## CHAPTER 2

## GROSS INCOME AND EXCLUSIONS

## Group 1 - Multiple Choice Questions

| 1. C | (LO 2.1) |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2. C | (LO 2.1) |
| 3. A | (LO 2.1) |
| 4. D | (LO 2.1) |
| 5. B | (LO 2.1) |
| 6. | $\$ 500 \times 20 \%($ LO 2.2) |

7. A (LO 2.2)
8. C $\$ 120 \times 12$ (LO 2.3)
9. E (LO 2.4)
10. B $\$ 97,500 / 260=\$ 375 \mathrm{x}$
$4=\$ 1,500($ LO 2.5)
11. C (LO 2.6)
12. C (LO 2.7)
13. D (LO 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10)
14. D (LO 2.11)
15. D (LO 2.13)
16. A (LO 2.14)
17. E (LO 2.14)

## Group 2 - Problems

1. a. Excluded (LO 2.1)
b. Included (LO 2.1)
c. Included (LO 2.1)
d. Included (LO 2.1)
e. Excluded (LO 2.1)
f. Included (LO 2.1)
g. Included (LO 2.1)
h. Excluded (LO 2.1)
i. Excluded (LO 2.1)
j. Excluded (LO 2.1)
k. Included (LO 2.1)
2. The non-cash payment of $\$ 6,000$ for services performed is includable income to John. The tax law states that gross income is "all income from whatever source derived." There is no exception in the law for noncash items received in exchange for services. (LO 2.1)
3. a. \$300. Gross income includes "all income from whatever source derived." The value of the hair styling is income to Larry for the performance of services. There is no gross income exception in the tax law for "barter" income.
b. \$300. Gross income includes "all income from whatever source derived." The value of the tax return is income to Sheila for the performance of services. There is no gross income exception in the tax law for "barter" income. (LO 2.1)
4. Illegal income is still taxable since there is no exception excluding it in the tax code. When there is not an explicit exception, gross income is "all income from whatever source derived." (LO 2.1)
5. Qualified dividends are taxed at either $0 \%, 15 \%$, or $20 \%$. The $0 \%$ rate applies for taxpayers in the ordinary income tax brackets of $10 \%$ and $15 \%$. The $15 \%$ rate applies for taxpayers in the ordinary income tax brackets of $25 \%$ through $35 \%$. The $20 \%$ rate applies for taxpayers in the $39.6 \%$ bracket. A $3.8 \%$ Medicare surtax on net investment income will be added to the rates for certain high-income taxpayers. (LO 2.2)
6. If no election is made, the interest is not included in income until the I bond is converted to cash by the taxpayer. If the taxpayer makes an election, however, the income which increases the redemption value but is not paid in cash on the I bond each year is included in the taxpayer's gross income. (LO 2.2)
7. See Schedule B on page 40. (LO 2.2)
8. a. (1) $\$ 450$.
(2) $\$ 450$.
b. (1) $\$ 0$.
(2) \$425,000. (LO 2.3)
9. Arlen may deduct the alimony of $\$ 2,000$ per month on his tax return. He cannot deduct the child support.

Jane must report the alimony as income on her tax return. The child support is not taxable income to her. (LO 2.3)
10. No gain is taxable to Cindy on the transfer of the house since it is part of a property settlement related to a divorce. Allen has a basis of $\$ 90,000$ in the house for calculating tax on any future sale of the house. (LO 2.3)
11. a. $\$ \mathbf{1 0 , 0 0 0}$.
b. $\$ 260$. A non-qualified plan award may only be excluded up to $\$ 400$; thus $\$ 260$ is taxable.
c. $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 0 0 0 , 0 0 0}$.
d. $\mathbf{\$ 3 0 , 0 0 0}$. (LO 2.4)
12. a. $\$ 4,000$.
b. $\$ \mathbf{1 4 , 5 0 0}$.
c. $\quad \mathbf{\$ 0}$. (LO 2.4, 2.8)
13.

## SIMPLIFIED METHOD WORKSHEET

1) Enter total amount received this year.
2) $\$ 8,000$
3) Enter cost in the plan at the annuity starting date.
4) $\$ 58,500$
5) Age at annuity starting date

## Enter

55 and under $\quad 360$
56-60 310
61-65 260
66-70 210
71 and older $\quad 160$
4) Divide line 2 by line 3 .
5) Multiply line 4 by the number of monthly payments this year. If the annuity starting date was before 1987, also enter this amount on line 8 ; and skip lines 6 and 7 . Otherwise go to line 6.
5) $\$ 1,800$
6) Enter the amount, if any, recovered tax-free in prior years
6) $\$ \quad 0$
7) Subtract line 6 from line 2.
8) Enter the smaller of line 5 or 7 .
7) $\$ 58,500$
9) Taxable amount this year: Subtract line 8 from
line 1 . Do not enter less than zero.
8) $\$ 1,800$
(LO 2.5)
14. $\$ \mathbf{5 3 , 0 0 0}=\$ 100,000-\$ 35,000-\$ 12,000$. Since the policy was transferred for valuable consideration, the proceeds are taxable to the extent that they exceed the sum of the cash value at the time of transfer plus the premiums paid. (LO 2.6)
15. $\$ 900$. A beneficiary, who is a surviving spouse, must include the entire amount of interest received with respect to the policy proceeds in gross income; the $\$ 5,000$ principal amount may be excluded from gross income. (LO 2.6)
16. David has received an accelerated death benefit or viatical settlement which is excluded from taxable income. (LO 2.6)
17. None of the payment is taxable. Life insurance proceeds are generally considered to be tax-free and specifically excluded from taxable income. (LO 2.6)
18. $\mathbf{\$ 6 , 5 0 0}$. Inheritances are excluded from taxable income; however, subsequent earnings on inherited property must be included in income. (LO 2.7)
19. $\$ 10,000$ is taxable. This gift is clearly bonus income in a business setting so it does not qualify for tax-free gift treatment, even if Gwen's client calls the payment a gift. (LO 2.7)
20. None of the gift is taxable. Gifts are excluded from the taxable income of the person receiving the gift. (LO 2.7)
21. $\$ 8,000$ is taxable since there is no exclusion for payments made for room and board. $\$ 12,000$ is not taxable, since scholarships for tuition are specifically excluded from taxable income. (LO 2.8)
22. None of the cost of the insurance or amounts paid by the insurance company for surgery or treatment are taxable to Skyler. These amounts are specifically excluded from taxable income under the tax law. (LO 2.9)
23. \$0. Taxpayers may exclude the total amount received for payment or reimbursement of medical expenses. Premiums for health insurance paid by the taxpayer's employer are also excluded from the taxpayer's gross income. In addition, the $\$ 1,500(\$ 3,500-\$ 2,000)$ not paid by the insurance company is deductible as an itemized deduction on Ellen's return, subject to the medical expense deduction limitations. (LO 2.9)
24. a. No. The meals are furnished by the employer on the business premises of the employer during working hours because the employer limits the employee to short meal periods.
b. No. The meals are furnished by the employer on the business premises of the employer during working hours because the taxpayer must be available for emergency calls.
c. Yes. The meals are not furnished for the convenience of the employer. (LO 2.10)
25. $\mathbf{6 . 2 5 \%}=4.5 \% \div(100 \%-28 \%)$. $($ LO 2.11)
26. She will likely invest in the tax-free bond. At the $35 \%$ tax bracket, the equivalent rate of the tax-free bond is $7.69 \%$, or $5 \%$ divided by $(1-0.35)$, which is higher than the $7 \%$ rate of return of the corporate bond. (LO 2.11)
27. $\mathbf{\$ 3 , 2 5 0}$. Unemployment benefits received are included in gross income. (LO 2.12)
28. $\$ \mathbf{4}, \mathbf{8 5 0}=\$ 850+\$ 4,000$. The value of the airline tickets is excluded from gross income under the no-additional-cost services rule for employees and their families. The $\$ 30$ of personal typing is excluded under the de minimis fringe benefits rule. The $\$ 850$ worth of employee discount coupons for hotel rooms is included in gross income since the hotel division is a different line of business than that in which Linda is employed. The $\$ 4,000$ tuition payment must be included in gross income since Richard is working on a graduate degree and not providing teaching or research activities. (LO 2.13)
29. Yes. Tom will be better off reducing his taxable income by $\$ 2,550$ by using the medical flexible spending account. Since his income will be $\$ 2,550$ less, he will pay less tax than he would otherwise. (LO 2.13)
30. As calculated on the worksheet on page 41. (LO 2.14)






| 1. | S5.4 |
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| 7. | \% 3 |




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8. $25,6 \%$

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| 11. | 12, 197 |
| 13. | 89 |
| 13. | 4 |
| 14. | 3.639 |
| 15. | 11.6:55 |
| 15. | 18, ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |
| 17. | 3.1\%) |
| 18. | \$2,123 |

31. a. Yes. Tax-free municipal bond income is added to AGI in the formula to determine the amount of taxable Social Security.
b. Zero. The taxpayer's income is below the threshold amount used in the formula to determine whether Social Security is taxable.
c. $\mathbf{8 5 \%}$. High-income taxpayers must include $85 \%$ of Social Security receipts in taxable income. (LO 2.14)
32. The blank Alimony Recapture Worksheet is not reprinted here. The purpose of this problem is to familiarize the student with the IRS website.
33. See the answer to Problem 7.

## Group 3 - Writing Assignment

## Research Solution:

Whittenburg, Gill, and Altus-Buller, CPAs
San Diego, CA
August 3, 20xx
Ms. Vanessa Lazo
1550 Mesa Rosa Drive
San Diego, CA
Dear Professor Lazo,
Thank you for requesting my advice concerning the tax treatment of your free trip to Costa Rica. I have researched your question and am sorry to say that the free tour is taxable.
The fair market value of the tour must be reported on Form 1040, Line 21 "Other Income." In addition, any expenses that you incurred during the trip cannot be deducted.
My conclusion is based upon the facts that you have provided me. I'm sorry that the news was not more favorable. If you have any questions or would like further explanation, please do not hesitate to call.
Sincerely, Trevor Malcolm for Whittenburg, Gill, and Altus-Buller, CPAs

## Group 4-Comprehensive Problems

1. See pages 43 through 45 .

2A. See pages 46 through 47.
2B. See pages 48 through 49 .

## Group 5 - Cumulative Software Problem

The solution to the Cumulative Software Problem is posted on the website for the textbook at www.cengage.com/login.





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