

The economics of “Castaway”



1) Briefly explain the following economic concepts and how they relate to scenes or topics in the movie:

a) “goods”

b) consumer good

c) producer good

d) capital good

e) specialization

f) saving and investment

g) labor and leisure

h) opportunity cost

i) scarcity

2) What resources are portrayed as “scarce” in the film?

a) before he lands on the island

b) when he’s on the island

c) once he’s back

- 3) "Let's not commit the sin of turning our back of time."
 - a. How does Chuck live by this?
 - b. How does he not?
 - c. How does "time" help him on the island?
 - d. How important is it, time? In what ways are it important?
- 4) What are the most important things Chuck thinks he needs before the crash?
- 5) What things does Chuck "need" on the island?
 - a) What things might Chuck "want" on the island? (list 5)
 - b) Identify the difference between "needs" and "wants".
 - c) Why is knowing the difference important?
- 6) What life lessons does Chuck learn from trying to make a fire?
- 7) Why was there no soundtrack while Chuck was on the island?
- 8) "I had power over nothing. And that's when this feeling came over me like a warm blanket. I knew, somehow, that I had to stay alive. Somehow. I had to keep breathing. Even though there was no reason to hope."
What is the message, the lesson?

- 9) "I gotta keep breathing. Because tomorrow the sun will rise. Who knows what the tide could bring?"
- a) What were all the things that the "tide" brought in throughout the movie?

 - b) What is the message, the lesson?
- 10) Why is Wilson important to him?
- a) Describe Chuck's emotional response when he loses hWilson?

 - b) What if he never had Wilson or anything like him?

 - c) What is the message, the lesson?
- 11) Who or what literally saves Chuck?
- a) What is the message, the lesson?
- 12) Chuck gives the pocket watch back to Kelly, but not the picture of her in it. What is the message, the lesson?
- 13) "I should have never have gotten on the plane. I should have never gotten out of the car."
- a) Does Chuck really have a choice in the matter? Doesn't he have to go to work?

 - b) What is the message, the lesson?

14) "Life isn't fair" Do Kelly and Chuck make the right decision? Evaluate the situation they are in.

15) Why does "this package save his life"? How does this apply to your life?

16) In the end, how would Chuck critique his life before the crash?

17) At the end of the movie, Chuck stands, pondering at an intersection, a crossroads.
What is the message, the lesson?

18) How are we all like castaways?

19) What lessons did you learn from the movie that you could apply to your life?