

Real World Graduation: Question 13

Edward D. Duvall
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Question 13

A sports fan (father of three young children) is in a clothing store and finds a jersey from his favorite major league sports team in his size that is on sale at \$75.00. It normally sells for \$100.00 (i.e., the \$75 represents 25% off regular price). The jersey is a genuine one, authorized by the major league franchise (not an imitation). Why is this jersey a good deal?

- a) The sports fan can show his support for the team whenever he wears it.
- b) If he wears it to a game, the players will appreciate that he is one of their fans.
- c) He can use it to teach his children the value of teamwork.
- d) The jersey may become a valuable collectible in the future.
- e) Some combination of all of the above.

Answer to Question 13

This is a trick question. All of the answers are wrong.

This is a bad deal, because he is actually buying a \$10 jersey with a \$65 logo, which is the licensing fee paid to either the league, the franchise, or the owner of the franchise.

Answer a) is wrong because a team performs as well as it does depending on the abilities of the players and coaches, regardless of how many people support it or wear their licensed jerseys.

Answer b) is wrong because the players, all of whom make much more than the average person, are too busy laughing at people paying \$75 or \$100 for a jersey. If anything, their laughter would cause them to play worse.

Answer c) is wrong because a jersey does not teach team work per se; that has to be done by example.

Answer d) is wrong because it can happen only 100 years from now, assuming the jersey in question has never been worn, and is one of very few surviving at that time (not likely).

If this father wanted to spend the \$75 on something important, a better choice would be to spend the day with the kids, buy them a few small toys, and buy a round of ice cream.