

## CHAPTER TWO: ALIGNING TRAINING WITH STRATEGY

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Strategic planning is best defined as
- A) The development of a relatively long-term mission consistent with internal tactics.
  - B) The development of relatively short-term objectives that meet the executive committee objectives.
  - C) A process for determining how best to pursue the organization's mission while meeting the demands of the environment.
  - D) The development of values and ideals of the organization relevant to long-term objectives.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Moderate

Page Ref: 27

2. Strategic planning that focuses on the long term is a(n)
- A) Reactive strategy.
  - B) Proactive strategy.
  - C) Less formal analysis.
  - D) Objective setting process.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Challenging

Page Ref: 27

3. HRD should be involved in strategic planning by
- A) Helping shape strategy.
  - B) Influencing the HR strategy.
  - C) Developing its own strategy in line with the strategic plan.
  - D) Both B & C.
  - E) All of the above.

Answer: E

Difficulty: Challenging

Page Ref: 28

4. Which of the following is a market leader strategy?
- A) Keep costs low
  - B) Develop new markets
  - C) Development of economies of scale
  - D) None of the above
  - E) All of the above

Answer: B

Difficulty: Moderate

Page Ref: 29

5. The defender strategy is also referred to as
- A) Differentiator.
  - B) Innovator.
  - C) Cost leader.
  - D) Market leader.
  - E) Market follower.
- Answer: C  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Page Ref: 29
6. Which of the following statements is true in an uncertain environment?
- A) The organization must rigidly define operating methods.
  - B) A market leader strategy is the best strategy to adopt.
  - C) There is less complexity in the environment.
  - D) Cost leader strategy is the best strategy to adopt.
- Answer: B  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 30
7. Low uncertainty in the external environment is created by
- A) High complexity and low stability.
  - B) Low stability and low complexity.
  - C) High stability and low complexity.
  - D) Both A & B.
- Answer: C  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 30
8. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the number of factors in an organization's environment and how they are interrelated.
- A) Environmental uncertainty
  - B) Environmental flexibility
  - C) Environmental complexity
  - D) Environmental stability
  - E) None of the above
- Answer: C  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 30
9. A non-routine technology label is applied to tasks that have
- A) Well structured and defined solutions to occurring problems.
  - B) Few problems.
  - C) Problems that occur often and unexpectedly.
  - D) A high degree of predictability.
  - E) All of the above.

Answer: C  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 31

10. You would typically associate routine technology with which of the following?
- A) Those with market leader strategies
  - B) A low degree of predictability of outcomes or results
  - C) No defined solutions when problems do occur
  - D) Highly specialized technologies
  - E) All of the above are associated with routine technologies

Answer: D  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 31

11. Organizational design refers to
- A) The type of technology used.
  - B) The type and style of decision making used.
  - C) How the division of labor is set up.
  - D) Both B & C.
  - E) None of the above.

Answer: E  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Page Ref: 32

12. A mechanistic design is best applied in which of the following situations?
- A) Non-routine technologies
  - B) Small businesses
  - C) High volume assembly lines
  - D) Where there are not clear answers to many of the problems that arise
  - E) A & D

Answer: C  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 32

13. What is one reason companies should invest in strategic HR?
- A) To be able to grow
  - B) To increase their market value
  - C) To centralize their strategies
  - D) To involve management

Answer: B  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Page Ref: 33

14. According to the text, the strategic planning process at Hewlett Packard Canada in the late 1980's resulted in
- A) The sales force reorganizing around specific products.
  - B) A concentration on the laser printer and increasing the profit margin on each unit.
  - C) Hewlett Packard being one of the toughest competitors in the marketplace.
  - D) Both A & C.
- Answer: C  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 34
15. How can HRD align itself with the organization's strategies?
- A) By developing training that focuses on the market
  - B) By developing training to meet strategic performance objectives
  - C) By delivering training to the right people
  - D) Both B & C are correct
  - E) None of the above
- Answer: D  
Difficulty: Challenging  
Page Ref: 35
16. Organizational development is best defined as
- A) A profession that deals with reacting to changes in the external environment.
  - B) A profession and field of study that creates and implements planned change in organizations.
  - C) A profession and field of study that deals with creating and implementing new ideas in the organization.
  - D) A field of study and profession that deals with explaining serendipitous events.
- Answer: B  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 35
17. Which of the following is NOT a step in the generic planned change model?
- A) Goals are developed and handed down by a centralized top management team.
  - B) A compelling need for change is established.
  - C) The results of the approach are evaluated.
  - D) An approach to addressing the cause is selected.
  - E) All of the above are steps in a general planned change model.
- Answer: A  
Difficulty: Challenging

18. Which of the following statements is true regarding change?
- A) Resistance is most often from non-management personnel.
  - B) Change requires effort and new learning.
  - C) Resistance is easily overcome.
  - D) The change process should only focus on the individual, group, or organizational level, not on all three.
  - E) OD practitioners and trainers have a similar tactical focus in dealing with change.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Moderate

Page Ref: 36-39

19. What can be done to reduce resistance to change?
- A) Focus on changing one level (organizational, group, and individual) at a time.
  - B) Involve employees.
  - C) Let those who are satisfied with the status quo lead the way.
  - D) Both A & B.
  - E) All of the above.

Answer: B

Difficulty: Challenging

Page Ref: 37

20. Which of the following is NOT a source of conflict and disagreement between OD and training professionals?
- A) The difference between their perceived role and power base.
  - B) The nature of OD practices challenges assumptions underlying organizational practices.
  - C) OD principles interfere with the implementation of effective training programs.
  - D) OD professionals are more likely to be guided by data than training professionals.
  - E) Companies typically organize around their functional areas.

Answer: C

Difficulty: Challenging

Page Ref: 39

21. A reason there might be conflict among HRD and OD professionals is that the OD practitioner
- A) Has a more tactical approach.
  - B) Tends to be seen as overly analytical.
  - C) Deals with mostly middle management.
  - D) Both A & B.
  - E) Both A & C.

Answer: B  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Page Ref: 39

22. OD interventions could be implemented more successfully if they included training where employees
- A) Developed a common knowledge and skill base in the area of the intervention.
  - B) Understood group dynamics and became skilled at working within groups.
  - C) Understood and became skilled at using a common problem-solving model.
  - D) Both A & C.
  - E) All of the above.

Answer: E  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Page Ref: 41

23. The outsourcing of training
- A) Is useful when the company is large and has diverse training needs.
  - B) Is often used by small business.
  - C) Is not a good idea when you have a decentralized HRD function.
  - D) A & B
  - E) All of the above.

Answer: D  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Page Ref: 44

24. Which best explains the strategic training alternative of the internal provider?
- A) All or most training developed in house, each phase handled by specialists, and needs developed from a decentralized HRD function
  - B) All or most training purchased from outside sources, each phase handled by specialists, and needs developed from a centralized HRD function
  - C) All or most training activities provided by outside trainers and training function's role is to select and manage training suppliers
  - D) All or most training developed in house, each phase handled by specialists, and needs developed from a centralized HRD function

Answer: D  
Difficulty: Easy

Page Ref: 44

25. Most companies use the \_\_\_\_\_ strategy when addressing their training and development needs.
- A) Primary provider
  - B) Mixed
  - C) Manager intermediary
  - D) Both A & C
- Answer: B  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 46

26. Which of the following is a reason why some small businesses do not engage in strategic planning?
- A) Time constraints
  - B) Unfamiliarity
  - C) Lack of skills
  - D) Lack of trust
  - E) All of the above
- Answer: E  
Difficulty: Easy  
Page Ref: 47

27. Cavalier Tool and Manufacturing decided not to pursue ISO certification because
- A) They could not afford the cost associated with certification.
  - B) They had attempted certification a few years earlier and it had been unsuccessful.
  - C) Sometimes a customer required a “down and dirty” mold which would not be allowed under ISO certification.
  - D) The owner was not interested in certification.
- Answer: C  
Difficulty: Challenging  
Page Ref: 49

### TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS

28. \_\_\_ Competitive strategy focuses on positioning products and services in the marketplace. (T; p. 29)
29. \_\_\_ If the external environment is highly complex and highly stable, there is low uncertainty. (F; p. 30)
30. \_\_\_ The main activity associated with producing an organization’s principle products and services is often called the core technology. (T; p. 31)

31. \_\_\_ Organizational design refers to the way the work is divided and organized. (F; p. 32)
32. \_\_\_ HRD contributes to the development of new strategies. (T; p. 33)
33. \_\_\_ Trainers and OD practitioners have problems getting along because trainers tend to be more strategic and more overly analytical than OD practitioners. (F; p. 39)
34. \_\_\_ Force field analysis is a type of analysis used in a TNA. (F; p. 40)
35. \_\_\_ The internal provider is a strategic training alternative whereby the training department provides all or most of the training for the organization. (T; p. 43)
36. \_\_\_ A small business is much more likely to be involved in strategic planning than a larger one because it is easier for them. (F; Table 2.4, p. 48)

### SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

37. Name and briefly describe the three components to organization structure that are discussed in the text.

**The three components to organizational structure are**

- **Organizational design - a component of how the organization is structured.**
- **Decision autonomy - the amount of decision-making authority employees have in choosing how to complete a given task and the degree to which they are able to influence goals and strategies for their work unit.**
- **Division of labor - the way in which work is divided up and organized.**

38. Should an organization's strategies be reactive, proactive, or both? Support your answer.

**It is suggested that both reactive and proactive strategies are necessary for the organization to be effective. A strategic plan that positions the firm for long-term expectations, but is modified by the firm's experience as it moves forward is preferable to a rigidly held long-term plan or reactions to short-term experience without a long-term plan.**

### ESSAY QUESTION

39. HRD and OD seem to complement one another but do not often work together in an organization. What are some of the reasons for this lack



of cooperation? Why do HRD professionals need OD competencies and OD professionals need training competencies?

**Pages 39-415 provide this answer.**

**The answer to the first part is related to their differences in terms of focus as noted in Table 2-2.**

**For the next part of the question, the simple answer is HRD trains employees and that training requires employees to change. Creating an environment for change to occur is what OD is all about. By having OD skills, the HRD will have tools to help ensure change occurs back at the workplace, the ultimate goal of training. This is particularly true given that organizational analysis as part of a TNA will surface some issues that will inhibit new behaviors being trained. Effectively removing these barriers is where the expertise of OD specialists lies.**

**Similarly, OD efforts, when they fail, is often because of a lack of training. OD efforts often require groups of individuals to come together to plan, solve problems, or deal with intergroup conflict. These groups need certain skills to do this effectively; problem-solving skills, understanding group process, and also to be skilled in working in groups. So a common skill set in these areas is important. Design development and implementation of training in these areas is important to the overall effectiveness of the group effort. Training is critical at three points in time, the initial start up, after some time has elapsed and a refresher is useful, and finally new employees who join a team need to be trained.**

**Obviously, given the interrelationship between these two disciplines, the ideal situation is for them to work together and learn each other's skills. In that way both reap the benefits and the organization can operate at a more effective level.**