

Chapter 1

Introduction to accounting

Review questions

- 1
 - a To help control the level of expenditure, to assist in planning future levels of expenditure, to help raise additional finance (e.g. mortgages, hire-purchase and so on) and to help decide the best way to spend their money.
 - b To control the activities of the organisation, to plan future activities, to assist in raising finance and to report upon the activities and performance of the entity to interested parties.
- 2 Numerous examples are acceptable. Ideas such as exclusion of certain items (e.g. good reputation, brand names, technical know-how) and how accounting reflects the past can be used to provoke discussion.

Problems for discussion and analysis

- 1
 - a The name of the auditing firm is Deloitte.
 - b From note 1P (iv) it is reported that Woolworths does provide share-based payments to employees. It operates an ESP where employees receive an interest-free loan that can be used to buy shares in Woolworths.
 - c Yes, the same note states that the cost of equity settled share-based payment plans are recognised as an expense over the vesting period.
- 2 In general, students will need to be aware of the contents of the AASB *Framework* and the more recent IASB *Conceptual Framework*. Accordingly, responses should include at least the following points:
 - a Employees are interested in the generation of cash flows and whether the entity is achieving its objectives. This information is available from general purpose financial reports (GPFs) which also contain non-financial information on the future direction of the entity.
 - b Investors are interested in the amount and timing of profitability, the generation of cash flows, whether the company is achieving its objectives and its future direction. This information is available from GPFs, ASX extracts and media releases.
 - c Regulators are interested in whether the reporting entity is operating in the interests of its members, whether the entity is achieving its objectives, and if it is operating economically and efficiently. They are also interested in ensuring that reporting entities are complying with various rules and regulations, i.e. AAS, AASB, *Corporations Act 2001*, ASX. Additionally, regulators are concerned with the efficiency of the law and will therefore monitor reports to ensure that regulation complies with public expectation. This information is available from GPFs and other reports to meet specific regulatory requirements, i.e., *Corporations Act 2001*, ASX.
 - d Suppliers of goods and services are primarily interested in whether the entity is solvent. In addition, they are concerned with profitability and cash flows, and whether the entity is achieving its objectives. This information is available from the statement of comprehensive income and the balance sheet.
 - e Customers are interested in the ability of the entity to continue a future supply of goods and services, the level at which they will be provided and the likely cost of provision. Ongoing supply depends on profitability and cash flows. In addition, they may be

- concerned with non-financial issues, such as externalities (pollution, land degradation and so on).
- 3 This question should promote lively debate about the advantages and disadvantages of mandating the publication of social and environmental information. Costs versus benefits need to be considered. What requirements are to be mandated? Are these to be audited? The UK now requires companies to report on environmental and social matters in the Operating and Financial Review but this need not be audited.
 - 4 The G100 definition is very descriptive and gives details of what triple bottom line (TBL) reporting should contain in very broad terms. The ICANZ definition indicated what the report should cover but also contained some potential benefits from the production of a TBL. The benefits range from micro for the firm and users of its stakeholders through to macro benefits for human welfare. This question will provoke lively debate about the relationship between publishing a TBL report and influencing behaviour.
 - 5 The two are closely related – especially if an organisation chooses the comprehensive option in the GRI's G4 – as both provide information about an organisation and its governance and economic performance as well as many aspects of its social and environmental impacts. It is argued that the objective is different as the integrated report is aimed at providers of financial capital and provides such users with details about how its strategy, governance, performance and prospects lead to the creation of value over time. On the other hand the sustainability report is aimed at a broad range of stakeholders with the objective of providing information about the economic, social and environmental impacts of its operations. Which one is better should create lively discussion from students about issues like the importance of various stakeholders such as shareholders and society.
 - 6 You are employed by the client, but there are certain obligations to regulatory bodies, such as ASIC and the ASX, which cannot be deliberately disobeyed.
 - 7
 - Information on costs, including goods purchased, wages, rents, electricity and other overheads, so prices can be set to cover all costs and return a profit to the owner.
 - Information on cash flows – weekly or even daily.
 - Information on inventory levels so goods can be ordered in time to be available before all items are sold. Daily and weekly, depending on items.
 - Competitor pricing policy.
 - Opportunity costs. What could you earn with your money invested elsewhere and what is the cost of wages you could earn by working as an employee? This is an issue that should be considered at some stage, preferably before making the decision to buy the supermarket.
 - 8 What is the amount per band member? What are the opportunity costs of taking the job, i.e. what does the band give up? Any costs to incur, such as hiring equipment, transport to the venue? Tax implications should also be considered.
 - 9
 - a Some examples are: selling price, costs of manufacture, set-up costs, marketing costs, patent costs, expected life for the product.
 - b Some examples are: size of market, competitors, technical specifications. Potential costs which may arise given the risk of hang gliders: does the company need to consider special insurance protection – is it available? This is not the company's core business. What skills does it have in this industry? Costs of relocating to Sydney.
 - 10
 - Information about competitors.
 - Any proposed changes to zoning in the area which may affect the business.
 - If a lease, when is the lease due for renewal?
 - Information about suppliers.
 - Any new competitors likely to enter the area?

- Market research may be necessary but this depends on how long the business has been established and how successful it has been.
 - Any new developments or road construction in the area.
- 11** There is no ‘right’ answer to this problem as until the yacht charter business was purchased there was no separate business entity. However, there is clearly a need for Tom to prepare a statement of expenditure as an individual. Some additional questions to promote discussion are: If there had been no problem with the purchase of the boat-building business, what would you have done with the \$1000 paid to the accountant? Would you have a different answer if Tom was already in an established business looking for areas to expand or to diversify into? Should Tom even consider investing in a business of which he has no knowledge?
- 12**
- Financial issues – cost of building, machinery, training costs, purchase of components, personnel (wages, annual leave, superannuation and so on), provision for any tax on externalities, projected revenue, life of the project.
 - Health and safety issues – location of plant, emissions of toxic substances.
 - Social and legal issues – location of plant, disposal of waste products, procurement of necessary licences for construction.
 - Market research – demand, price, competition.
- Note: if nuclear-powered Frisbees are made and/or tested on site then the above issues will need to be expanded (e.g. community reaction, strict health and safety regulations, adequate containment of nuclear materials, as well as the impact these may have on future legislation, adherence to *Consumers Protection Act* and so on).
- 13** The solution to this problem should focus on the tentativeness which attaches to all economic measurements. Students should appreciate the difference between intrinsic values of an item (such as the official exchange price of a bar of gold) versus the extrinsic effects on economic value produced by conditions or events in the environment (as demonstrated in this problem).
- a** Discussion of the economic worth of the project to be measured might take into account (1) estimated future rental income offset by estimated expenses to maintain and operate the hotel, (2) the expected exchange price if the hotel building were to be sold to an outside party, or (3) an accumulation of the costs incurred. It is not clear that the costs-incurred measure is the best from an economic point of view – even though admittedly it is the simplest and most easily quantifiable.
- Before the decision of the lower court any of the above measures could be justified depending on expectations about the outcome of the court decision. However, following the decision of the lower court the use of measure (3) may seem more prudent.
- b** Students should have some indication of the difficulty of making qualitative versus quantitative measurements. Quantitative measurements in business affairs are typically subject to several assumptions which must be made before such measurements become substantive or reliable. No one economic measurement is perfect. The question, in other words, is the degree of reliability which can be placed upon any one individual measure.
- c** The loss in the case described falls to the owners of the Coastal Development Company. Discussion should bring out that a company is nothing more than a creation of the law and in reality cannot sustain an economic loss. The owners of the company are the real economic party at interest.
- But those who might have stayed in the hotel also lost, although those who retained their views and the character of the neighbourhood gained, as did the general public through the protection of the sand dunes. The local shire council may ultimately lose as it is likely the Coastal Development Company will sue the shire for the losses incurred. If successful, then the ratepayers in the shire area must ultimately pay.

14 a

Thug		
Possessions	Exchange rates	Equivalent morsels of meat
6 large brown furs	50 morsels of meat each	300
2 small brown furs	30 morsels of meat each	60
5 small black furs	15 small brown furs at 30 morsels of meat per fur	450
34 morsels of meat	3 small brown furs at 30 morsels each	34
Rock fridge	Taxed at 1 rock for every 10 morsels	90
		934
		93 rocks
Olga		
Possessions	Exchange rates	Equivalent morsels of meat
2 large brown furs	50 morsels of meat each	100
10 large black furs	20 large brown furs at 50 morsels of meat each	1000
9 small black furs	each	810
22 morsels of meat	27 small brown furs at 30 morsels of meat per fur	22
Rock fridge	2 large brown furs at 50 morsels each (equivalent to 1 large black fur)	100
	Taxed at 1 rock for every 10 morsels	2032
		203 rocks

- b** Thug should pay taxes equivalent to 93 rocks and Olga should pay the equivalent of 203 rocks. They could either collect the rocks themselves or pay Ugg by means of furs and morsels of meat equivalent to the amounts of tax they owe.

(Tutors should discuss other possible solutions and alternative measurements, e.g. the rock fridge is shown at two different amounts. Discuss the concept of decline in value through use.)