

YouTube Title: "Jim Carrey, Fun With Dick And Jane – job interview"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOaPpbqRrcM>

Video Length: 97 seconds

Chapter 6: Unemployment, p. 113

Topic: Measuring Unemployment, p. 116

Key Terms: Business cycle, labor force, unemployment, discouraged worker

Learning Objective 1: How unemployment is measured.

Summary:

This clip is a 2005 remake of *Fun With Dick and Jane* featuring Jim Carrey and Tea Leoni. Dick (Carrey) is fighting his way to a job interview to pull himself out of an ENRON-like scandal. He and the other unemployed job candidates realize how many people are qualified for the job and will stop at nothing to get there first.

Economic Application:

Dick (Jim Carrey) is living in a period where there is a descent from a peak to a trough in the business cycle. A surplus of labor exists, and even highly skilled workers have a hard time finding a job in their field. He and other nameless "suits" mechanically fight their way to an interview for a job opening to try to claw out of the quagmire of cyclical unemployment. At the end of the clip, we see these two men give up the active job search and move into "discouraged workers" classification.

Multiple-Choice Question:

Which of the following is NOT an outcome of a decline in the business cycle?

- a) An increase in cyclical unemployment
- b) An increase in real GDP
- c) A surplus of labor
- d) Social problems, such as despair, crime, and ill health
- e) All of the above are outcomes.

Discussion Question:

What is likely to have caused the cyclical unemployment faced by Dick and his colleagues?