

## Lesson 3.3 Quiz: Smart Contracts and Programmable Finance

### Module 3: The Trust Problem

Prof. Dr. Joerg Osterrieder

Digital Finance — BSc Course (v2026.05)

## Q1: Smart Contract Definition

Which statement **best** describes a smart contract?

- A A database query that retrieves financial data from a centralized server
- B A legal agreement signed electronically via DocuSign
- C A self-executing program stored on a blockchain that runs when predetermined conditions are met
- D An AI system that negotiates contract terms between two parties

## Q1: Smart Contract Definition

Which statement **best** describes a smart contract?

- A A database query that retrieves financial data from a centralized server
- B A legal agreement signed electronically via DocuSign
- C A self-executing program stored on a blockchain that runs when predetermined conditions are met
- D An AI system that negotiates contract terms between two parties

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*

What is the primary purpose of the Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM)?

- A To store user passwords and private keys securely
- B To provide a deterministic execution environment for smart contract bytecode on every node
- C To convert Solidity code into JavaScript for web browsers
- D To mine new Ethereum tokens using Proof of Work

What is the primary purpose of the Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM)?

- A To store user passwords and private keys securely
- B To provide a deterministic execution environment for smart contract bytecode on every node
- C To convert Solidity code into JavaScript for web browsers
- D To mine new Ethereum tokens using Proof of Work

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*

Why does Ethereum require users to pay gas fees?

- A To fund the Ethereum Foundation's research budget
- B To compensate users who hold ETH in their wallets
- C To pay software developers who write smart contracts
- D To prevent spam and infinite loops by making computation cost money

Why does Ethereum require users to pay gas fees?

- A To fund the Ethereum Foundation's research budget
- B To compensate users who hold ETH in their wallets
- C To pay software developers who write smart contracts
- D To prevent spam and infinite loops by making computation cost money

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*

## Q4: Immutability Trade-off

A deployed smart contract contains a bug. What can the developer do?

- A Roll back the blockchain to before the contract was deployed
- B Deploy a new corrected contract and migrate users, but the buggy contract remains on-chain forever
- C Contact Ethereum customer support to remove the contract
- D Edit the contract code on-chain to fix the bug

## Q4: Immutability Trade-off

A deployed smart contract contains a bug. What can the developer do?

- A Roll back the blockchain to before the contract was deployed
- B Deploy a new corrected contract and migrate users, but the buggy contract remains on-chain forever
- C Contact Ethereum customer support to remove the contract
- D Edit the contract code on-chain to fix the bug

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

## Q5: Token Standard Purpose

Why do token standards like ERC-20 exist?

- A To allow the Ethereum Foundation to control token supply
- B To ensure interoperability so any wallet or exchange can handle any compliant token
- C To guarantee that all tokens will increase in value
- D To prevent new tokens from being created on Ethereum

## Q5: Token Standard Purpose

Why do token standards like ERC-20 exist?

- A To allow the Ethereum Foundation to control token supply
- B To ensure interoperability so any wallet or exchange can handle any compliant token
- C To guarantee that all tokens will increase in value
- D To prevent new tokens from being created on Ethereum

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*

## Q6: Gas Cost Calculation

A simple ETH transfer costs 21,000 gas. If the gas price is 30 gwei and 1 ETH = \$3,000, what is the transaction fee in USD?

- A \$18.90
- B \$0.63
- C \$1.89
- D \$6.30

## Q6: Gas Cost Calculation

A simple ETH transfer costs 21,000 gas. If the gas price is 30 gwei and 1 ETH = \$3,000, what is the transaction fee in USD?

- A \$18.90
- B \$0.63
- C \$1.89
- D \$6.30

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

A company wants to tokenize 1,000 identical loyalty points. Which standard should it use?

- A ERC-721, because each loyalty point is a unique asset
- B ERC-1155, because the company might add NFTs later
- C ERC-20, because the points are interchangeable (fungible)
- D No standard is needed — just use a database

A company wants to tokenize 1,000 identical loyalty points. Which standard should it use?

- A ERC-721, because each loyalty point is a unique asset
- B ERC-1155, because the company might add NFTs later
- C ERC-20, because the points are interchangeable (fungible)
- D No standard is needed — just use a database

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*

## Q8: EIP-1559 Fee Calculation

Under EIP-1559, the base fee is 20 gwei and you set a priority tip of 2 gwei. Your transaction uses 50,000 gas. How much ETH do you pay, and what happens to it?

- A 0.001 ETH: all burned
- B 0.0011 ETH: 0.001 ETH burned, 0.0001 ETH to the validator
- C 0.0011 ETH: all goes to the validator
- D 0.0022 ETH: half burned, half to the validator

## Q8: EIP-1559 Fee Calculation

Under EIP-1559, the base fee is 20 gwei and you set a priority tip of 2 gwei. Your transaction uses 50,000 gas. How much ETH do you pay, and what happens to it?

- A 0.001 ETH: all burned
- B 0.0011 ETH: 0.001 ETH burned, 0.0001 ETH to the validator
- C 0.0011 ETH: all goes to the validator
- D 0.0022 ETH: half burned, half to the validator

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

## Q9: DAO Voting Mechanics

A DAO has 1,000,000 governance tokens. A proposal requires  $>50\%$  of *votes cast* to pass. Only 80,000 tokens are used to vote: 50,000 vote YES, 30,000 vote NO. Does the proposal pass?

- A Yes —  $50,000 / 80,000 = 62.5\%$  of votes cast exceeds 50%
- B No — a quorum of at least 50% of total supply must participate
- C Cannot be determined without knowing the gas price
- D No — 50,000 is only 5% of total supply

## Q9: DAO Voting Mechanics

A DAO has 1,000,000 governance tokens. A proposal requires  $>50\%$  of *votes cast* to pass. Only 80,000 tokens are used to vote: 50,000 vote YES, 30,000 vote NO. Does the proposal pass?

- A Yes —  $50,000 / 80,000 = 62.5\%$  of votes cast exceeds 50%
- B No — a quorum of at least 50% of total supply must participate
- C Cannot be determined without knowing the gas price
- D No — 50,000 is only 5% of total supply

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

## Q10: Rollup Cost Savings

Ethereum Layer-1 charges \$5.00 per transaction. An optimistic rollup batches 500 transactions into a single Layer-1 proof that costs \$250. What is the per-transaction cost on the rollup?

- A \$2.50
- B \$0.05
- C \$5.00
- D \$0.50

## Q10: Rollup Cost Savings

Ethereum Layer-1 charges \$5.00 per transaction. An optimistic rollup batches 500 transactions into a single Layer-1 proof that costs \$250. What is the per-transaction cost on the rollup?

- A \$2.50
- B \$0.05
- C \$5.00
- D \$0.50

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

## Q11: Reentrancy Attack

In the 2016 DAO hack, the attacker exploited a **reentrancy** vulnerability. What does this mean?

- A The attacker submitted more transactions than the network could handle
- B The attacker guessed the contract's private key
- C The attacker modified the contract's source code after deployment
- D The attacker called a withdrawal function repeatedly before the contract updated its balance, draining funds

## Q11: Reentrancy Attack

In the 2016 DAO hack, the attacker exploited a **reentrancy** vulnerability. What does this mean?

- A The attacker submitted more transactions than the network could handle
- B The attacker guessed the contract's private key
- C The attacker modified the contract's source code after deployment
- D The attacker called a withdrawal function repeatedly before the contract updated its balance, draining funds

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

## Q12: Optimistic vs. ZK Rollup

What is the **key difference** between optimistic rollups and ZK-rollups?

- A ZK-rollups require a 7-day dispute window; optimistic rollups do not
- B Optimistic rollups are faster and cheaper in all cases
- C Optimistic rollups assume validity and use fraud proofs; ZK-rollups provide cryptographic validity proofs
- D Optimistic rollups only work with ERC-20 tokens

## Q12: Optimistic vs. ZK Rollup

What is the **key difference** between optimistic rollups and ZK-rollups?

- A ZK-rollups require a 7-day dispute window; optimistic rollups do not
- B Optimistic rollups are faster and cheaper in all cases
- C Optimistic rollups assume validity and use fraud proofs; ZK-rollups provide cryptographic validity proofs
- D Optimistic rollups only work with ERC-20 tokens

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

Why are cross-chain bridges particularly attractive targets for attackers?

- A Bridges hold large pools of locked assets and concentrate trust in their validation mechanism
- B Bridges only operate on private blockchains
- C Bridges use outdated encryption algorithms
- D Bridges are unregulated and therefore have no security measures

## Q13: Bridge Vulnerability

Why are cross-chain bridges particularly attractive targets for attackers?

- A Bridges hold large pools of locked assets and concentrate trust in their validation mechanism
- B Bridges only operate on private blockchains
- C Bridges use outdated encryption algorithms
- D Bridges are unregulated and therefore have no security measures

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*

## Q14: MEV Sandwich Attack

In a sandwich attack, a searcher observes a pending large buy order on a DEX. What does the searcher do?

- A Shorts the token on a centralized exchange
- B Reports the victim's transaction to regulators
- C Cancels the victim's transaction by paying higher gas
- D Places a buy order *before* the victim (frontrun) and a sell order *after* the victim (backrun), capturing the price impact

## Q14: MEV Sandwich Attack

In a sandwich attack, a searcher observes a pending large buy order on a DEX. What does the searcher do?

- A Shorts the token on a centralized exchange
- B Reports the victim's transaction to regulators
- C Cancels the victim's transaction by paying higher gas
- D Places a buy order *before* the victim (frontrun) and a sell order *after* the victim (backrun), capturing the price impact

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*

A single wallet holds 51% of a DAO's governance tokens. What is the primary risk?

- A The DAO will run out of gas for voting transactions
- B The majority holder can unilaterally pass any proposal, making governance effectively centralized
- C The Ethereum Foundation will revoke the DAO's smart contract
- D Other token holders will automatically lose their tokens

## Q15: Governance Token Risk

A single wallet holds 51% of a DAO's governance tokens. What is the primary risk?

- A The DAO will run out of gas for voting transactions
- B The majority holder can unilaterally pass any proposal, making governance effectively centralized
- C The Ethereum Foundation will revoke the DAO's smart contract
- D Other token holders will automatically lose their tokens

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

## Q16: Sidechain vs. Rollup Security

Why do sidechains (e.g., Polygon PoS) offer weaker security guarantees than rollups?

- A Sidechains have their own validator set and do not post proofs to Ethereum Layer-1
- B Sidechains are always slower than Layer-1
- C Sidechains cannot process ERC-20 tokens
- D Sidechains use older programming languages

## Q16: Sidechain vs. Rollup Security

Why do sidechains (e.g., Polygon PoS) offer weaker security guarantees than rollups?

- A Sidechains have their own validator set and do not post proofs to Ethereum Layer-1
- B Sidechains are always slower than Layer-1
- C Sidechains cannot process ERC-20 tokens
- D Sidechains use older programming languages

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

## Q17: Smart Contract vs. Traditional Contract

A startup considers using a smart contract instead of a traditional legal agreement for an escrow service. Which argument **against** smart contracts is most valid?

- Ⓐ Smart contracts cannot handle ambiguity, edge cases, or unforeseen circumstances that a court could resolve
- Ⓑ Smart contracts require the Ethereum Foundation's approval
- Ⓒ Smart contracts execute too slowly for financial transactions
- Ⓓ Smart contracts are too expensive to deploy compared to hiring a lawyer

## Q17: Smart Contract vs. Traditional Contract

A startup considers using a smart contract instead of a traditional legal agreement for an escrow service. Which argument **against** smart contracts is most valid?

- A Smart contracts cannot handle ambiguity, edge cases, or unforeseen circumstances that a court could resolve
- B Smart contracts require the Ethereum Foundation's approval
- C Smart contracts execute too slowly for financial transactions
- D Smart contracts are too expensive to deploy compared to hiring a lawyer

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*

A DeFi protocol needs fast finality (under 10 minutes) and strong security guarantees. It handles high-value trades. Which Layer-2 solution is **most appropriate**?

- A A ZK-rollup (cryptographic validity proof, no dispute window)
- B A state channel (near-instant, but only for two-party interactions)
- C An optimistic rollup (7-day fraud proof window)
- D A sidechain (own validators, fast finality)

A DeFi protocol needs fast finality (under 10 minutes) and strong security guarantees. It handles high-value trades. Which Layer-2 solution is **most appropriate**?

- Ⓐ A ZK-rollup (cryptographic validity proof, no dispute window)
- Ⓑ A state channel (near-instant, but only for two-party interactions)
- Ⓒ An optimistic rollup (7-day fraud proof window)
- Ⓓ A sidechain (own validators, fast finality)

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

You are designing a DAO governance system. Which mechanism **best** mitigates flash loan governance attacks?

- A Increasing the gas cost of voting transactions
- B Reducing the total supply of governance tokens
- C Allowing only the contract deployer to vote
- D Requiring voters to hold tokens for a minimum period (e.g., 7 days) before their votes count

You are designing a DAO governance system. Which mechanism **best** mitigates flash loan governance attacks?

- A Increasing the gas cost of voting transactions
- B Reducing the total supply of governance tokens
- C Allowing only the contract deployer to vote
- D Requiring voters to hold tokens for a minimum period (e.g., 7 days) before their votes count

*[Answer hidden – compile with `\solutionstrue` to reveal]*

A team uses an LLM to audit their Solidity code. The LLM reports “no vulnerabilities found.” How should the team proceed?

- A Deploy immediately — LLMs are more thorough than human auditors
- B Deploy to a testnet only and never use real funds
- C Treat the LLM report as a useful first pass but commission a professional security audit and consider formal verification before deploying
- D Ignore the LLM report entirely — AI cannot understand code

## Q20: LLM Smart Contract Auditing

A team uses an LLM to audit their Solidity code. The LLM reports “no vulnerabilities found.” How should the team proceed?

- A Deploy immediately — LLMs are more thorough than human auditors
- B Deploy to a testnet only and never use real funds
- C Treat the LLM report as a useful first pass but commission a professional security audit and consider formal verification before deploying
- D Ignore the LLM report entirely — AI cannot understand code

*[Answer hidden – compile with \solutionstrue to reveal]*