - a) Not all curves are lines.
 - b) Sweden is the best.
 - c) There are no perfect countries.
- (2) How does Jordan summarize “nonlinear thinking”?
 - a) If some is good, more is better.
 - b) Small changes can lead to big consequences.
 - c) Which way you should go depends on where you are.
- (3) What is the “Laffer curve”?
 - a) A curve that attempts to show how government revenue relates to taxation rate.
 - b) A curve that attempts to show how a family’s quality of life relates to household income.
 - c) A curve that attempts to show how a nation’s average life expectancy relates to Gross National Product.

- (4) Is the Laffer curve a straight line?
- a) Yes, definitely.
 - b) That depends on many factors relating to governmental policy.
 - c) No, definitely not.
- (5) Which of the following most accurately describes the rate at which the highest income bracket has been taxed by the federal government in the United States?
- a) It has remained roughly constant, around 50%, since World War I.
 - b) It was about 90% during World War II, about 70% when Ronald Reagan took office, and is now about 35%.
 - c) The rate has gradually increased from about 15% in 1900 to the current rate of about 35%.
- (6) What was the change in total federal government tax revenue between 1980 and 1984, after the Reagan Administration's tax cuts?
- a) Decrease
 - b) Increase
 - c) About the same